

Hon. Richard Hurlburt  
Minister of Energy  
Remarks for Atlantic Energy  
Wednesday, May 28, 9:15 am  
Ramada Plaza Park Place Hotel  
Windsor Room One  
240 Brownlow Avenue, Dartmouth

*Check against delivery*

**[SLIDE 1: INTRO]**

**INTRO**

- Good morning everyone.
- Thank you for your kind introduction.
- Pleasure to be here today.
- Pleasure to welcome Minister Keir and others from around Atlantic Canada to Nova Scotia.
- We may come from different provinces, but Atlantic Canada is really one region.
- We share many of the same opportunities and challenges.
- Like to talk about some these opportunities today – specifically, onshore gas, tidal energy, and electricity.

**[SLIDE 2: ONSHORE]**

- **Onshore ...**
- This may be the next big frontier in Atlantic Canada.

- The infrastructure is already in place.
- The Maritimes and Northeast pipeline supplies between 15 and 20 per cent of the New England gas market from Nova Scotia's current Sable Offshore Energy Project.
- It travels through both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
- In Nova Scotia, it travels through the heart of our onshore oil and gas plays ... conventional and unconventional ... including coalbed methane and shale gas properties.
- Interest in those plays is heating up.
- Currently, there are eight active petroleum exploration licenses in Nova Scotia: three coalbed methane, and five in conventional oil, gas, and shale gas.
- This includes:
  - a coalbed methane project by Stealth Ventures estimated at one trillion cubic feet, and
  - a shale gas find by Triangle estimated at 69 trillion cubic feet of gas potential in place.
- It's not clear what is recoverable, but if it was 10 per cent of that 69 tcf, it could be a project twice the size of Sable.
- Triangle is planning to drill up to 6 wells this year, and spend over 30 million dollars.
- These new, unconventional gas finds may have huge implications for our region ...

- If we think about how Alberta's oil sands stood almost dormant for many years before a series of conditions gave companies access to one of the largest oil reserves in the world ...
- We can help do the same ...
- By creating a set of consistent onshore oil and gas operational regulations for Atlantic Canada.
- Creating consistent regulations for both companies and workers would create an environment that is both
  - easier for businesses to operate, and
  - healthy and safe to work in.
- And we need to be actively engaged with each other to make this happen.
- Taken together – proven onshore reserves, existing infrastructure, and a competitive business climate – are turning our onshore from an afterthought ... into a new frontier.
- And this year, Alton Natural Gas announced its plans for another natural gas pipeline through Nova Scotia to northeast US ... suggesting onshore opportunities for the entire eastern market may grow.
- **Tidal**
- Atlantic Canada's energy opportunities are not limited to oil and gas.

- Another potential energy frontier that's been getting extra attention lately is the Bay of Fundy.

**[SLIDE 3: SHARED TIDAL RESOURCE]**

- Research says it may be the best site for tidal power generation in North America.
- 100 billion tonnes of seawater flows through the Bay every tide cycle – more than the combined flow of all the rivers in the world.
- It is a huge resource ... and it is in close proximity to an existing grid and potential users.
- I am pleased to say we have been working with New Brunswick to assess the potential impacts of new in-stream technology on the Bay of Fundy.
- We each put money up for a shared background technical report, looking at a range of environmental and socio-economic issues.
- A lot of work needs to be done before turbines can be put in the water, and New Brunswick has helped us move that work forward.

**[SLIDE 4: NOVA SCOTIA TIDAL]**

- In Nova Scotia, commercial development could mean up to
- 10 per cent of our total electricity demand.
- 300 megawatts of renewable energy ... equal to about 100,000 homes

- One million tonnes of greenhouse gas displaced per year ... equal to 200,000 cars taken off the road
- Hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.
- But commercial development is a long way off.
- Nova Scotians want to see these new machines demonstrated on a smaller scale first.
- So three companies, using technologies from Canada, the US, and Ireland, are working to create the first tidal energy demonstration centre in North America.
- This project has created a lot of excitement in Nova Scotia ... with the possibility of making power by as early as 2009/2010.
- **Electricity ...**
- Tidal is just a piece of a larger puzzle – electricity.
- Here, I believe is our greatest opportunity to work together.
- We can bind our regions together in a system that will make us each stronger.
- However we collaborate, it's clear that Atlantic Canadians share a desire for more green electricity.
- In Nova Scotia, we created regulations to nearly double our green, renewable electricity supply by 2013.

[SLIDE 5: RES]

- Much of it will come from wind.
- But, as our recent Wind Integration Study says: there will be some challenges.
- Right now, Nova Scotia's electricity system has limited interconnection with our neighbours, and limited quick-response ability.
- This gives us less flexibility to deal with large amounts of wind energy.
- And the study says we may reach up to 22 per cent renewable supply – and the number of wind turbines in the province will likely grow from 40 to over 300.
- That's a big jump.
- And if we want to go further, we will need greater back up supply.
- The best back up source for wind ... is hydro ... a resource Newfoundland and Labrador has in abundance.

**[SLIDE 6: SHARED GRID]**

- This is a major opportunity for us all to become more energy secure.
- At 2,800 megawatts, the proposed Lower Churchill Falls hydroelectric project could generate enough power for about 1.5 million homes and displace up to 16 megatonnes of greenhouse gas each year.

- A portion of that could help our regions:
  - provide secure, local, renewable energy supply,
  - reduce dependence on expensive imported fuels,
  - avoid future emission penalties or taxes,
  - cut emissions, and
  - promote growth of wind and tidal energy with back-up supply

Whatever we do, our region is in need of new sources of power, and we have a number of options in front of us ... in our land, in our sea, and in our air.

Working together, we can take advantage of them.

Thank you.