



Newfoundland and Labrador
Environmental Industry
Association

Building the Business of the Environment

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NEIA Responds to 2008 Budget

St. John's, NL, April 30, 2008 – The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA) is very pleased with the Provincial Budget for 2008 and is particularly impressed with Government's emphasis on sustainability, not only of the environment but also of other resources such as our youth, our culture and our economy.

NEIA recognizes Newfoundland and Labrador's shrinking population base and applauds Government's emphasis on youth retention and attraction. Many of our province's best and brightest young people are routinely leaving for wealthier provinces such as Alberta and efforts must be made to keep them here.

Two strengths of Newfoundland and Labrador's environmental industry are niche technologies and world class expertise in marine/oceans/coastal activities. To that end, Government's designating of over \$4 million in support of ocean technology sector development and \$1 million to ensure the Ocean Science Centre has access to a stable, high quality water supply is certainly well-received.

NEIA has a long history of advocating improved, more robust environmental legislation, which would strengthen both the environmental industry and our province's competitive edge, as well as optimize human health. NEIA is therefore delighted to see investment in four strategic areas pertaining to provincial infrastructure:

- Elimination of untreated sewage outfalls
- Strategic projects such as the Corner Brook water treatment facility and the Happy Valley-Goose Bay sewage treatment facility
- Implementation of the provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy
- Capital funding under the Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water Safety to purchase units required for the development of innovative methods of providing potable drinking water.

With the environmental industry's increasing emphasis on alternative energy and innovation in alternative energy projects, NEIA is also very pleased to note Government emphasis on growing these industries, as evidenced by:

- \$13 million in funding for commitments outlined in the Energy Plan
- \$215 million investment for the Energy Corporation to support the financing required for major projects
- \$4.5 million for the Ramea Wind-Hydrogen Power Generation Demonstration
- \$2 million for the Innovation Enhancement Program

Finally, NEIA notes government's adherence to its 2007 pledge of \$2 million for the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund, which is designed to support initiatives promoting environmental sustainability.

NEIA is satisfied that many of its key areas of priority have been addressed in the 2008 Budget. These areas include wastewater treatment, solid waste management, water treatment operations, climate change, ocean management and renewable energy.

Government might want to place future emphasis on:

- Implementing progressive, performance-based environmental legislation to increase our Province's national and international competitiveness;
- Examining public-private partnering as a means of effecting optimal wastewater treatment and
- Utilizing private companies for the testing of drinking water.

About NEIA – With more than 150 members, the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA) has a mandate to promote the growth and development of the province's environment sector through strong leadership, advocacy, educational and training opportunities, and business development initiatives. Through interactions with government bodies, research and educational institutions, and private enterprise, NEIA acts as a common voice for member companies and organizations. Visit www.neia.org for more information.

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