



## **Home Builders' Celebrates NL's first home qualified under the CHBA Net Zero Home labeling program.**

St. John's – November 18, 2016 – Newfoundland and Labrador has its first qualified Net Zero Ready home built by K & P Contracting Limited labeled under the Canadian Home Builders' Association Net Zero Home Labeling Program Pilot.

This home (48 Adam's Road, Flatrock) will be receiving the CHBA Net Zero Ready Qualified Home "Mark of Excellence".

A Net Zero Home is one that is designed, modelled and constructed to produce as much clean energy as it consumes on an annual basis. A Net Zero Ready Home meets the same technical specifications as a Net Zero Home, but doesn't have the renewable energy generation installed yet – this is left for installation in the future.

"The CHBA would like to congratulate K & P Contracting Limited for being the first CHBA Net Zero Qualified Builder to achieve this milestone for Newfoundland and Labrador." Says Bob Finnigan, President of CHBA. "Today's consumers are looking for energy efficient homes and our builder members are ready and eager to deliver the best in home energy efficiency. Our Net Zero Home Labelling Program provides third party confirmation for both the industry and consumer."

After 40 years in business K & P Contracting Limited has a long history of leading energy efficiency in new home construction and renovations. "We built this home to the Net Zero Ready standard so that we could offer the consumer the most energy efficient home available." says Curtis Mercer of K & P Contracting. "The initial investment will save the consumer money in the long run. It won't take long before they see a return on their investment."

The CHBA NL would like to create more awareness and understanding of the value of high energy efficiency in homes. "K & P Contracting Limited is our first NL builder to obtain this qualification and we anticipate bringing the training to the province soon so that more of our builders can obtain this designation." says Victoria Belbin, CEO "As energy costs rise, we want to make sure that consumers have choices and options in new home construction and renovations."

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## **ABOUT THE NET ZERO |HOME LABELLING PROGRAM**

In September, 2015 the CHBA launched a Pilot of the Association's Net Zero Home Labelling Program, continuing CHBA's long history in leading energy efficiency in residential construction. The Program will provide the industry with a clearly defined yet rigorous 2-tiered (Net Zero and Net Zero Ready) technical standard, and it will distinguish and recognize Net Zero homes as well as the builders and renovators constructing them. To encourage high levels of industry adoption – including with production builders – the program keeps the administrative process simplified, while maintaining high levels of technical rigor.

The Pilot is being used to validate both the streamlined administrative processes as well as the technical details prior to launching “version 1” of the Program on January 1st, 2017. While most-often quite conventional in appearance, Net Zero homes incorporate a wide range of technical innovations in three areas:

- 1) They are incredibly energy efficient, with high levels of insulation in all exterior surfaces including below grade, high performance windows and right-sized mechanical systems, including fresh air ventilation. With these energy efficiency improvements, the typical Net Zero home will require 50% to 70% less energy for its operations than a new home built to current building codes.
- 2) For the remaining energy that is required, Net Zero homes incorporate renewable energy generation, most often solar-generated electricity, to offset this load. In so doing, over the course of the whole year, they generate as much energy as they consume (hence the “net zero” in their name).
- 3) Increasingly, Net Zero homes also incorporate in-home energy storage systems (much like an electric car) that allow them to function more autonomously from the electrical grid (a big advantage when the power goes out!).

To meet the Net Zero technical standard, a wide range of innovative construction practices are used by Net Zero builders. Builder and renovator members who want to be part of this exciting initiative must take training as part of the qualification process. Net Zero training is getting the necessary knowledge out to the industry and accelerating the capacity of builders and renovators to achieve Net Zero. A network of CHBA Net Zero Qualified Service Organizations and Energy Advisors has been established to work directly with the builders and renovators to design, model and test the homes, as well as to deliver the training.

To build awareness and understanding of the value of these homes, and to stimulate market demand, marketing and communications initiatives (including brand development), as well as sales and marketing tools for the builders and renovators will be provided. To address the initial cost of Net Zero homes, the development of innovative and effective financing mechanisms is also being explored, so that a larger portion of the market can buy these homes.



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**ABOUT THE CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION – Newfoundland and Labrador**

The Canadian Home Builders' Association - Newfoundland and Labrador is the voice of the province's residential construction industry. Membership includes new home builders, renovators, developers, trade contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, lenders and other professionals. The Association exists to protect housing affordability and to enhance the professionalism of the industry.