

**Remarks for Premier Rodney MacDonald
Tidal Power Announcement
Parrsboro
Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

**MEDIA COPY:
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Thank you Murray. It's great to be here today to make this exciting announcement. It's an announcement that showcases two of our province's greatest assets – innovation and the Bay of Fundy.

The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world. And it is said that harnessing this Made-In-Nova Scotia green energy source at just two sites could power one hundred thousand homes. That's about a quarter of all homes in our province.

This makes the Bay of Fundy an important site for the evaluation of tidal energy devices. So today it gives me great pleasure to announce that Minas Basin Pulp and Power – a Nova Scotia firm -- is going to build an in-stream tidal demonstration facility on the shores of the Bay of Fundy. This centre of excellence will be able to evaluate three – and possibly four – tidal energy devices. We may see devices in the water as soon as next year or early 2010.

Three companies have been chosen by the Province to install their devices. Clean Current, U-E-K and Open Hydro are the best and brightest in this young industry. Two of them – UEK and Open Hydro – are partnering with the local companies Minas Basin Pulp and Power and Nova Scotia Power.

All three companies intend to evaluate their devices in prime tidal real estate – real estate that is close to an existing electrical grid.

My government is committing five million dollars from the Eco-Trust for Climate Change and Clean Air fund to make this centre a reality. Together with the significant contributions of the developers and the interest-free loan EnCana is providing, the provincial funding will help build a tidal centre of excellence.

I want to thank Gerry Protti and everyone at EnCana for their investment in the future of this project in Nova Scotia. This Institute is perfectly suited to our province.

We have perhaps the world's most advanced community of marine researchers and academics. Our universities excel in this field. We have communities and businesses that already work and succeed in the offshore and on the sea. We have already demonstrated leadership in tidal energy – at the Annapolis Power Station – one of only three in the world. And we have a commitment from my government to build a New Nova Scotia that is environmentally sustainable and economically vibrant, by taking action in five priority areas:

safer, healthy communities;

educating to compete;

better roads and infrastructure;

shorter wait times; and

protecting our environment.

I believe that this facility and the Strategic Environmental Assessment currently underway, will help us understand the role that tidal energy can play in our efforts to protect the environment. It is possible that tidal energy can help us meet our mandatory renewable energy targets.

For example, by 2013 nearly 20 per cent of our province's electricity supply will be generated by green, renewable energy. We have legislated aggressive targets to improve air quality by 2010 and reduce greenhouse gasses by 2020. To achieve these goals, we must pursue unconventional sources of energy – harness the ocean, the sun and the wind.

But we can't do it alone. We need partnerships with private industry such as Minas Basin and Nova Scotia Power. With developers like Clean Current, Open Hydro and U-E-K. And with companies like EnCana.

Today is only a first step. It's the first step in Nova Scotia becoming groundbreaking environmental entrepreneurs. It's an exciting first step that holds the potential for tremendous rewards for the people of Nova Scotia.

Thank you.

-END-