



For immediate release

Waterpower Industry supports Chiefs of Ontario Capacity Building Program

New training initiative focuses on Far North communities

April 15, 2013 – Toronto – The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) is pleased to support the efforts of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) in delivering environmental assessment and business planning training to First Nations communities in Ontario’s Far North. COO announced today that its application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for northern community economic development training was successful. The OWA supported the application and will assist in delivering the program.

“Building capacity in Aboriginal Communities is of significant importance to the waterpower industry and our Association,” said Paul Norris, President of the OWA. “Our collaborative efforts with COO have produced real, tangible results and we look forward to participating in this important initiative.”

In 2010, the OWA and COO entered into an Agreement based on the spirit of a “Two-Row Wampum”, respecting the dignity and integrity of one another and stressing the importance of non-interference. The Agreement supports partnerships, build aboriginal community capacity, contributions, exchange of information, research, and collaboration on environmental, economic and energy matters. Since the Agreement was signed, the organizations have partnered to deliver training to the industry on the “First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit”, collaborated on capacity building for First Nations communities with an ownership position in waterpower projects and cooperated in improving communication between the industry and Aboriginal communities.

“The Ontario Trillium Foundation has clearly recognized the important need for this kind of education and training,” added Norris. “I encourage other provincial organizations with an interest in enhancing the socioeconomic opportunities for northern First Nations to support this initiative as well.”

The Ontario Waterpower Association’s (OWA) annual Power of Water Canada (POWC) Conference will again include educational sessions focused on Aboriginal/Industry partnerships. This year the event will be held from October 20th – 22nd at the beautiful White Oaks Conference Resort located in Niagara, Ontario. The POWC Conference is the largest waterpower-focused event in the country and attracts over four hundred (400) delegates from across North America.

-30 –

The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) was founded in 2001 to represent the common and collective interests of the province's original green energy sector—waterpower. The OWA has identified more than 3000 MW of additional untapped waterpower potential in Ontario that, if developed, could help moderate electricity prices for decades to come. <http://www.owa.ca>.

For information or to schedule interviews, please contact:

Stephanie Landers
Communication and Public Outreach Coordinator
Ontario Waterpower Association
1-866-743-1500 ext. 25
slanders@owa.ca