



NEWS RELEASE

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Quebec's wind energy commitments to produce significant economic benefits for the province

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The installation of almost 4,000 MW of new wind energy capacity in Quebec over the next decade is expected to require up to \$7.5 billion in total investment and to create more than 43,000 person-years of employment during the construction phase and over 1,500 permanent jobs during the operational phase according to estimates released today by the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA). Local content requirements associated with Hydro-Quebec's wind energy procurement processes will ensure that the majority of investment dollars will remain in Quebec, with a significant portion spent in and around the Gaspé region.

"Quebec is poised to become Canada's leader in wind energy development and it is clear that it will reap significant economic benefits as a result," says Sean Whittaker, Director of Policy and Technical Issues for CanWEA. "Some of these benefits can already be seen through the creation of manufacturing enterprises in the Gaspé Peninsula, the emergence of leading engineering consulting firms and service providers to the wind energy industry, as well as the lead role the province has taken in providing wind energy related education and training programs in Canada."

In addition, it is estimated that the new wind farms will provide ongoing payments of \$10 million per year in the form of royalties to municipalities and leasing fees to landowners.

"The Quebec government has consistently stated that regional economic development is an important driver in its pursuit of wind energy development," says Sean Whittaker. "This new report clearly indicates that the wind energy industry can and will deliver in this regard. The wind industry is committed to working with communities, municipalities, First Nations and other stakeholders to ensure that the province's development of both large and small wind projects yield significant benefits to all concerned"

The report entitled "The Economic Impact of Wind Energy Development in Quebec" was prepared by GPCo, a Quebec-based leader in research and analysis related to the wind energy industry.

CanWEA represents more than 250 companies involved in Canada's wind energy industry, including wind turbine and component manufacturers, wind energy project developers, electric utilities and service providers. The Annual CanWEA Conference and Tradeshow is being held in Winnipeg from October 22-25, bringing together more than 1,000 delegates, 130 exhibitors and over 100 speakers to address policy, technical and business issues related to wind energy.

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The CanWEA Media Room, in the Presentation Theatre at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, will be staffed during the entire Conference.

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An Executive Summary of the report in English is available at http://www.canwea.ca/Quebec_Province.cfm