



## Green Infrastructure supports smart urban development, says Harcourt

Ottawa - January 29, 2009 – The Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) coalition called on the government to speed up the rollout of the newly announced Green Infrastructure Fund.

“Investing in a more modern and greener infrastructure is a good first step towards fostering the development of integrated, community-based approaches which address energy end-use and reduce related greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions,” said Michael Harcourt, Former Premier of British Columbia and Honorary Chair of the QUEST coalition. “Over fifty percent of emissions in Canada are associated with urban community energy use and in the face of changing market conditions, it is essential to work towards a more sustainable energy system.” continued Harcourt. “Moving these investments along quickly will complement our climate change efforts,” added Harcourt.

Yesterday the Government of Canada introduced a budget that includes investment in provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure including providing \$1 billion over five years for the Green Infrastructure Fund to support projects such as sustainable energy.

QUEST is an initiative focused on promoting and integrated approach to land-use, energy, transport, water and waste management in communities and urban centers. The underlying QUEST proposition is that meeting Canada’s climate change and clean air goals will require large reductions in energy consumption in these areas, matching the type of energy with its use, better heat management across applications and sectors, converting waste to energy, as well as greater integration of on-site renewable sources of energy with existing energy grids.

“QUEST has been working to encourage all levels of government, industry and citizens to support integrated approaches to providing energy services in communities,” said Harcourt. “By looking at land-use, energy use, transportation, water and waste management as collective versus individual elements of a community we will be achieving overall efficiency”.

QUEST is a collaborative of key players across Canada from industry, environmental movement, governments, academia and consulting community that are committed to making Canada a world leader in urban integrated energy systems.

- 30 -

For further information:

Tonja Leach

Coordinator

Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow

Phone: 613-748-0057 x322

Cell: 613-797-6008