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Emerging Solutions for Clean Green Power in BC

Monday, January 11, 2010: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**Simon Fraser University
Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue**

SUMMARY REPORT

Transparency, collaboration, public participation and better planning are key to developing broadly acceptable laws and policies for renewable electricity generation in British Columbia, including “Independent Power Projects”, or IPPs.

These were key themes from the “*Emerging Solutions for Clean Green Power in BC*” dialogue forum – a standing-room-only event at Vancouver’s *Wosk Centre for Dialogue* on January 11, 2010. The dialogue was the inaugural event in West Coast Environment Law’s “*Dialogues for Legal Innovation Series*,” and focused on concrete legal and policy solutions to improve BC’s approach to clean electricity generation.

Moderated by West Coast’s Executive Director and Senior Counsel, Jessica Clogg, the dialogue brought together three guest presenters and 14 participants representing a broad cross section of communities, businesses, academia, and NGOs, as well as government representatives in a moderated discussion before a large public audience. (*The guest presenters and dialogue participants are listed at the end of this document*).

The dialogue event was a continuation of an ongoing consensus building process, including a set of recommendations for new approaches to clean electricity in BC that was released in December 2009. The ***Recommendations for Responsible Clean Energy Development in British Columbia*** were co-authored by West Coast Environmental Law, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, the Pembina Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation, and endorsed by 23 other conservation groups.

Participants in the dialogue explored the following questions:

- **Why is clean, green electricity generation important?**
- **What would it take to make viable legal and policy shifts to enable clean, green power in BC?**
- **What needs to be done to build on emerging solutions for clean, green electricity development in BC?**

The discussion included identification of the high-level political, economic, environmental and social factors that need to be addressed.

In addition to the round-table discussion, there were short presentations from three presenters. Josh Paterson, Staff Counsel with West Coast Environmental Law, reviewed the *Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in British Columbia*. Professor Bob Gibson, Associate Chair of Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo, and Professor Mark Jaccard of Simon Fraser University's School of Resource and Environmental Management, each commented on the set of recommendations and elaborated on them within their areas of expertise on sustainable energy, environmental assessment, planning and policy. Principal points of the presentations are summarized below:

Josh Paterson, Staff Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law (summing up the *Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in British Columbia*):

- BC's renewable electricity generation through IPPs can be planned and developed in a way that's demonstrably more transparent and strategic than it is currently, including providing benefits to all British Columbians, while limiting environmental and social impacts.
- The joint recommendations propose that BC can make responsible progress on renewable electricity development in a number of ways. At the highest level, these decision-making process would require meaningful public participation, and government-to-government engagement with First Nations:
 - Energy conservation and efficiency have to be the highest priority, with strong measures to ensure that these goals are achieved.
 - 100% of the new electricity that we use should be clean, renewable and low-impact.
 - To address the current lack of energy planning, a long-term, provincial level land-use policy framework for renewable electricity should be developed.
 - This overarching policy framework should build upon and be integrated with existing strategic land and resource policy, strategies and plans, and establish high-level direction for the regional-scale cumulative impact assessments that we are proposing. It would be aimed at addressing the challenge of climate change, protecting ecosystem integrity, giving effect to First Nations constitutionally-protected rights, and maximizing public benefit.
 - As part of developing a new provincial level policy framework, there should be a transparent, meaningful public process to decide key policy questions such as whether, to what extent and under what conditions or restrictions renewable electricity will be generated for export (such as conditions to ensure that any such exports are genuinely contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions outside BC). The answer to these

- questions will play a role in determining how much power is needed and what sorts of impacts and trade-offs British Columbians will accept.
- As part of this new direction, BC Hydro should be allowed to develop all types of clean, renewable and low impact electricity generation projects.
- Regional-scale cumulative environmental impact assessments are required for renewable electricity, to identify the best options for development (in areas with the most positive mutually reinforcing benefits and the least risk of significant adverse effects), and the areas where development should be prohibited.
 - The process should be kicked off quickly starting with IPP hotspot regions, and could be based on existing baseline data and designations from land and resource management plans.
 - In each region, cumulative effects would be assessed and maximum thresholds for environmental and social impacts could be set, with trade-offs evaluated based on clearly defined sustainability criteria.
 - The criteria themselves could be developed with community participation in a focused but inclusive process, and could include effects on livelihoods and health as well as benefits and costs for future generations. In each region, cumulative effects would be assessed and maximum thresholds for environmental and social impacts could be set, as well as goals for environmental, social and economic indicators.
 - Individual, project-level environmental assessments would still be required (for projects over 20 MW in generating capacity), but would be done much more quickly due to the existence of a regional cumulative impacts assessment.
 - Reform water licensing and Crown land leasing systems to improve governance and engage communities.
 - The current licensing and leasing systems lack meaningful opportunities for the public and First Nations to be involved. Numerous leases and licenses have been granted to IPPs in areas that are inappropriate for industrial development due to the ecosystem, social and cultural impacts.
 - Crown land and water licensing decisions should be made consistent with the provincial framework and regional assessments that are established.
 - Priority for licenses and leases would be given to projects with community or First Nations ownership, with incentives made available to facilitate these models promoting community control and maximizing local benefits. Where this is not feasible, new licenses would be subject to competitive bidding, with BC Hydro being free to participate, and electricity purchase agreements, water rental rates and Crown land leases designed to ensure fair and equitable long-term benefits to British Columbians.

Professor Robert (Bob) Gibson, University of Waterloo:

- Considerable conflict and tension exists on questions that can't be resolved within the scope of project level assessments and approvals: (i) whether or not particular (kinds of) renewable electricity generation projects should be permitted in particular (categories of) locations; and (ii) the core, broader issue whether any further electricity generation should be permitted, at all, or at least before all feasible demand reduction has been undertaken.
- Even at the smallest scale, cumulative effects of multiple undertakings (generation, roads, power lines, future developments) must be assessed, including intertwined socio-economic and biophysical considerations, which may be positive or negative.
- None of the problems or opportunities associated with renewable electricity generation is likely to be addressed adequately by attempting to determine whether a particular proposal is or is not acceptable. In all cases there appears to be need for comparative evaluation of alternatives, such as alternative locations, alternative development scenarios, alternative broader supply and/or demand reduction options.
- Given the long term nature of the intertwined issues and the desire to achieve broadly positive regional and energy system effects, the basic foundation for deliberations and decisions should be a commitment to the concept of contribution to sustainability incorporating the following characteristics:
 - Comprehensive and integrated attention to all the requirements for progress towards more durable and desirable futures (such as lasting viability of socio-ecological systems, intra and inter-generational equity, resource and energy efficiency, expansion of livelihood opportunities and wellbeing, broad engagement, recognition of uncertainties) – essentially that means coverage of the key concerns on matters that could have long as well as short term effects.
 - Explicit evaluation and decision criteria that combine generic requirements for contributions to sustainability with case- and context- specific considerations.
 - Comparative evaluation of options (rather than determination of one option's "acceptability").
 - Goal of fair distribution of multiple, mutually reinforcing and lasting gains (rather than just aiming at mitigation of adverse effects, or growth facilitation, or greenhouse gas emission reduction, or regional development).
 - Open process, including explicit attention to and justification of unavoidable trade-offs.
- The issues can be considered as tiered challenges:
 - (i) What should be the overall sustainability agenda of the province (recognizing the province's links with other adjoining jurisdictions and socio-ecological systems, the province's global responsibilities and vulnerabilities, and other considerations)?

- (ii) What should be the province's electrical energy supply and demand management plan for the next few decades (including the desirable roles of public and private players)?
 - (iii) What should be the province's plan or plans for regional sustainability enhancement?
 - (iv) What governance arrangements should be adopted to ensure proper recognition of First Nations rights, as well as provincial responsibilities, matters under federal jurisdiction, regional and community interests?
 - (v) How should (ii), (iii) and (iv) be linked or integrated?
 - (vi) How should particular undertakings, or sets of undertakings in particular regions or watersheds be planned and assessed, with due attention to cumulative effects not addressed in sufficient detail at a higher tier of deliberation?
- These questions could be examined systematically at two levels:
 - (i) Open, sustainability-based development of a provincial electrical energy supply and demand management plan for the next few decades, with attention to considerations such as:
 - Overall requirements for progress towards sustainability in the province.
 - The most desirable mix of conservation/demand management and renewable supply, recognizing factors such as transmission implications, potential for exports, the role of electricity policy in climate change mitigation, and community livelihoods.
 - Provincial needs and plans for regional sustainability enhancement.
 - Desirable supply and demand management roles of public, private, community and First Nations players.
 - Governance arrangements to ensure proper recognition of First Nations rights, as well as provincial responsibilities, matters under federal jurisdiction, regional and community interests.
 - Comparative merits and undesirable aspects of major alternatives.
 - Broad identification of implications for categories of programmes and projects (including broad sustainability-based criteria for selection of appropriate areas for renewable power supply projects).
 - Means of guiding more specific decisions (including requirements for cumulative effects studies when particular areas are identified as potential locations for renewable power supply projects).
 - (ii) Regional/watershed based planning for renewable energy initiatives, with attention to:
 - Overall provincial electrical energy supply and demand management plan.
 - Governance arrangements including the appropriate role for First Nations.
 - Regional/community needs and aspirations, and any regional plans in place.
 - Data such as baseline ecological and socioeconomic conditions, trends, capacities, vulnerabilities (drawn in part from past land use planning and related initiatives).

- Current and anticipated land uses and values (including alternative future scenarios), with particular focus on potentially conflicting uses and values (e.g. for habitat, fisheries, tourism).
 - Context-specified sustainability criteria for evaluations and choices among options.
 - Potential cumulative effects of alternative options (individual and multiple projects and associated infrastructure, induced development, and other cumulative impacts), including the option of *not* proceeding.
 - Explicit attention to interactive effects and trade-offs.
 - Clear and authoritative guidance for siting, licensing and other project level planning and approvals.
- There is a tension between doing the necessary planning and assessment work in a rigorous, open and public way on the one hand, and the desire to move ahead in a timely way with useful undertakings in the public interest. Timeliness is crucial, as the planning process will not be credible or widely accepted if it takes unduly long. It won't be possible to finish the province-wide planning before starting regional or watershed planning, and for practical purposes it is not possible to refuse all project approvals until all planning is finished. There is thus a need for explicit criteria and processes to set priorities for possible new projects that have a particularly high potential for multiple positive benefits with few adverse risks, and to initiate regional studies in those areas.

Professor Mark Jaccard, Simon Fraser University:

- The challenges we're facing in BC are being faced in jurisdictions all around the world. The challenge of rapidly scaling up renewables is international.
- Renewables don't perfectly match human needs as they're often intermittent, inconveniently located, and of relatively low energy density. Overcoming these three challenges can engender significant land use conflicts, environmental impacts and high costs.
- If we do this kind of scale-up of "clean and green" renewables there will be costs and impacts.
- The consensus recommendations need to go further on the trade-offs required and the processes to help us with that [referring to the *2009 Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in British Columbia*].
- The land use requirements of projects will always be in someone's backyard, and there will always be people who don't want a project where it's proposed. We will not find complete consensus.
- We need a process that is more ambitious than the recommendations propose, which will fit in with the climate change plan. The process needs to be improved, but to simply do a plan of "where do we want renewable energy" will not be enough. There needs to be planning that takes into account broader societal objectives.
- Integrated energy planning and approval process needs to be integrated with climate change and river-based planning.

- At BC Utilities Commission in late 1990s we developed a plan to mesh the environmental assessment process with the energy planning process, which was not implemented by the provincial government.
- There may be cases in which it would serve public policy for the province to be able to set direction for municipal governments on energy issues.

DIALOGUE SUMMARY

A diverse range of views and positions were represented by dialogue participants. Key points from the discussion among dialogue participants are summarized below by theme, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of West Coast: ¹

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

- The concept “clean, green energy” is a potential barrier to dialogue because energy production of all kinds has risks and impacts, the severity of which will depend on the circumstances of each project and the ecosystem in which it is located. We need to recognize that trade-offs and tough decisions must be made (sooner rather than later), and that they will not be supported by everyone.
- People won’t support green energy if it means lower environmental standards, no provincial planning, erosion of public good, or that massive industrial projects like Bute Inlet are marketed as green. They also won’t support it if BC Hydro is handcuffed and democracy is eroded by local governments losing the right to plan for these projects.
- Where and how do IPPs and electricity generation in general fit into climate change policy, if at all?
- There must be a viable rationale and a business case to prove the claim that the privatization of BC’s energy system is better than the existing highly profitable public system.
- Do we focus as a society on cutting back energy use in general through legislation, taxation and aggressive conservation measures, and/or do we move quickly to find the least impactful way to produce more sustainable electricity to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and thereby reduce green house gas emissions? *Numerous participants in the dialogue advocated for a combination of these approaches. This was perhaps the focus of the most intense discussion during the evening.*
- Serious efforts to conserve energy and increase efficiency are needed now, resulting in immediate positive effects with no adverse environmental impacts. If we legislate conservation tomorrow we get an immediate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. But if we approve 200 projects tomorrow it will be years, even decades, before we see any reduction in emissions and there’s no guarantee that a reduction will take place.
- The scaling up of small renewable electricity production in BC will not win public support unless it protects biodiversity and sustains ecosystems. The current direction of

¹ While we have attempted to capture the essence of all contributions, including going back to some of the video recordings, it is inevitable that we will have inadvertently left out some comments. We sincerely apologize where this is the case. A selection of comments is recorded on West Coast’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/WCELaw.

development is wrong and it will not earn the necessary social license unless changes are made.

- The government should abide by decisions of the BCUC.
- System is set up so government can provide direction and that it can depart from a decision of the BCUC if it deems it to be in the public interest.
- BC has one of the cleanest electricity generation systems in the world today in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Thousands of people are turning up at meetings to protest the current state of affairs because they want to see green energy done right. If we don't do this right the issue won't go away, but it will build into a war to protect our rivers.
- The public uproar was no accident, but by design. The slow motion privatization of BC Hydro, the lack of planning and meaningful public engagement in the rolling out of IPPs, the reduction of environmental standards and the weakening of environmental assessment laws were all by design.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- IPP projects threaten to destroy BC's river valleys and wipe out fish habitat.
- 49 IPPs are operating today, of which perhaps 35 are run-of-river. Extrapolating out, we're not looking at having thousands of these in BC; perhaps it's more like 250.
- Adopting an informed position requires access to information and participation in the decision-making process. This includes knowing what impact – positive or negative – current IPP projects have had on the environment and the economy. For example, it was pointed out that in some cases IPPs have rehabilitated infrastructure abandoned by other industries and thereby improved the natural environment where they are operating.
- Gathering and sharing information on the environmental performance of currently operating IPPs could foster dialogue and trust while also helping the planning process. Improved planning could also create a climate of increased economic certainty for the IPP industry, which would encourage investment and job creation.
- Suggestions of NIMBY-ism are not productive or accurate. Some places are sacred. Some places must be reserved for adaptation as we're way beyond mitigation. Reserving every ecosystem possible is necessary and good planning for climate change.
- While there may be benefits to communities, there could also be huge impacts on communities.
- Projects in appropriate places of appropriate sizes will gain support, but megaprojects are about export, and we've not had that conversation yet.
- There must be proper protection of in-stream flows. There are currently negotiations over in-stream flows for each project between proponents and government and this is not acceptable.
- Cumulative impacts must be taken into account. Projects like the one in Bute Inlet will clearly alter the hydrology of a major watershed and this needs to be accounted for.
- Many conservation programs have been cut.

BROAD VISION AND PLANNING

- We haven't had a dialogue in the province as to what is driving energy policy. Until we grapple with that the answers will be elusive.
- There is no coherent, well-accepted vision for BC energy policy - does the province simply want to be self-sufficient, or do we want to be a green energy leader and exporter? Once this is answered we need a collaborative and transparent way to plan for renewable electricity.
- The province is allowing rapid development of IPPs without adequate strategic planning as to where and under what conditions they may be built, and failing to engage the public in meaningful decisions. Proposals for IPP developments have been laid out so quickly that they outpace any opportunity for public support, and as such are frequently opposed due to unaddressed concerns about social, environmental and economic costs.
- BC has moved beyond valley-by-valley conflicts in resource use and achieved a certain degree of legitimacy in resource management frameworks through the collaborative Land and Resource Management Planning process.² However, there is now a potential disjuncture between what is needed – a revised and updated version of these plans to address the energy issues – and the provincial government's reticence to re-engage in sweeping planning processes, due either to a lack of political will or lack of administrative capacity. This is a limitation because only the provincial government can convene and lead such a process.
- Transparency and public participation in decision-making and planning are crucial to the successful and acceptable implementation of sustainable electricity policies. Poorly planned IPPs and lack of consultation at the community level risk sparking a valley-by-valley conflict that would be reminiscent of the war in woods waged to protect forests.
- The province created the Green Energy Task Force in November 2009 to make recommendations on renewable electricity policy. Their deliberations have occurred behind closed doors, and it is unclear [*at the time of the Dialogue*] whether the province will release any of the details of the Task Force's forthcoming recommendations.
- The Green Energy Task Force's "public consultation" was inadequate, taking place by email over the Christmas holidays. A legitimate Green Energy Advisory Taskforce should be established that is genuinely representative, with open deliberations, public submissions, and a real public consultation period.
- Caution is necessary against the belief that a transparent and collaborative process alone will resolve all the tough issues around sustainable energy. Experience from jurisdictions around the world dealing with similar issues indicates that the dialogue must include the inevitable trade-offs involved in implementing sustainable energy policies. This will likely involve making difficult choices.
- We do need transparency and a process but we also need speed. Issues are of a much different scale and much more complex than past planning and we need a new decision making mechanism.
- Government has reservations about going back to an LRMP-style process.

² Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) is a sub-regional planning process used to provide management direction for all Crown land including Provincial forests and Crown aquatic land (except for land covered by Regional Land Use Plans). LRMPs are intended to establish direction for land use and specify broad resource management objectives and strategies for Crown land for up to 10 years.

EXPORT

- Should BC – either through a public utility like BC Hydro or a combination of BC Hydro and IPPs – produce electricity for export, or only for consumption in the province?
- By producing clean electricity and exporting it to other jurisdictions currently dependent on energy from fossil fuels, BC could potentially be helping reduce greenhouse gasses on a wider scale than if it did not export electricity (as long as those jurisdictions take measures to ensure that BC power displaces fossil fuel consumption and emissions are genuinely reduced as a result).
- If BC wants to be a leader in renewable exports, we need to make sure that the jurisdictions that we export to are going to be responsible in using that power to reduce their emissions.
- What strings – if any – could, or should, BC attach to electricity exports? For example, would it be right to use BC resources to produce electricity for export to provinces or states where it could be used to support excessive lifestyles, without any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in those jurisdictions from fuel switching or conservation?

RENEWABLES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The provincial government has fairly aggressive carbon reduction targets to meet, but also faces increased demand for electricity. Its challenge is to find the best possible way to use BC's natural resources to meet those obligations in the best interests of the province as a whole.
- The complex nature of renewable electricity production and its close links to climate change policy present a challenge to environmental groups that goes well beyond the campaigns to save forests. A new approach is needed that will require environmental groups to state not only that they are against bad development, but also that they are for good solutions.
- CO₂ has no respect for borders. Can BC's energy resource space be used to displace CO₂ produced elsewhere?
- If we truly believe that we're in a climate crisis we have to act like we're in a crisis. That means making hard choices and messy solutions and saying that we have to prioritize one thing over another. That is incredibly difficult. We have the luxury of this conversation in BC because we don't live in a place where people are dying as a result of climate-change-related calamities.
- When a species is in overshoot in its habitat, as humans are, you can't grow out of overshoot, you must shrink out of overshoot.
- 100 years ago, humanity had dammed a few hundred rivers. We have now dammed over 30,000 rivers and we are no more sustainable than we were in 1900, we are less sustainable. Adding a few more hundred dams is not going to help.
- Environmentalists need to stop glorifying windmills and solar panels when it's easy; they need to start talking about what they are for, not just about what they are against.
- Although we're in a crisis, we don't want to make hasty or wrong decisions; we need to be particularly thoughtful about what our solutions are.

The dialogue was rounded off with questions and comments by members of the audience.

The facilitator continually brought the focus of the dialogue discussion back to possible solutions. While the dialogue produced no instant fix, many attendees agreed that BC has an opportunity to establish a legal, policy and regulatory framework for renewable electricity production that will maximize public benefit while limiting negative environmental, social and economic impacts. Despite differing views on who should generate renewable electricity, how much power BC needs to generate, and whether any of it should be exported, there appeared to be agreement among participants (government, power industry, community groups and environmental representatives) that these projects need to be planned right.

Moving forward, West Coast Environmental Law hopes to build on the points of consensus achieved at the dialogue event to advance law reform solutions for more responsible clean electricity generation in BC, while recognizing many challenging decisions still face BC. This eventuality makes it all the more crucial that our province's energy decisions are inclusive and democratic. If we commit to a just and equitable legal and policy framework for renewable electricity, BC can and should be a model to the world of how to develop clean, green electricity.

About West Coast Environmental Law

West Coast Environmental Law is dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law. For over 35 years, our staff lawyers have successfully worked with communities, First Nations peoples, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all levels of governments to develop proactive legal solutions to protect and sustain the environment. West Coast's *Dialogues for Legal Innovation Series* brings together diverse perspectives to help shape solutions to complex legal and policy issues that affect the well being of British Columbians and our communities.

Dialogue Participant Profiles: *Emerging Solutions for Clean Green Power*

Jim Abram, Representative Electoral Area 'C', Strathcona Regional District:

Director Abram has been a CSRD, now SRD director since February 1988. He served on the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) executive for 10 years and was UBCM's president for the 2000-2001 term.

Gwen Barlee, Policy Director and Executive Team member, Western Canadian Wilderness Committee: With a background in political science, Ms. Barlee's focus is on species at risk and she is also active in resource policy and parks campaigns.

Tzaporah Berman, Executive Director, PowerUP Canada: PowerUP Canada is a new non-profit citizen's initiative calling for stronger laws, investments and policies to support the expansion of a clean economy and to combat global warming.

Melissa Davis, Executive Director, Citizens for Public Power: Joining the organization in July 2007, she brings over 20 years experience in the non-profit sector—chiefly in the areas of

cause-related marketing, communications, and resource development--and a commitment to social justice issues.

Robert Gibson, Professor and Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, University of Waterloo: Prof. Gibson works mainly on environmental and sustainability policy issues. His works has centered on decision-making successes and failures in environmental planning, assessment and regulation in various Canadian jurisdictions.

Matt Horne, Director, BC Energy Solutions, Pembina Institute: Mr. Horne works to advance policy that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in BC and provide replicable models for Canada. He has worked directly with municipalities and First Nations in BC to develop community and regional climate and energy plans.

Nicholas Heap, Climate and Energy Policy Analyst, David Suzuki Foundation: On staff with the David Suzuki Foundation since 2005, Mr. Heap has worked with government, scientists, energy experts, and activists to advance sustainable energy solutions for government, utilities, and for the private sector.

George Hoberg, Professor, Department of Forest Resources Management, University of British Columbia: Prof. Hoberg specializes in natural resource policy and governance. A political scientist by training, his main research and teaching focus recently has been on sustainable energy policy in Western Canada, focusing on the oil sands and BC electricity.

Mark Jaccard, Professor, School of Resource and Environmental Management (REM), Simon Fraser University: Mr. Jaccard is a professor specializing in energy system sustainability at REM at SFU. He chaired the BC utilities commission from 1992-97. He is currently serving on the IPCC special report on renewables and is lead author for sustainable energy policy with the Global Energy Assessment.

Paul Kariya, Executive Director, Independent Power Producers Association (IPPBC): IPPBC works to develop a viable independent power industry in British Columbia that serves the public interest by providing cost-effective electricity through environmentally responsible development of the Province's energy resources.

Kekinusuqs, Judith Sayers, School of Law and Business, University of Victoria and Former Chief Hupacasath First Nation: Ms. Sayers specializes in aboriginal economic development. Her community has developed a community energy plan and sits on a Public Advisory Panel for the Canadian Electricity Association.

Lannie Keller, Coordinator, Friends of Bute Inlet: A community activist with strong concern for environment and social justice, Lannie runs her home and backcountry tour lodges with small scale renewable energy systems. She is a full time resident of the Bute Inlet area.

Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Action, Government of BC: Mr. Konkin was appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests in 2003. He has been in

government service for over 25 years with a background in forest sciences and resource planning.

Cam Matheson, Director of Energy Planning, BC Hydro: Mr. Matheson is responsible for overseeing BC Hydro's long term power planning, demand and market forecasting, transmission planning and regulatory filings. He has also worked in BC Hydro's power operations, environmental, and aboriginal relations over the last 12 years.

Craig Orr, Executive Director, Watershed Watch: Mr. Orr has been a professional ecologist for more than 30 years and helps Watershed Watch in its efforts to conserve water and salmon habitat, and to minimize impacts to wild salmon and those caused by climate change.

Josh Paterson, Staff Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law: Mr. Paterson is the Aboriginal and Natural Resources lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, where he works with First Nations and communities to advance law reform solutions that hasten the transition away from fossil fuels and toward truly sustainable renewable sources of energy.

Tom Pedersen, Director, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), University of Victoria: Hosted and led by the University of Victoria, PICS builds on the strengths of BC's four research-intensive universities to develop innovative climate change solutions and lead the way to a vibrant low-carbon economy.

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