



Newfoundland and Labrador
Environmental Industry
Association

Building the Business of the Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEIA Responds to Budget 2007 and Announcement of Solid Waste Management Strategy

St. John's, NL, May 10, 2007 – On April 26, the Provincial Government released Budget 2007. The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA) is pleased to see money allocated to infrastructure, resource development and innovation, with support for the Centre of Environmental Excellence being of particular relevance. These investments can significantly boost development of the province's environmental companies.

NEIA also approves the allocation of significant new money to a Business Attraction Fund and a Business Grants Fund, as well as the continued support for the Small and Medium Enterprise Fund and the Business and Market Development Program. These programs can further the growth of the province's environmental industry and NEIA looks forward to providing input in these areas.

In addition, NEIA is pleased that significant funds have been earmarked for implementation of the Provincial Energy Plan and advancement of the aquaculture sector, as well as safety and environment issues at the Baie Verte and Rambler mine sites.

"The Budget does not completely address the NEIA submission to Minister Tom Marshall, but does contain several positive measures that can help build small knowledge based businesses," stated Chris Palmer, President of NEIA's Board of Directors. "Investment in economic development is key to the future of Newfoundland and Labrador. Furthermore, strategic investment, which includes a progressive environmental regime, is necessary in an economy which is largely resource based."

One notable omission from Budget 2007 was reference to implementation of the Waste Management Strategy. NEIA was subsequently pleased that Government did announce implementation of the Solid Waste Management Strategy on May 8.

While the Strategy deviates slightly from the original 2002 version, particularly with regard to timelines and some standards, it does represent a sincere effort by Government to address an embarrassing, long-standing, expensive and geographically challenging issue.

The original Strategy aimed for full province-wide modern waste management implementation by 2010, with all landfill sites being properly engineered and featuring liner systems. The 2007 version pledges full province-wide modern waste management implementation by 2020, with an amendment to provide that liner systems will not be required for existing sites where geological features on the site provide effective protection to the environment.

While NEIA is satisfied that an announcement has been made regarding implementation of the Strategy, it offers three suggestions for optimizing the amended version:

- 1.) The original timeline be adhered to as closely as possible. The current timeline, which affords ten extra years for full Strategy implementation, is too relaxed to be of optimal benefit.
- 2.) The standards be released for review.
- 3.) An environmental assessment be performed on the site selected for the Greater Avalon Region. It is important that the standards for Newfoundland and Labrador landfills be in line with those for landfills in other parts of Atlantic Canada.

The new Strategy is otherwise sound and welcome. “It would be a conservative estimate to say that implementation of the Strategy will create 450 new jobs, as Minister Byrne stated during the announcement,” says NEIA Board member Aloysius Ducey, who was present at the announcement. “Implementation will more likely create in excess of 2,000 new jobs, in every sector within the province.”

About NEIA – With more than 145 members, the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA) is a high-energy organization whose mandate is 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.

- 30 -

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