

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Research and Development Forum to Showcase Province's Energy Sector

May 15, 2008

Leading experts and speakers from Canada and around the world are gathering in Antigonish next week to discuss research that may shape the future of energy in Nova Scotia.

St. Francis Xavier University will play host to the 2008 Nova Scotia Energy Research and Development Forum on May 21 and 22, where academic, business, and government representatives will examine research areas such as ocean energy, strategic environmental assessment, risk management, geological storage of carbon dioxide, offshore petroleum development, and alternative and renewable energy.

"Nova Scotia's energy sector is vibrant, with opportunities in the offshore and onshore oil and gas sector, in wind power and in emerging areas such as tidal power," said Energy Minister Richard Hurlburt. "The value of having good research is that it allows us to answer new questions about our energy sector, which in turn means that we can create wealth and opportunities for Nova Scotians across our province."

Joshua Leon, Research Advisory Committee member for the OEER Association, will be among the keynote speakers. Mr. Leon will provide an overview of the recently completed Strategic Environmental Assessment for marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy.

Henry Jeffrey, an international marine renewable energy expert with the University of Edinburgh (UK), has also been invited as a keynote speaker. Mr. Jeffrey will provide an international perspective on the UK marine energy technology roadmap.

"R-and-D gatherings like the forum provide important opportunities to share insight, identify challenges and work together," said Terry Skrypnek, Group Lead, Subsurface Atlantic Canada for EnCana.

This year's Forum theme is Securing Nova Scotia's Energy Future: Research, Resources, Results. The theme represents the significant progress being made in Nova Scotia to find solutions to energy resource challenges through dedicated support for research and development programs.

The Forum is hosted in association with the Nova Scotia Department of Energy, the OEER Association (Offshore Energy Environmental Research), the OETR Association (Offshore Energy Technical Research) and Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada. For more information on the Forum program and to register, go to www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca and click on Events.

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