

SPEAKING NOTES FOR  
ENERGY MINISTER RICHARD HURLBURT  
TIDAL FACILITY ANNOUNCEMENT  
Tuesday, January 8, Parrsboro.

MEDIA COPY:

*Check against delivery*

Thank you Murray. Hello everyone - it is a pleasure to be here in Parrsboro. I'd like to thank everyone who made the trip here from different parts of the province. I'd like to recognize my colleagues Minister Mark Parent from Environment and Labour – who couldn't be here – and David Morse, Minister of Natural Resources, and their staff, who are working hard to make this happen.

I also want to give special thanks to many others who came from even further – as far away as Ontario, Alberta, B.C. and Europe. I think we all made the trip here...to the shores of the Minas Channel...for the same reason.

The Bay of Fundy may be the best site in North America for in-stream tidal energy development. We are proud to be able to invite some of the world's most promising technology to our province – and the people who stand behind that technology.

We are grateful for their shared desire today to drive this industry forward. If we combine that technology with Nova Scotia's offshore expertise, research capacity, and enormous tidal resource, exciting things can happen.

As the Premier mentioned, the research says Minas Chanel and Minas Passage have enough energy to power about 100,000 homes. This is a significant opportunity – both for Nova Scotia and the industry.

For Nova Scotians, it represents up to 10% of our total electricity demand. For the environment, that is up to 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas displaced from our air each year. For our economy, the potential is enormous, if Nova Scotia can establish itself as a centre for research, design, and manufacturing.

These are goals we can all share. But we are just at the starting line.

A lot of work needs to be done before anything goes in the water – that includes finishing the S-E-A, the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

It means picking the exact location to place the land-based facility. Given all the information we have, it is very likely that the facility will be built on the Cumberland County shores of the Minas Channel. But we still need to collect a lot of baseline data. And the developers must pass a lot of federal and provincial permits and approvals – including a site-specific environmental assessment.

Even then, we are not creating a 300 megawatt tidal facility. This is a demonstration facility – a centre of excellence to examine whether that leap is possible....and if it is possible, how and when we should do it.

We need to understand what possible effects these machines may have on the environment. We also need to know what the environment may do to the machines! We need devices that will operate the strong currents in the Bay of Fundy. We need to develop efficient operational and maintenance standards.

We may not find the best designs for some time. But we must move quickly to meet the challenges of climate change and the need for more green energy

In some ways, this is the ultimate testing ground. These devices may be operating in very strong currents. And if they can make it here, they can make it anywhere...And that is really our vision for this area.

One day in the future, when somebody buys a tidal device on the other side of the world...we want them to ask “Is it built to the Fundy standard?” And for Clean Current, OpenHydro, and U-E-K, they know their answer will be YES.

Whatever the future brings...it is clear that this centre of excellence will bring opportunities. Opportunities for science, for business, for innovation and for growth. We want our economy to grow...but we want to reduce our carbon footprint at the same time. That is a major challenge.

In Nova Scotia, I am convinced tidal will be part of the solution. Thank you very much everyone.