

**No Net Environmental Impacts to the Environment  
Minister Neufeld Speech to the Vancouver Board of Trade  
October 21, 2004**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, it's nice to see such a good turnout.

I'd like to recognize Lorne Mayencourt, MLA for Vancouver – Burrard. It's great to have you here today Lorne to take part in with what you'll agree is a great program.

And I'm pleased to join Bob (BC Hydro CEO Bob Elton) this afternoon to talk about this important step for government and BC Hydro. BC Hydro is one of our key Crown Corporations in British Columbia. British Columbians are very proud of BC Hydro and so they should be. British Columbia is lucky to have some of the greatest and cleanest energy resources in the world and all too often we forget that. And I think the fault lies with government, and BC Hydro to a degree, in not getting that message out in a forceful enough fashion across the province of British Columbia and around North America. Over 90% of BC Hydro's power generation comes from clean sources, and we cherish this resource. Not all places in the world or in North America have that luxury. As you know, almost 2 years ago, in November 2002, I announced the Energy Plan.

**Energy Plan**

Energy For Our Future: A Plan For BC. A key objective of this plan was to protect the environment, while ensuring low-cost, secure, reliable energy for British Columbians into the future. We also made a commitment to work towards acquiring 50% of our new incremental supply from BC Clean Electricity.

BC Hydro has been great to date on meeting that goal. I was told at the time, because that is a very stringent goal, that BC Hydro would never be able to meet that goal. The previous goal it had set for itself was 10%. But you know what, BC Hydro has acquired all of its new energy, since the release of the Energy Plan, from clean sources. They've actually matched 100%, double what we asked them and I think that's remarkable that the Crown Corporation has been able to do that.

The Ministry has also been updating and expanding our Energy Efficiency Act. That's the part of the Energy Plan that I work at in my Ministry, working with the building industry, governments and others, to improve energy efficiency in existing and new buildings, and in new construction.

Today Bob explained that we are here to announce another step on our path of environmentally responsible energy production and use in British Columbia. I'm very pleased to tell you that we are announcing a commitment by one of the largest power companies in North America to have no net incremental impacts on the environment. That's a great goal. This is also an important one. It means something, it means that one of North America's largest utilities, one that is responsible for employing over 4000 people, for producing over 50,000 gigawatts of electricity a year and for managing

contracts and arrangements with hundreds of other companies including independent power producers, is making this a goal of theirs. This company will offset any incremental impacts on the environment with actions that offset that impact.

What is important to recognize is that BC Hydro is already a world leader in environmental responsibility. Like I said earlier, and I cannot stress too much, and I would hope that you take home and talk to people, is that BC Hydro already produces 90% or better of its present electricity generation from clean sources for British Columbians. We should be proud of that. There are other provinces that are no-where close to that; in fact there are other provinces that generate 90% of their electricity using fossil fuels. That creates greenhouse gases. So I want to get that message out strong and clear; BC Hydro is a good Crown Corporation, which does a good job at generating electricity in British Columbia for British Columbians, at a very low rate, one of the lowest in North America, and one of the very cleanest. And let me tell you that's something we should be proud of, each and every one of us.

Since we formed government, greenhouse gas emissions at Hydro have dropped 60%. You wouldn't know that by reading some of the opinions in newspapers. You'd think we had increased it. But they actually have reduced it, dramatically, since we came into office. That's almost two million tonnes of greenhouse gasses no longer being released to the atmosphere. In fact BC Hydro's greenhouse gas emissions per gigawatt hour are 90% lower than the average in Canada. That's remarkable. That's something we should be proud of, that's something that we should all remember, that's something we should tell our children. That's something that everyone should know.

Today's announcement will ensure that we move forward and expand generating capacity. We will not do so at the expense of the environment. This goal is a natural extension of the province's Energy Plan commitment of environmental responsibility. It illustrates that as a government we value the environment, and we, as we tap into British Columbia's huge potential to generate energy, we will ensure that the environment is protected. I congratulate BC Hydro on this goal and all of their 50 other new long-term goals, to include those other important cornerstones around reliability, customers and employees.

Bob will be expanding on these goals tomorrow at the Board of Trade, and I fully expect his business colleagues to applaud the leadership of Bob and BC Hydro in developing goals demonstrating BC Hydro as a good solid corporate citizen. I know you the public will participate in the upcoming public discussions as part of the company's upcoming integrated electricity planning stakeholder engagement process.

So this is an exciting day for BC Hydro and an exciting day for me, and an exciting day for the people that work for BC Hydro. And above all we want to move forward in generation of electricity that's clean and environmentally sensitive across this province, something that BC Hydro is doing now and we will continue to do. It's a legacy that's been given to us by someone that had a great vision. We want to be able to keep that great vision moving forward. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.