



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ontario's energy workers applaud NB Premier's call "for Canada to diversify its energy supply"

(Toronto) – The head of the Power Workers' Union (PWU), Ontario's largest electricity union, reacted positively to Tuesday's call by New Brunswick Premier, Bernard Lord, for support of his new approach to the federal government for a comprehensive nuclear energy strategy for Canada.

"Here in Ontario, we've long been advocates of nuclear and we hope that Premiers Lord and McGuinty will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter when they meet," said Mr. Don MacKinnon, President, PWU. "We're encouraged too by reports that Premier McGuinty has, in responding to Premier Lord's invitation for support, mentioned his own interest in the development of new sources of electricity."

"We would hope also that, during those discussions, Premier Lord reiterates the sentiment he expressed yesterday that it's important for Canada to diversify its energy supply," continued Mr. MacKinnon. "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. This will guarantee the people of Ontario and the businesses that operate here, an affordable and secure supply of energy, all year round."

In particular, PWU has been urging the Liberal government to rethink its current plans to permanently shut down the province's coal-burning generating stations. "Continuing installation of proven clean-coal technologies at all of Ontario's coal plants will help secure further improvements in our air quality," Mr. MacKinnon said. "Investments in these technologies at two of the province's coal-fired generation plants have already achieved significant emission reductions. Ontario is already a leader. We need to finish the job and be in a position to take advantage of the next generation of coal technology advancements."

"An investment in the development of cleaner-coal technologies can reap tremendous rewards for both the environment and the economy," said Mr. MacKinnon. "So, while we applaud Premier Lord's nuclear initiative, at the same time we hope that he is able to bring his discussions with the other premiers round to the development of diversity, including coal, in our energy supply."

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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