



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work Together to Develop Sustainable Energy Policy

--Now is the Time to Seize the Opportunity--

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Saint John, NB—The scale and scope of the proposed agreement between NB Power and Hydro-Québec brought to the forefront the urgent need to develop a sustainable energy policy that ensures New Brunswickers competitive, reliable and clean energy over the short and long term.

Currently, there are 58,000 New Brunswickers employed in “goods producing” jobs, with the Saint John region as the largest manufacturing sector in Atlantic Canada. Increasingly, this sector is facing increasing global pressures and economic challenges. It is the responsibility of government, business and individuals to explore innovative and creative solutions to ensure these vital jobs are maintained.

As the Economic Development Agency for the Saint John region, Enterprise Saint John sees tremendous opportunity in continuing to push forward on the energy discussions. Significant effort and resources have been invested into better understanding New Brunswick’s current energy landscape, and exploring areas where improvements could be made. The opportunity now exists to capitalize on this effort, to everyone’s benefit.

We need to work together to make New Brunswick, and the Saint John region, attractive for investment. Bob Manning, Chair of Enterprise Saint John explains, “We must be competitive in order to grow and prosper – that means energy rates and policy which can attract new investment and enable existing businesses to both re-invest and focus on job creation.”

Three key aspects have emerged through the course of discussions over the past number of months:

- New Brunswick must be able to offer individual and business rate payers competitive energy rates, both in the short and long term;
- Our combined focus must be on energy policy which addresses a cleaner, greener and more efficient way to generate and consume energy; and
- The massive debt that NB Power has accumulated continues to hinder opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.

Now is the time to seize the opportunity to collaborate in creating a broader policy which brings together energy policy, regulatory controls, economic stimulus and environmental considerations. These are the four pillars to support a prosperous vision for today, tomorrow, and generations to come. Significant infrastructure investments by business rely on long-term projections. Ensuring energy rates are secured is a key driver to inspiring people, ideas and investment. These investments help retain and attract people by rewarding them with opportunities to grow and prosper, right here, in New Brunswick.

Manning stresses, “The process we have just completed has allowed people to become informed about the issues we face. Both business and the public at large are ready to continue a dialogue on energy policy that sets the stage for generations to come.”

Steve Carson, CEO of Enterprise Saint John is optimistic. He says, “Our community was founded in the spirit of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. I have no doubt that, by working together, we will find a better way.”

The Board of Enterprise Saint John has begun a comprehensive process to update the Agency’s strategic plan. Critical to the development of a strong economic strategy is having a competitive and sustainable energy policy. Now is the time to work together in seizing the opportunity before us.

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