



News Release

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Ormstown, April 2nd, 2013. The New Frontiers School Board announces a partnership project to build a home for a family in Ormstown, Quebec. The New Frontiers School Board's Châteauguay Valley Career Education Centre (CVCEC) is the "Centre of Expertise" for Carpentry in Quebec. Teachers and students from this Centre will be working together to build an eco-friendly LEED-Certified Habitat for Humanity home for a deserving family within the rural community of Ormstown. The partners involved in this first-ever project in Quebec are: the New Frontiers School Board/CVCEC, the Municipality of Ormstown, Habitat for Humanity Montreal, and EcoHabitation.

The **New Frontiers School Board** is composed of 10 elementary schools, two high schools, and three adult career centres, the latter of which offer programming in over 16 different fields of study. The **Châteauguay Valley Career Education Centre's mission** is to provide experiences that will challenge students to learn and to develop respect for themselves, others and the environment; engage the students, parents, staff, and the community as educational partners; encourage and support all employees to achieve excellence thereby enhancing student learning; and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment where everyone feels that they belong and are appreciated.

The **Municipality of Ormstown** is situated on the Châteauguay River in the heart of the Châteauguay Valley, approximately one hour southwest of Montreal. Located in Ormstown, CVCEC has always maintained a valuable and beneficial relationship with the Town. The idea of building a Habitat for Humanity home in Ormstown received positive interest, and the Town has committed to the project by covering the cost of infrastructure work, offering the site at a reduced rate, and repaving the road where the house will be located.

Habitat for Humanity Montreal, established in 1998, responds to a growing need for affordable housing in the region. Through volunteer labour, efficient management and tax-deductible donations, Habitat for Humanity Montreal builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of homeowner families. Habitat for Humanity Montreal is also a proud builder of LEED-Certified homes. **LEED** (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) is an internationally recognized rating system for commercial buildings and homes administered by the Canada Green Building Council to encourage sustainable building practices. A LEED Certified home is verified by an independent third party to meet standards beyond conventional building practices for healthier, more sustainable and energy efficient homes. **Habitat for Humanity** is supporting this project by managing the process for family selection, materials, volunteers, funding, and professional services.

EcoHabitation is a resource "dedicated to giving Canadian home owners a place where they can learn the principles of sustainable building practices, and provide the resources necessary to creating healthier and more efficient homes." It was established by Emmanuel Cosgrove to offer workshops, trainings and certification for houses to be rated under the LEED rating system; Mr Cosgrove is a senior LEED inspector recognized by LEED Canada and has worked with teachers at CVCEC.

With construction slated to begin this fall, the New Frontiers School Board looks forward to working on this exciting project.