

Coalition applauds \$4.2 million program for more sustainable communities

Ottawa – June 1, 2009 – The creation of the \$4.2-million, eEquilibrium™ Communities Initiative is a valuable step towards developing more integrated and sustainable communities says a broad based coalition.

Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) is a coalition of citizens 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 emissions.

“With over fifty percent of emissions in Canada associated with how energy is used in our communities, I congratulate the federal government for creating this program,” said Michael Harcourt, Former Premier of British Columbia and Honorary Chair of the QUEST coalition. “The QUEST coalition has long stated that developers, planners, utilities, municipal leaders and technology providers working together hold the key to planning and developing more integrated energy systems in Canadian communities.

The eEquilibrium™ Communities Initiative announced today provides financial, technical and promotional assistance to sustainable community projects chosen through a national competition. Recipients of funding will develop and showcase neighbourhoods that are more sustainable and energy efficient than existing communities.

“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 likely some of the techniques and technologies that we will likely see showcased through this program.”

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 is available at www.questcanada.org.

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