



Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 15, 2006

BUILDERS SAVE ON CITY OF CALGARY PERMITS FOR BUILT GREEN™ HOMES

Calgary, Alberta – As of January 1, 2007 the City of Calgary will offer rebates of 10%, 20% or 30% respectively for homes built to bronze, silver and gold standards. With an average building permit value of \$1,600 per home, this represents average rebate amounts of \$160, \$320 or \$480 per home going back to the builder, which easily offsets their initial costs associated with joining the Built Green™ Program.

The Calgary Region Home Builders' Association (CRHBA) has had a long-standing, pro-active relationship with various departments at the City of Calgary, and in particular with the Building Regulations department. Working cohesively on many important initiatives that benefit both the residential construction industry as well as the City of Calgary, the CRHBA proposed a building permit rebate strategy in August 2006 for the City of Calgary to consider implementing.

Based on past experience, both the City of Calgary and the CRHBA have agreed that builders who adopt the Built Green™ program tend to build to a higher level of overall construction quality, which requires less effort from the City's plans examination and inspection processes to achieve acceptable construction standards. Additionally, homes built to Built Green™ standards tend to cost more than conventionally constructed houses, and so therefore the rebate strategy rewards the builders for their forward-thinking efforts.

Michael Nyikes, Director of Technical Affairs at the CRHBA said "It is important to note that the City of Calgary's rebate is not specifically referred to as a Built Green™ rebate, but rather is offered as a non-partisan rebate available to any contractor/owner who demonstrates via an acceptable certification agency that they have met specific energy and environmental design criteria. The CRHBA feels that this is a good approach which allows others to participate in the rebate strategy.....albeit residentially speaking the Built Green™ Program is the most viable."

The Built Green™ program concentrates on four areas of environmental concern; Energy Efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, Resource Use (including Waste Management) and Overall Environmental Impact. One of the Strategic Objectives of the Provincial Home Builders' Association is for all homes to be rated and labeled by Built Green™ in Alberta.

Benefits to Municipalities include:

- Every home uses less energy and produces lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Every home is third party tested and certified for energy efficiency and air tightness.
- Every builder must successfully complete the mandatory Builder Training before they can start building Built Green™ homes. This helps the builders to understand the "house-as-a-system" Building Science approach.
- Every builder must take steps to lower the amount of waste materials generated on the jobsite thereby reducing the amount of construction waste going into landfills.
- Every home must lower water usage.
- Every home addresses indoor air quality.



David Bengert, President of the Built Green™ Society of Canada says, “I am very pleased with the work done by the CRHBA to bring this issue to the City of Calgary. Both Donna Moore and Michael Nyikes are to be congratulated for their hard work to make this a reality. The program that was started right here in Calgary now has over 3,200 homes enrolled and continues to grow at a rapid pace. Congratulations to the City of Calgary for seeing the value in the program by offering rebates on the cost of building permits for Built Green™ certified homes.”

In addition to the health and environmental benefits of a Built Green™ home, financial incentives for homeowners include lower energy costs, higher resale value and, for homes that achieve 77 or higher on the EnerGuide scale, homeowners can apply for a 10% mortgage insurance premium rebate through either CMHC or Genworth Financial. More information can be found at www.BuiltGreenCanada.ca.

Additional information is available through:

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