



Canada Needs New Agency to Promote Renewables

OTTAWA, ON, 2003-10-16: Canada must create a special agency with the sole mandate of developing and promoting the use of renewable energy, according to the **canadian association for renewable energies**.

Friday is the 30th anniversary of the OPEC oil embargo, and the level of renewables in Canada has dropped since then. The 1973 share of non-hydroelectric renewables in Canada's total primary energy supply was **4.9%**, says the International Energy Agency. By 1999 (latest year available), it was **4.5%**, almost all from combustible renewables (biomass) with no recognized contribution from wind, solar or earth energy.

"Renewables will be needed to meet Canada's GHG commitments under Kyoto, and recent actions indicate that politicians are starting to recognize the strong economic and environment benefits of our technologies," says executive director Bill Eggertson. "But Canada has no benchmark data and no forecasts, with the only official federal analysis predicting that non-hydro renewables will decline by two-thirds this decade."

Creation of an agency that includes federal and provincial departments, utilities, local municipalities and industry, would allow Canada to work collaboratively on exploiting the opportunities offered by renewables. It could also serve as the first model for the 'renewed federalism' and 'inclusive policy-making' called for by numerous politicians.

"Consensus and co-ordinated action is needed now to promote renewables," adds Eggertson. "Canada needs a vision and an open strategy on renewables, but that vision must be crafted by all Canadians, for all Canadians."

The **canadian association for renewable energies** supports feasible applications of green power, green fuels and green heat. Since 1997, it has published a daily newsletter on renewables in Canada, and it produces the world's largest electronic newsletter on the topic. It receives no funding from NRCan and its publications are financed totally by private industry.

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