
SUSTAINABLE FIRSTS AT UNIVERCITY

NEW ORIGIN PROJECT AT UNIVERCITY FIRST TO FOLLOW GREEN BUILDING BYLAW — THE FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA

Burnaby, BC, March 12, 2010 — SFU Community Trust is proud to announce its partnership with Porte Development in a new residential project at UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain.

Porte's project—named Origin—will be the first in UniverCity's third phase and involve significant enhancements in green building innovation. New development at UniverCity is now subject to one of North America's first sustainable zoning bylaws. These mandatory bylaws were created in association with the development community and the City of Burnaby to ensure new buildings are at least 30 percent more efficient than traditional projects while also being cost effective for private developers.

“Origin will address issues of sustainability and livability that are increasingly important to today's housing buyer,” says Gordon Harris, president and CEO of the SFU Community Trust. “Porte has a long history in the Lower Mainland of building quality projects and has shown great enthusiasm in contributing to the creation of a model of sustainable development here on Burnaby Mountain.”

UniverCity is the award-winning sustainable community adjacent to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. With nearly 3,000 residents, the community will eventually have a population of more than 10,000. SFU Community Trust manages the development of UniverCity through leasing of zoned, serviced, subdivided sites to private sector developers on a 99-year leasehold basis.

“Sustainability and good design go hand in hand,” says David Porte, president of Porte Development. “Origin will incorporate many sustainable initiatives including energy efficient heating, water conservation and intelligent building materials selection. At the same time, homes at Origin will be affordable and well priced within the Burnaby market.”

Porte's plans are for a low-rise project with 75 view-influenced urban apartment and loft-style homes designed by award-winning GBL Architects and BYU Interior Design. Located at the heart of the community across from the future elementary school and the recently opened Nesters Market at the corner of University High Street and Tower Road, the project will feature a broad selection of homes to meet the needs of singles, couples and families. A number of homes will also feature lock-off suites to provide additional flexibility and affordability for purchasers.

Presales are expected to begin later this spring, with construction starting later this summer. Origin will join several other projects that are rapidly changing the face of the UniverCity community. These include the recently opened 23,000-square-foot Nesters Market grocery store and pharmacy, the new 275-student elementary school being developed in partnership with the Burnaby Board of Education, the BC Ministry of Education and the City of Burnaby and set to open in September 2010, and a new 50-space childcare facility set to begin construction this spring and to be built to a “Living Building Standard” making it one of the most sustainable buildings in North America.

For information on UniverCity, visit www.univercity.ca. For information on Origin, visit www.whylivehere.ca.

ABOUT PORTE DEVELOPMENT: Over the past 30 years, Porte Development Corporation has built more than 1,600 homes and 500,000 square feet of industrial and commercial space in Metro Vancouver. Recently completed residential developments by Porte include Ginger, a nine-storey concrete building featuring 78 leading-edge homes in the heart of Vancouver’s Chinatown; Mint, a collection of 59 residences in a four-storey frame building located in South Surrey; and the first phase of Nuvo, with 43 townhomes featuring live-work flexibility, also in South Surrey.

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