

WINDSOR ESSEX



COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (CHC) announces energy saving retrofit project on five wartime homes**

**WINDSOR, November 1, 2008** – Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation announced today at an event in the Bridgeview North community that it would begin planning for the energy saving retrofit of five wartime homes in this wartime housing community of Windsor. Working with The Now House Project Inc, the CHC retrofitted homes will be a significant step forward in energy-efficient and environmentally responsible housing with the aim to significantly reduce the operating costs of these houses. The first five houses will serve as a demonstration project for the potential future retrofit of 125 similar houses in the CHC portfolio and for builders and homeowners in Windsor Essex and other communities in Ontario who are interested in reducing energy costs of existing houses.

Now House™ is one of 12 winning demonstration projects in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's EQUilibrium Sustainable Housing Initiative. The Now House team retrofitted a 60-year-old wartime bungalow in Toronto to near zero energy use with an expected operating cost of zero on an annual basis.

"Utility costs for the houses in the CHC portfolio continue to rise," said Jim Steele, CEO, Windsor Essex CHC. "The focus of the Now House Windsor 5 project is to greatly reduce energy use of these homes and bring those energy costs way down. CHC's utility costs represent 21% of all expenditures in 2007."

CHC has identified five houses in the Bridgeview North Community to undergo the retrofit. Working with a team from the Now House project, CHC will undertake energy audits on the homes and begin the design process to produce the least cost, highest energy reduction model for the retrofit of these homes.

"The first Now House proves you can take an old house and retrofit it to well above current new building standards," said Lorraine Gauthier, President, The Now House Project Inc. "This house is now healthier to live in, has a projected annual energy bill of zero, an expected emissions reduction of 5.4 tonnes of green house gas emissions annually and reduced electricity consumption of 60 per cent."

"The EnerGuide rating for the first Now House is expected to be much higher than for a new high-efficiency home," said Peter Love, Chief Energy Conservation Officer of Ontario. The retrofit shows that impressive reductions in energy use and

green house gases are possible with the use of ENERGY STAR® – rated windows and appliances and switching to energy-efficient lighting.”

“The Windsor 5 project is starting with an event to encourage the whole community to participate in the process,” said Steele. Working with a team from Now House we will consider ideas from the community in the first concept development for the houses and present the concept designs for comment by members of Bridgeview community. We hope the whole community of Bridgeview, whether they live in the five houses or elsewhere in the community, will take part in the process.”

The project team is currently working to develop partnerships with the local utility companies, Windsor Home Builder’s Association, the University of Windsor, and St. Clair College. The project will begin in November and is expected to go to tender to local builders by spring.

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