



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition Perplexed by Lack of Federal Commitment to Renewable Power**

**Ottawa, Canada – March 4, 2010** – The Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition is perplexed that the federal government failed to expand and extend the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power (eERP) Program in the Federal Budget tabled by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in the House of Commons today.

The Coalition had asked for the extension and expansion of eERP, which had allocated all of its funding by the end of 2009, until a carbon pricing mechanism is put in place domestically that provides value for renewable energy's environmental benefits. Extending and expanding the program would have leveled the playing field more with other conventional electricity sources and with the United States.

“The Harper government missed the mark entirely when it came to clean, green, renewable power,” said Mark Rudolph, the Coalition’s coordinator. “We’re perplexed. Yesterday’s Speech from the Throne said, ‘...we must leverage to secure our place as a clean energy superpower and a leader in green job creation...’. Yet, today’s Budget signaled the death knell to the very program that would have helped to meet the Throne Speech commitment immediately.”

Expansion and extension of the eERP program would have created thousands of jobs, stimulated billions in investment, instilled certainty in Canada’s renewable energy industry, and helped achieve the federal government’s goal of 90 per cent of the nation’s electricity needs being supplied from non-emitting sources by 2020.

Instead, the Harper government has decided to invest some \$300 million into Atomic Energy of Canada for nuclear reactors. “There is nothing ‘shovel ready’ about investing in nuclear technology,” Rudolph said. “And between now and 2020, it does nothing to help meet the government’s 90% goal, because you can’t build a nuclear reactor in 10 years given the required approvals and construction timeframes.”

The federal government has expressed a desire to harmonize climate change and clean energy policies with the U.S. However, it is moving in the opposite direction with respect to green power investment and jobs in Canada. Without eERP, there is a greater risk that renewable power investors, their investments, and their jobs will flow to the U.S. where there is greater policy certainty and a more attractive investment climate.



The Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition is a group of corporate and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) focused on accelerating the deployment of green power in Canada. The group is comprised of sixteen corporations and six environmental organizations.

Coalition members include: Atla Energy, Cloudworks Energy Inc., ConocoPhillips Canada, CorpFinance, Enbridge Inc., Fred Olsen Renewables, Friends of the Earth, International Institute for Sustainable Development, NaiKun Wind, Ontario Power Generation Inc., Pembina Institute, Plutonic Power, Pollution Probe, Pristine Power, Shell Canada Limited, StormFisher Biogas, Suncor Energy Inc., The Delphi Group, Toronto Environmental Alliance, Toronto Hydro, TransAlta Corporation, and World Wildlife Fund Canada.

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