



# Media Advisory

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September 13, 2007

## **ATCO Gas celebrates the opening of Drake Landing Drake Landing is North America's first large-scale solar heated community**

Calgary, Alberta - ATCO Gas and its partners officially opened a new solar powered community in Okotoks today. Incorporating the most advanced thermal technology, the Drake Landing project supplies 52 homes with 90 per cent of their yearly space heating needs. The community south of Calgary is North America's first large scale seasonal storage system and the first in the world to deliver such a high percentage of space heating from energy collected through solar panels.

ATCO Gas provided project management support during the construction of the heating system, which began in 2004, and will operate and maintain the system during an initial four-year commissioning period. Following the commissioning period, ATCO Gas will own and maintain the heating system.

"These homes make up the largest subdivision of the most energy efficient and environmentally responsible new single family homes in Canada," said Jerome Engler, ATCO Gas President. "This unique project showcases ATCO Gas as a leader in implementing innovative renewable energy technologies."

When fully operational each of the 52 homes in the community will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 3.9 to 5 tonnes per year.

The project is a collaboration between ATCO Gas and Natural Resources Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Town of Okotoks, the Government of Canada's Climate Change Action Plan, United Communities (a Calgary-based real estate developer), Climate Change Central and Sterling Homes.

ATCO Gas is a province-wide natural gas distribution company serving nearly one million customers in nearly 300 Alberta communities. It is part of the ATCO Group of Companies. With more than 7,000 employees and \$7.9 billion in assets, ATCO Group is an Alberta based worldwide organization of companies comprised of three main business divisions: Power Generation; Utilities (natural gas and electricity transmission and distribution) and Global Enterprises, with companies active in industrial manufacturing, technology, logistics and energy services.

More information about ATCO Gas can be found on its website [www.atcogas.com](http://www.atcogas.com).

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