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# news release

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## CANADA-RUSSIA HOUSING PROJECT LAUNCHED

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) David C. Dingwall today launched a pilot program to take place in the region of Tver, northwest of Moscow, which is designed to help Russia develop a market-driven building industry, and to showcase Canadian housing construction techniques.

"Canada is committed to assisting economic reform in Russia. This project will involve training in business skills and housing construction techniques for former Russian military officers, and will demonstrate the effectiveness of Canadian-style building codes," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Canadians are leaders in housing technology and construction. By sharing our expertise with the world, we open the door to untapped business opportunities for more Canadians," said Mr. Dingwall.

The pilot project is being financed in part through a grant of C\$340 000 from the Canadian Technical Co-operation Fund at the World Bank, which was established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to support the participation of Canadians in activities associated with World Bank projects. CMHC will co-ordinate a team of government departments and private consultants to introduce Canadian wood-frame technology and Canadian entrepreneurial expertise to Russia.

Eight Canadian organizations pooled their resources and expertise to form "Team Canada: Housing in Russia." They hope to be joined by other Canadian companies that are willing to invest in the building materials supply system of Tver and donate equipment.

The Canadian pilot program is being undertaken with support in Russia from Tver Region, the City of Tver, and the Guaranty

Foundation of the Russian Ministry of Defence, and in Canada by the Canada-Russia Business Council and Canadian business interests.

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