

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Power Workers' Union disappointed Ontario Power Authority report fails to recognize clean coal as critical source of electricity**

(Toronto) – The president of the Power Workers' Union (PWU) says an arm's-length provincial agency was compromised by the Ontario government in examining options for keeping electricity costs affordable for Ontario consumers and business.

Today in Toronto, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) tabled its report to the government on Ontario's energy needs for the next 20 years.

"The OPA was given too narrow a mandate to do a thorough examination of how best to keep energy costs affordable for Ontario consumers and businesses," remarks Mr. Don MacKinnon, President, Power Workers' Union. "The previous Energy Minister excluded clean coal from the mix of generation sources considered. Ontarians have been denied the full facts about clean coal. Instead of shutting down our existing coal-fuelled stations, we should outfit them with clean-coal technologies in use in the US and Europe."

Ontario could save \$11 billion over the next 20 years if Ontario upgrades existing coal-fuelled plants with clean coal technology instead of replacing them with natural gas, according to research submitted by PWU to the OPA earlier this year, continues Mr. MacKinnon.

"Until there is a real debate about the merits of clean coal and what it can offer Ontario's energy grid – dependability, price stability and environmental improvements – the Ontario government is putting the energy and economic needs of the province at risk," concludes Mr. MacKinnon. "We hope that the new Minister of Energy, Donna Cansfield, considers the positive role of clean coal technology in meeting Ontario's future energy needs."

The Power Workers' Union believes that Ontarians require an energy supply that derives electricity from a number of sources, including clean coal, hydroelectric and nuclear, along with other economical renewable options. The PWU's better plan – ([www.abetterplan.ca](http://www.abetterplan.ca)) – also includes a review of the province's natural gas strategy, investment in green power and the promotion of energy efficiency. This approach will guarantee the people of Ontario, and the businesses that operate here, an affordable, clean and secure supply of energy all year round.

The Power Workers' Union is the largest electricity union in Ontario, representing employees in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, regulations, and research and development.

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