

SPEAKING NOTES

OPENING REMARKS FOR QUEST III BY LUCE ASSELIN

OCTOBER 26, 2009

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE QUEST III [THREE] ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
HELLO.

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY WARM WELCOME TO QUÉBEC CITY FOR
THIS THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE QUEST INITIATIVE.

IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO WELCOME SUCH A LARGE NUMBER
OF PARTICIPANTS TODAY.

AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE QUEST INITIATIVE IN NIAGARA-ON-
THE-LAKE THREE YEARS AGO, WE REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF
CREATING A TRUE SYNERGY AMONG THE VARIOUS
STAKEHOLDERS OF THE MANY ENERGY-RELATED SECTORS FROM

ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO FOSTER DEBATE AND DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS.

THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE AN OCCASION TO TAKE STOCK OF THE INNOVATIVE PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR THAT ARE UNDERWAY ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY—A VALUABLE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION THAT WILL HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW.

THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE, “INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY SYSTEMS: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER,” COULD NOT BE MORE TIMELY.

THE CHALLENGES RELATING TO ENERGY MANAGEMENT CROP UP ON A VIRTUALLY DAILY BASIS IN THE NEWS.

GIVEN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND THE LATEST MAJOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS, THESE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES ARE A CLARION CALL

TO ACT URGENTLY IN A STRUCTURED AND CONCERTED WAY TO ENSURE A BETTER FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENERGY SYSTEMS IS NO LONGER A SIMPLY A SOLUTION WORTH CONSIDERING; IT'S A NECESSITY.

SETTING UP AND IMPROVING THESE SYSTEMS WILL BE KEY TO ATTAINING OUR OBJECTIVES, WHETHER FOR CREATING WEALTH, IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE, REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, OR CUTTING ECOSYSTEM POLLUTION IN GENERAL.

AS SUCH, I BELIEVE THAT THE WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY WILL HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TRUE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

QUALITY COMMUNITY ENERGY SYSTEMS GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH INTEGRATION.

THE INTEGRATION OF DIFFERENT ENERGY SOURCES TO MEET TRANSPORTATION, HEATING, LIGHTING, AND OTHER NEEDS ALSO REQUIRES CONCERTED ACTION BY ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE VARIOUS STEPS OF IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PROJECT.

THIS CHALLENGE IS EVEN MORE DAUNTING IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT.

WE ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE IMPACTS OF OUR DECISIONS IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION AND, ABOVE ALL, ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION ALSO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE. WE ARE CURRENTLY WITNESSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING ENERGIES AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO OUR SOCIETY.

IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT EVENTS LIKE THIS CONFERENCE ARE SO VITAL. THEY BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESEARCH AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS PROOF THAT WE ALL SHARE A COMMON GOAL AND THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO COMBINING OUR EFFORTS.

THIS MEETING WILL THUS BE AN OCCASION FOR ALL OF US TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THESE SHARED GOALS. IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT.

ALLOW ME TO QUICKLY REITERATE THE QUEST MISSION.

IT IS TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED, INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN TERMS OF LAND USE, ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ORDER TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC AND THE AGENCE DE L'EFFICACITÉ ÉNERGÉTIQUE SHARE THIS VISION IN ITS ENTIRETY!

IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME, I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK IN TIME A LITTLE.

IN 2006, THE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPED AN AMBITIOUS ENERGY STRATEGY CLEARLY SETTING OUT ITS POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES UP TO TWENTY FIFTEEN (2015).

FOLLOWING THE TABLING OF THIS STRATEGY, THE AEE'S MISSION WAS CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR ALL ENERGY SOURCES, IN ALL ECONOMIC SECTORS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL QUEBECERS.

THE AEE WAS ALSO TASKED WITH DEVELOPING THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES PLAN FOR QUÉBEC.

THIS PLAN, WHICH WAS TABLED IN JULY TWO-THOUSAND-EIGHT (2008), ENCOMPASSES ALL THE AGENCY'S INITIATIVES AIMED AT ATTAINING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ITSELF AMBITIOUS ENERGY USE REDUCTION TARGETS.

BY TWENTY FIFTEEN (2015), WE MUST DECREASE OUR CONSUMPTION OF

1. ELECTRICITY BY ELEVEN TERRAWAT HOURS (TWH), WHICH EQUALS THE ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMED BY FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND (415,000) TYPICAL SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES IN QUÉBEC.

2. NATURAL GAS BY THREE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY MILLION CUBIC METRES (350 MILLION M³), WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF ONE-HUNDRED-AND-THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND (132,000) TYPICAL SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES IN QUÉBEC THAT HEAT

WITH NATURAL GAS AND USE ELECTRICITY FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

3. GASOLINE BY TWO MILLION TON OIL EQUIVALENTS (2 MILLION TOE) OR TWO-THOUSAND-THREE-HUNDRED-AND-NINETY-TWO BILLION LITRES (2,392 BILLION LITRES), WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION BY ONE MILLION SIX-HUNDRED-AND-FORTY-THOUSAND (1.64 MILLION) LIGHT VEHICLES, OR APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF ALL AUTOMOBILES AND LIGHT TRUCKS ON THE ROAD IN QUÉBEC IN 2006.

YOU WILL AGREE, I AM SURE, THAT THIS MUST BE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT. IT REQUIRES THE PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE—FAMILIES, BUSINESSES, AND GOVERNMENT.

THIS EFFORT BEGINS WITH INDIVIDUAL AWARENESS. WE ALL NEED TO UNDERSTAND—QUICKLY—THAT WE MUST USE ENERGY RESPONSIBLY AND THAT, TO DO SO, WE WILL HAVE TO CHANGE OUR HABITS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DECIDED TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE WITH ITS TWO-THOUSAND-SIX TWO-THOUSAND-TWELVE (2006-2012) CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN. THE AGENCE DE L'EFFICACITÉ ÉNERGÉTIQUE IS IN CHARGE OF SIX INITIATIVES IN THE PLAN. WE HAVE NOTABLY UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN ENERGIES THAT REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

DID YOU KNOW THAT QUÉBEC IS ONE OF ONLY FIVE JURISDICTIONS IN THE WORLD WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION? THE OTHER FOUR ARE MANITOBA, LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM, AND OREGON. THIS LEGISLATION FORCES US TO THINK ABOUT AND RETHINK OUR ACTIONS SO AS TO CONTINUOUSLY TAKE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIMENSION INTO ACCOUNT.

MR. HARCOURT, I RECENTLY READ SOME QUEST DOCUMENTS IN WHICH YOU SAID THAT, TODAY, NINETY-FIVE PERCENT (95%) OF

CANADIANS LIVE LESS THAN AN HOUR BY ROAD AWAY FROM ONE OF OUR ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TWENTY (120) LARGEST URBAN CENTRES.

URBAN CENTRES CONSUME THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR RESOURCES AND PRODUCE MOST OF THE GREENHOUSE GASES AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS.

THE DECISIONS THAT WE MAKE TODAY REGARDING LAND USE IN OUR CITIES AND THEIR ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, WATER, AND WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURES WILL HAVE IMPACTS FOR DECADES TO COME.

A BETTER INTEGRATION OF THESE INFRASTRUCTURES AND WILL HELP MEET OUR ENERGY NEEDS AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE EMISSIONS. QUEST'S VISION AND MISSION, AND ITS SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES, LAY THE GROUNDWORK TO ENSURE THAT CANADIANS HAVE A CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT, MORE AFFORDABLE, AND MORE RELIABLE ENERGY SYSTEM.

THE AGENCE DE L'EFFICACITÉ ÉNERGÉTIQUE IS FULLY ONSIDE AND THIS IS WHY WE WANT TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS AND COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS.

WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT ONE PART OF THE RESPONSE IS SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

IN QUÉBEC, URBAN DEVELOPMENT IS CHARACTERIZED BY LOW-DENSITY HOUSING AND LONG DISTANCES BETWEEN HOME AND WORK AND BETWEEN STORES AND SERVICES.

OUR EXISTING URBAN ENVIRONMENT IS POORLY ADAPTED TO MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN THE AUTOMOBILE. THIS REALITY HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS.

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, A FEW SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT ARE WORTH MENTIONING, INCLUDING LA CITÉ VERTE, WHICH IS SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION SHORTLY IN QUÉBEC CITY, AS WELL AS FAUBOURG BOISBRIAND,

THE TECHNOPÔLE ANGUS URBAN BUSINESS PARK, AND THE OUTREMONT CAMPUS IN MONTRÉAL.

LIKE THESE PIONEERING PROMOTERS, WE ARE CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MODELS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ITS CURRENT FORM, NEW URBANIZATION MODELS ARE EMERGING WORLDWIDE.

THESE MODELS RESPOND TO A VAST ARRAY OF DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES SUCH AS CONSOLIDATING AND DENSIFYING URBAN ZONES AS WELL AS OPTIMIZING THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS, INCLUDING THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH SEWERS, WATER MAINS, AND URBAN TRANSIT.

THESE MODELS ALSO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO OPTIMIZE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AND THE ORIENTATION OF BUILDINGS AND TO FACILITATE BETTER AIR POLLUTION

CONTROL AND THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL SPACES AND FARM LAND. IN ADDITION TO ENSURING THAT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS ARE ENERGY EFFICIENT, INTEGRATING THEM INTO THEIR ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO A CHALLENGE.

AMONG THE POSITIVE IMPACTS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE IMPACT ON THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT. A STUDY BY THE CANADIAN MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION (CMHC) IDENTIFIED SIX TYPES OF URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS BASED ON THEIR DENSITY AND USAGE MIX, FROM DENSE, MIXED CENTRAL URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS TO LOW-DENSITY, MAINLY RESIDENTIAL OUTER SUBURBS.

THE STUDY SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF KILOMETRES TRAVELLED BY AUTOMOBILE PER HOUSEHOLD RANGED FROM SEVEN THOUSAND (7,000 KM) TO TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND (22,000 KM) KILOMETRES PER YEAR DEPENDING ON THE DENSITY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY LIMITING TRAVEL TIMES, INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES, AND ENERGY USE, AND BY IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW, URBAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES WILL ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF QUÉBEC'S URBAN CONGLOMERATIONS, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE PRICE OF GASOLINE.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IS NOT JUST A POTENTIAL SOLUTION; IT'S A NECESSITY TO MEET THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

GIVEN THAT SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO THE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE AEE BELIEVES THAT WE MUST IMMEDIATELY BEGIN WORK ON DEFINING THE PARAMETERS AND DEVELOPING THE TOOLS REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT HOUSING PROJECTS THAT MEET CRITERIA FOR BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY, THE USE OF EMERGING TYPES OF ENERGY, AND MORE OPTIMAL LAND USE.

THE PLANNED APPROACH WILL FOCUS ON TRANSFORMING THE MARKET BY GRADUALLY ADOPTING DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA THAT WILL, ONE DAY, BE ENFORCED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WHO INFLUENCE HOW LAND IS USED IN QUÉBEC.

CERTAIN INITIATIVES PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IN WHICH THE AEE IS PARTICIPATING, ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY IN QUÉBEC AND ELSEWHERE IN CANADA.

I SHOULD ALSO MENTION THAT LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENT AND ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT (LEED) IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ND) STANDARD.

THIS STANDARD, WHICH IS IN THE PILOT PROJECT STAGE, WILL ESTABLISH SPECIFIC CRITERIA TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT. THE AEE IS WORKING, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADA GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL, TO ADAPT THE STANDARD TO THE CANADIAN AND QUÉBEC CONTEXT.

THE AEE IS ALSO PROUD TO HAVE BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT FROM THE OUTSET IN QUEST, THIS PAN-CANADIAN INITIATIVE.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE COUNCIL OF ENERGY MINISTERS (CEM) HAS SET UP ROUND TABLES TO STRUCTURE AN APPROACH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY SOLUTIONS.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA AND THE CMHC RECENTLY LAUNCHED AN INITIATIVE TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN HIGH-DENSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT MEET SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ENCOMPASSES ALL TYPES OF ENERGY, INCLUDING EMERGING ENERGIES, AND REQUIRES THE INVOLVEMENT, AMONG OTHERS, OF MUNICIPALITIES, URBAN TRANSIT AUTHORITIES, THE MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES MUNICIPALES, DES RÉGIONS ET DE L'OCCUPATION DU TERRITOIRE [DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, REGIONS AND LAND

OCCUPANCY], THE MINISTÈRE DES TRANSPORTS [DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT], AS WELL AS PROMOTERS, AND ENERGY DISTRIBUTORS.

THE AEE IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK DEVELOPING A DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HYDRO-QUÉBEC DISTRIBUTION, GAZ MÉTRO, THE CANADA GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP VIVRE EN VILLE.

WE INTEND TO EXPAND THIS WORKING GROUP IN ORDER TO PROPOSE A CONCERTED AND PROMISING PATH OF ACTION.

THE AEE ALSO WISHES TO COMPILE DATA ON ENERGY USE AND PRODUCTION IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS.

THE AEE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FUNDING, ALTHOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY, FOR INITIATIVES IN THE AREAS OF URBAN TRANSIT, THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS, AND THE

INSTALLATION (OR TESTING) OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

ULTIMATELY, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PROPOSALS DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAIN ACTORS IN THE FIELD COULD BE TABLED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE A FUTURE FOR THE MOST PROMISING APPROACHES FOR ACHIEVING MARKET TRANSFORMATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

IN CLOSING, I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND VISIONS.

I HOPE WE WILL ALL FIND THE INSPIRATION AND ENERGY TO GET PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR HABITS AND TO EMBRACE A LONG-TERM VISION OF THE USE OF OUR ENERGY RESOURCES.

HAVE A GREAT CONFERENCE!