

## **QUEST Coalition congratulates Minister Raitt on supporting the of House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources report on integrated community energy systems**

Ottawa – October 9, 2009 – Minister Raitt responded today in support of the House of Commons Natural Resource Committee's report tabled on June 18<sup>th</sup> entitled '*Combining our energies: integrated energy systems for Canadian communities*'. The report recognizes providing the future energy needs of a growing Canadian population in a carbon constrained economy and achieving the federal government's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 to 70 percent by 2050 are major challenges that cannot be entirely resolved with the imbedded inefficiencies within conventional energy systems.

Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) is a coalition from the energy industry, environmental groups, governments, academia and consulting communities who believe an integrated, community-based approach is the best way to address energy end-use and reduce greenhouse gas and air emissions.

"The QUEST coalition has long stated that federal government policies and programs along with developers, planners, utilities, provincial and municipal leaders and technology providers working together hold the key to planning and developing more integrated energy systems in Canadian communities, said Michael Harcourt, Former Premier of British Columbia and Honorary Chair of the QUEST coalition. "I congratulate the Minister on her support, leadership and pragmatic approach to addressing 50 percent of Canada's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions that comes from our communities."

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources report validated federal financial, technical and promotional assistance needs to be in place to support the development of sustainable communities through integration of land-use, water, waste management, transportation and energy.

"By looking at land-use, energy use, transportation, water and waste management as a collective versus as individual elements of a community we can achieve greater overall efficiency and support climate change and other clean air objectives," said Kenneth Ogilvie, Former Executive Director, Pollution Probe and QUEST spokesperson. "Matching the right energy for the need, better heat management across applications and sectors, converting waste to energy, and connecting renewable sources with existing energy grids are critical to meeting the federal government's greenhouse gas emissions goals."

QUEST's vision as well as the details and science behind how integrated energy systems will pave the way to real and substantive emission reductions for Canada are available at [www.questcanada.org](http://www.questcanada.org).

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For further information:

Tonja Leach

Coordinator

Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow

Phone: 613-748-0057 x322

Cell: 613-797-6008

[www.questcanada.org](http://www.questcanada.org)