



Message from the Minister of Natural Resources Canada

As Minister of Natural Resources Canada, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2004 Electrical Power Symposium. This important event will certainly enlighten and inform participants on the electricity situation in Ontario.

A major theme of this symposium — meeting increased demand for energy — is timely and significant. With a tight supply situation in Ontario, energy conservation and reducing demand have become areas of heightened interest for the province. Moderating energy use and increasing the availability of renewable and alternative energy sources are important ways to meet our future electricity needs.

Together, they will help address the greater global issue of climate change. The Government of Canada is committed to taking action, and it is vital that we support renewable energy technologies such as wind power.

The Government of Canada is also continuing to modernize its regulatory system. Our system of regulation has served us well, but in light of evolving needs, challenges and expectations of Canadians, we need to take steps to improve it. Our objective is to modernize regulation to enhance conditions for an innovative economy while finding improved ways to meet high standards of social and environmental protection.

We want energy generation and transmission projects to proceed as quickly as possible so investors will build the new supply Ontario needs. This can be done without compromising environmental protection.

I congratulate the Ottawa chapters of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Power Engineering Society, the IEEE Reliability Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) for organizing this event and for furthering the discussion on these important energy issues. Together, we will continue to work toward a robust and reliable electricity system that meets the needs of all Canadians.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

The Honourable R. John Efford, P.C., M.P

