

Team North builds North House, an innovative solar-powered home

WATERLOO, Ont. (Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009) -- North House, an advanced solar-powered home being developed by Team North, will demonstrate Canada's commitment to sustainability and promote alternative energy sources, its university organizers say.

Team North, which involves students and faculty at the University of Waterloo, Ryerson University and Simon Fraser University, along with industry partners, is one of only two Canadian entries selected to participate in the prestigious 2009 Solar Decathlon competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The decathlon will be held Oct. 9-18 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., drawing 20 university teams with prototype solar homes from around the world. The teams will each build a full-scale house to compete in 10 categories measuring quality and performance.

Team North will develop North House -- a marketable solar-powered home for people with active lifestyles. The team aims to combine green building, solar and interactive technologies in order to reduce energy demand, foster a conservation ethic and boost the quality of life for Canadians.

"North House will offer powerful solutions by using energy more efficiently and using energy from renewable sources," said Maun Demchenko, Team North's director of public relations. "North House will serve as a vehicle for teaching the public about solar technologies and how they can be used in new and existing housing. It will showcase new sustainable green construction building practices in Canada on a world stage."

North House, deploying the latest in energy-efficient technologies and materials, will demonstrate how design can reduce energy use while maintaining a high quality of life for its occupants.

Such an integrated approach to construction draws on all building components and systems to create a more comfortable building, save energy and reduce environmental impact.

For more information on Team North and North House, visit <http://www.team-north.com/>.

- 30 -

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