



Canadian Academy of Engineering

L'Académie canadienne du génie

Contact: Don Hewson
Tel: 519-383-8303 ext 223
Email: dhewson@researchpark.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



THE RESEARCH PARK
LONDON | SARNIA-LAMBTON

May 11, 2010, Sarnia, Ontario

Canada's Energy Strategy: Are we really a Sustainable Energy Superpower?

Sarnia will host a joint Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) - Bioindustrial Innovation Centre workshop at the University of Western Ontario's Sarnia-Lambton Research Park on May 18, 2010 to focus on the opportunity for Canada to be a true global leader in renewable energy development and management.

Canada enjoys a wealth of energy assets in fossil fuels and sustainable power, such as marine, solar, geothermal, hydro, wind and biomass.

But according to Dr. Axel Meisen, President of the CAE, energy is no guarantee of prosperity. "Our energy resources are the envy of all nations. The supply is essentially unlimited when the combination of non-renewable, renewable and nuclear sources are considered," he says. "Canada should proceed with major national technology projects to achieve the full potential of these resources, while continuing to ensure sustainability, reliability, safety and competitiveness."

On a visit to Russia in 2006, Prime Minister Harper committed that Canada would become a global energy superpower. Dr. Clem Bowman, chair of the CAE Energy Pathways Task Force, defines an energy superpower as a nation that exports and sustains their energy resources, produces energy in an environmentally acceptable way, derives substantial value-added industrial benefits from these assets and manages energy as a system.

By that definition he says Canada falls short on what it could be and is diminishing through lack of action. "Canada has at least two energy corridors which have made progress in value-added production - one in Alberta and one here in Sarnia," says Bowman. "But if we ship raw bitumen to the U.S. for upgrading we continue our reputation as a drawer of water and a hewer of wood."

To highlight Canada's ability to think and act big, and define the model of action required, Dr. Richard J. Marceau, CAE board member, chair of the CAE New Directions and Public Policy Committee and provost of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, will present twelve past Canadian nation-building projects that were initiated through government leadership and implemented by the private sector.

An industry panel of experts will then help develop a forward-looking, measurable action plan for the country.

In early June, the CAE Energy Task Force plans to provide updates on Canada's current energy outlook in Ottawa. From the conclusions of the Sarnia workshop they will present a definition of an energy superpower, Canada's current position, strategies from successful past Canadian national projects, and a short-list of major Canadian Technology Projects that require exceptional public-private leadership to succeed.

The workshop, "*Canada - A Sustainable Energy Superpower, The Vision and the Progress*" will be held at the University of Western Ontario's Research Park, Sarnia-Lambton Campus, 1086 Modeland Road, on Tuesday, May 18th. Registration opens at 9A.M. and the day will end at 3P.M. Lunch is provided and the meeting is complementary.

We welcome you to attend the event. Speakers will be available to meet during breaks. If that is not convenient we can arrange interviews and provide more information either before or after the meeting.

-30-

Please contact Mary Ann Colihan with media related inquiries at 519-432-4763 (office) or 519-860-3445 (mobile) or by email at tundramac@sympatico.ca.