



Industry Task Force Applauds Federal Government's KYOTO Funding Announcements

OTTAWA – **AUGUST 21, 2003** - A Green Building Task Force today welcomed the announcement made last week by the Prime Minister that the federal government was investing \$129 million in incentive programs for the commercial building sector to increase energy efficiency and the environmental performance of buildings. This Task Force - called the Industry Task Force on Climate Change and Green Buildings – is comprised of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC), the Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada (BOMA), the Canadian Construction Association (CCA), and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC).

Last week's announcement stated that the government was adding \$47 million to the existing Commercial Buildings Incentive Program (CBIP), \$57 million to expand the Energy Innovators Initiative (EIEs), and \$25 million to continue the Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative (REDI). These announcements were part of a broader package of measures totalling \$1 billion designed to encourage various sectors to address Canada's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Although the Task Force welcomed these announcements, given the relatively large share of greenhouse gases emitted by buildings, the Task Force will continue to press for additional investments in incentives. In addition, it will monitor the implementation of these new funds to ensure that they were being used in the most effective manner, and to maximize the number of buildings that could qualify for the incentives.

"We are very pleased to see that the government has heeded the message of our Task Force by recognizing that the commercial building sector can play a major role in contributing to Canada's climate change commitments", stated Margaret Dreher, BOMA Canada president "We are committed to working with the federal government to ensure that our collective membership is aware of these new opportunities, and of course, to ensure that the bulk of these funds are directed to small and large building owners to increase the environmental performance of their buildings."

The Industry Task Force on Climate Change and Green Buildings was created in early 2003 in reaction to the implementation of the Kyoto Accord. Its mandate is to work with the federal government and groups such as the Canada Green Building Council to address how the commercial building sector can contribute to meeting Canada's Kyoto obligations.

A backgrounder with additional information on this funding announcement is attached.

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Buildings (Excerpt from Official Government Backgrounder)

The Government of Canada is asking the commercial buildings sector to make its buildings more energy efficient and to increase the use of renewable energy, and is investing \$129 million to help the sector achieve those goals.

- \$47 million will go to expanding the existing **Commercial Buildings Incentive Program**, which is aimed at making new buildings more energy efficient. Since 1998, this program has contributed to 260 new building projects, showing that it is possible to construct buildings that produce less than half the GHG emissions of standard buildings at little or no additional cost.
- \$57 million will be invested in expanding the **Energy Innovators Initiative**. This program encourages commercial businesses and public institutions to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency in existing buildings. Since April 2001, 96 organizations have received almost \$14 million in funding under this program, investments that have led to more than \$250 million worth of energy-efficiency retrofits by building owners.
- \$25 million has been earmarked for the continuation of the **Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative (REDI)** until March 31, 2007. New spending for the current fiscal year will proceed while the Government of Canada re-evaluates the program and its objectives. Launched in 1998, REDI has played an important part in developing the growing market for reliable and cost-effective renewable energy technologies, including solar water and space heating systems, ground source heat pumps, and high-efficiency/ low-emission biomass combustion systems. Funding details for future years will depend upon the results of an independent review, the results of which are expected by the end of the fiscal year.