



November 30, 2011

Reference: **Thompson Rivers University Green Dream Home,
Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS Verification**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is pleased to provide a letter outlining the involvement Thompson Rivers University in the EQUilibrium™ Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative. This national initiative, led by CMHC, supported the design and construction of 13 homes across Canada to achieve a variety of sustainability objectives, including “net-zero” energy use.

EQUilibrium™ brings the private and public sectors together to develop homes that combine resource- and energy-efficient technologies with renewable energy technologies in order to reduce their environmental impact. Through a national competition, project teams from across Canada were selected.

This particular project team involved the partnership between Thompson River University (TRU) and the Canadian Homebuilders' Association Central Interior (CHBA CI). This University and industry partnership was unique to the EQUilibrium™ projects, with the next generation of designers and builders gaining hands-on experience with the next generation of housing.

TRU Faculty and students from the Architectural and Engineering Technology Department were involved in the design of the project, while construction was carried out by TRU School of Trades students, under the guidance of faculty and with the assistance of CHBA tradespeople. Monitoring the actual performance of the home is also being conducted by TRU faculty and students. This level of student involvement greatly enhanced the outcomes of the EQUilibrium™ initiative.

The Green Dream Home incorporates many innovative energy-saving and energy-producing technologies. The home is innovative in its use of super insulated concrete forms for constructing the walls. The performance of the wall system was monitored as part of a student research project and found to perform as designed. More can be learned about the project at www.greendreamhome.ca, and details on the broader initiative are available at www.cmhc.ca.

TRU has demonstrated sustainability leadership throughout the EQUilibrium™ process, and we value their role in the design and construction of the Green Dream Home.

Sincerely,

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