

# Canadian Energy Strategy Sets Framework for Growth in Renewable Electricity

Provinces pledge to work together to "unlock the full potential" of renewable electricity

### MEDIA STATEMENT — JULY 17, 2015

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR — Today Canada's premiers released the <u>Canadian Energy Strategy</u>, which provides an important framework for Canada to transition to a low carbon economy, including increased deployment and use of renewable electricity.

The strategy includes a commitment to, "facilitate the development of renewable, green and/or cleaner energy sources." The Canadian Council for Renewable Electricity supports the overarching goals (6.1) to support the efficient deployment of renewable energy across Canada and (6.2) to support greater access to affordable, clean, and reliable supplies of energy for all Canadians.

#### QUOTES

"We're pleased to see that all of Canada's premiers recognize the important contribution that renewable electricity makes today, but also the potential to scale that up as we transition to a low carbon energy system and economy. Hydropower answers the need for electricity storage identified by the strategy and can help further reduce greenhouse gas emissions along with wind, solar and ocean energy."

- Jacob Irving, President of the Canadian Hydropower Association

"Renewable electricity is the competitive edge and a key climate solution in the new, low-carbon economy. It's the #1 area of growth in new electricity capacity and represents \$30 billion in new investment across Canada, in large part due to the growth of solar and wind in Ontario and Quebec. This is a tremendous opportunity for other provinces such as Alberta, who may be looking to reduce their carbon emissions."

- John Gorman, President Canadian Solar Industries Association

"As the shift to a low-carbon economy goes worldwide, cooperation, coordination and collaboration between all of Canada's governments is critical if we are going to build on our clean electricity base to lead in that new economy. The premiers should be congratulated for recognizing renewables as a growing part of Canada's energy future, and now must roll up their sleeves to move forward with its implementation."

- Tim Weis, Director of Policy, Canadian Wind Energy Association

"The premiers have taken a significant step forward with this deal and we are optimistic that it will provide great direction and support for renewable energy development across the country. Marine renewable energy development will provide economic opportunities, spur innovation, and compliment all clean energy sources as we move to a low carbon economy."

- Elisa Obermann, Executive Director, Marine Renewables Canada



#### **KEY FACTS**

- Renewable energy sources such as water, wind, and sun currently meet 65 percent of Canada's electricity needs.
- In recent years, the installed costs of some renewable energy sources—particularly wind and solar—have dropped dramatically. To cite one example, solar photovoltaic (PV) module costs have fallen 75 percent since the end of 2009, while the cost of electricity from utility-scale solar PV has dropped 50 percent since 2010. (Source: Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2014, International Renewable Energy Agency, 2015.)
- A recent report for the United Nations identified boosting renewable electricity production—in combination
  with electrifying buildings, industry, and transportation—as a key step on a path Canada can take to "decarbonize" its economy. (Source: <u>Pathways to Deep Decarbonization Canada Chapter</u>, Sustainable Development
  Solutions Network & Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, 2014.)
- A recent study by more than 60 of Canada's leading academics identified renewable electricity as a key climate change solution. They note that Canada could completely decarbonize its electricity systems by 2035, which would make it possible for our country to adopt long-term pollution reduction targets consistent with our international obligations to act on climate disruption. (Source: Acting on Climate Change Solutions from Canadian Scholars, Sustainable Canada Dialogues, 2015.)

#### **ABOUT THE COUNCIL**

An initiative of Canada's leading, national renewable electricity associations, the Canadian Council on Renewable Electricity works to build public support for increased development of our abundant renewable electricity resources in order to further decarbonize North America's energy system.

The founding members of the Council are the Canadian Hydropower Association, Canadian Solar Industries Association, Canadian Wind Energy Association, and Marine Renewables Canada.

Clean Energy Canada, a program of Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue, provides Secretariat support to the Council.

The Council can be found at <u>renewableelectricity.ca</u> and <u>electriciterenouvelable.ca</u>, and on Twitter <u>@Renewable-</u>Canada.

Ce communiqué est aussi disponible en français.

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