



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### APCC calls for Atlantic Region energy strategy

**Kentville, N.S.** - The strategic advantage of Atlantic Canada's geographic position and energy resources has long been recognized and promoted by the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce (APCC) as key to regional economic growth and prosperity, and the organization is urging the province of New Brunswick and all New Brunswick residents to consider the long-term implications of the proposed agreement for Quebec Hydro to acquire most of NB Power's assets.

Atlantic Canadians understand New Brunswick is strategically positioned to provide market access for clean, renewable energy from the other three Atlantic Provinces. Premier Jean Charest of Quebec is smart to recognize the agreement will provide his province with that same valuable strategic geographic position to access markets in Atlantic Canada and New England.

"Taking advantage of our proximity to markets and maximizing the economic benefit of developing our energy resources here in Atlantic Canada can best be achieved through the development and implementation of a regional energy strategy," says Bill Denyar, APCC president and CEO. "Grid connections between the Atlantic Provinces are limited to non-existent and must be upgraded."

The provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have restricted grid access, which impedes large-scale projects to develop renewable energy resources including wind and tidal. The huge wind, ocean and hydro energy resources of Newfoundland and Labrador could supply clean green energy to the rest of Atlantic Canada and beyond, but there is no grid connection to the Maritimes.

By working and investing together, Atlantic Canada could explore options to build a regional grid and maximize the economic growth potential of these green energy resources. This would contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and provide energy security and long-term price stability for the benefit of all Atlantic Canadians.

"This is a huge economic development opportunity for the Atlantic region, a mega project," said Denyar.

"New Brunswick will do what is right for its future," said Peter Lindfield, chair of the New Brunswick Chamber of Commerce. "Since the proposed agreement is subject to legislative amendments in New Brunswick, residents will review carefully and ask questions before providing the feedback Premier Graham is seeking from them".

Both Denyar and Lindfield would encourage the premier to undertake all possible consultations with the other Atlantic premiers to ensure the proposed agreement is the best option for New Brunswick and maximizes the potential of the province's energy future.

Representing over 16,000 businesses, the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce is an alliance of more than 100 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade across Atlantic Canada.

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