



Newsrelease

For immediate release

Waterpower sector welcomes Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program

Community capacity key to successful fund investment

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April 27, 2010 – Toronto – The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) applauds the Ontario Power Authority's launch of the Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program (AEPP), as announced today by the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

"Today's announcement is a significant step forward for new waterpower development", said Paul Norris, President of the Ontario Waterpower Association. "I am particularly pleased with the announcement of the Aboriginal Renewable Energy Fund. We have strongly supported efforts to provide incentives to encourage and expand business relationships with Aboriginal communities."

The goal of the AEPP is to assist First Nation and Métis communities in developing renewable energy generation facilities while helping to build the province's energy supply.

The three components of the program have been designed to work in concert to achieve this goal:

- **Aboriginal Renewable Energy Fund** which assists with some of the initial project development costs associated with First Nation and Métis community renewable energy projects;
- **Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network** which is a web-based resource (www.aboriginalenergy.ca) of information relating to conservation and renewable energy development that will continue to evolve based on the needs and input from Ontario's Aboriginal communities; and,
- **Aboriginal Community Energy Plans** which will assist communities to identify and act upon their local conservation and renewable energy development opportunities.

Over the last five (5) years the waterpower industry has worked with Aboriginal communities and government agencies through a "Waterpower Working Group" to design and deliver a series of practical programs and products focused on enhancing community awareness and understanding of waterpower and improving the ability for communities to be actively involved in project development. Continued investment in these "knowledge initiatives" would support the objectives of the fund announced today.

"This initiative will help to advance waterpower projects and partnerships" added Ian Kerr, Chair of the OWA Board of Directors. "The OWA will continue its collaborative efforts to build the capacity of Aboriginal communities to participate in or become proponents of waterpower development opportunities"

The Ontario Waterpower Association was formed in May 2001 and represents more than 95% of Ontario waterpower producers. Waterpower is clean, renewable and accounts for more than one quarter of Ontario's energy mix. It is of critical importance in responding to daily and weekly changes in demand. Almost 200 facilities are distributed across Ontario - a strategic security advantage. For more information, contact Paul Norris, OWA President at 705-743-1500.