



Foundation, engineers, and philanthropist team up to evaluate energy solutions with Trottier Energy Futures Project

Canada is blessed with numerous opportunities for a bright energy future. An abundance of natural resources, an educated population, a wealth of technical expertise, and a strong economy all put Canada in an ideal position to be in the forefront of a growing worldwide energy revolution. Rethinking our approach to energy is a way to ensure that Canadians now and into the future will enjoy clean air, water, and soil, as well as a prosperous economy and fulfilling employment in the energy sector.

But our country has a lot of work to do to get us onto this path. Canada has been lagging behind many parts of the world in energy innovation because of our overreliance on diminishing supplies of fossil fuels, and our lack of a comprehensive national energy strategy. Continued use of fossil fuels as our primary energy source and the resulting greenhouse gases and other pollutants contribute to climate change and other environmental problems. Meanwhile, resource costs could continue to rise if supplies become scarce and more difficult to extract. Canada could overcome many of these problems by developing a strategy to ensure that our energy systems are secure, affordable, and free from harmful emissions and other environmental effects.

To this end, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, and the Trottier Family Foundation have joined in a formal partnership. The Trottier Energy Futures Project is named for entrepreneur, engineer, and philanthropist Lorne Trottier, whose Trottier Family Foundation provided funding for the five-year project.

The project, which kicks into high gear during the World Energy Congress in Montreal, September 12 to 16, will include scientific reviews of the full range of energy production and distribution opportunities available to Canada, taking into account economic, social, and environmental concerns.

It will identify energy systems that Canada should implement over the next few decades to achieve deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and minimize other environmental impacts while maximizing economic and social benefits. It will include an analysis of the potential to create new business and employment opportunities in Canada to meet the growing demand for “greener” energy production.

The project will be overseen by a board comprising the President of the Trottier Family Foundation, the Chief Executive Officer for the David Suzuki Foundation, and the President of the Canadian Academy of

Engineering. It will be managed by Tom Gouldsborough, P.Eng., a highly experienced engineer who recently retired from Manitoba Hydro. In addition to extensive technical expertise, he has a wealth of experience in dealing with energy, social, and public issues. His final major assignment with Manitoba Hydro included conceptualization and creation of the award-winning, superbly energy-efficient head office for the public utility.

The Trottier Energy Futures Project will start with a comprehensive evaluation of Canada's current energy systems (including the country's electricity, transportation, process, and heating systems), building on the work of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the David Suzuki Foundation, and other organizations. It will then identify integrated solutions to ensure the sustainability of Canada's energy systems. This work will include a full assessment of the associated technical, environmental, economic, and social implications. It will also identify any necessary changes in public policy and regulations.

The project will be executed and its findings evaluated objectively in accordance with the highest scientific, technical, and ethical standards.

The outcome will include a series of recommendations, reports, conferences, lectures, and meetings to create a compelling vision and plan for sustainable energy systems that Canada can implement through to the middle of the century.

"Energy poses big challenges for Canada in the 21st century in terms of supply, environmental sustainability, climate change, and economics," Dr. Trottier, FCAE, said. "The Canadian Academy of Engineering and the David Suzuki Foundation, two highly respected organizations, bring different but complementary perspectives to the challenge."

The project has four primary goals:

1. To identify energy strategies for Canada to be implemented between now and 2050 that would:
 - Reduce Canada's emissions of greenhouse gases from all aspects of the energy sector with the target of 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050;
 - Make Canada a global role model in sustainable generation, distribution, and use of energy;
 - Ensure that all Canadians have access to the energy they need to enjoy a high quality of life.
2. To recommend the optimal strategy, from among those identified, for implementation.
3. To persuade the Canadian public, industry, and governments that implementing the optimal energy strategy is in Canada's best interest.
4. To ensure that implementation of the optimal strategy has begun within the terms of this project.

"Identifying better ways of generating, distributing, and using diverse forms of energy in a harmonized, integrated way will enable us to address and solve the concerns that Canadians have about climate

change and environmental sustainability,” said David Suzuki Foundation CEO Peter Robinson. “We are keenly aware of the economic implications of changes in the Canadian energy system, and we want to arrive at solutions that provide all Canadians with the energy they need for a high quality of life.”

Canadian Academy of Engineering President Dr. Michael E. Charles said that solutions are important to Canada’s economic future. “Much of Canada's current prosperity is linked to its extensive endowment of energy sources,” he said. “Going forward, we need to engineer widely accepted solutions that reduce negative environmental impacts of the energy sector while not jeopardizing the social and economic well-being of Canadians.”

Further important details of the Trottier Energy Futures Project will be announced during the World Energy Congress in Montreal, September 12 to 16, 2010.

Background information on The Canadian Academy of Engineering and the David Suzuki Foundation can be found at: www.acad-eng-gen.ca/ and www.davidsuzuki.org/.

Both organizations have worked extensively on energy and related climate change issues. Through its Energy Pathways Task Force, the CAE has prepared reports on future energy options for Canada, evaluating a range of energy technologies:

www.acad-eng-gen.ca/e/EnergyPathwaysE_.cfm

The David Suzuki Foundation has done considerable research on low-impact energy options and meeting the challenges posed by climate change:

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/reports/2005/the-case-for-deep-reductions/index.php>

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/reports/2004/smart-generation-powering-ontario-with-renewable-energy/index.php>

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/reports/2002/kyoto-and-beyond/index.php>

About Us

David Suzuki Foundation

www.davidsuzuki.org/

The David Suzuki Foundation works with government, business, and individuals to conserve our environment by providing science-based education, advocacy, and policy work, and acting as a catalyst for social change. Its mission is to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life, now and for the future.

Canadian Academy of Engineering

www.acad-eng-gen.ca/

The Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) is the institution through which Canada's most distinguished and experienced engineers provide strategic advice on matters of critical importance to Canada. The CAE is an independent, self-governing, non-profit organization established in 1987. It is a founding member of the Council of Canadian Academies. The CAE is also an active member of the [International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences \(CAETS\)](#), which includes 26 national bodies around the World

Trottier Family Foundation

The Trottier Family Foundation was established by Lorne Trottier in 2000 to promote science, technology, education, health care, and third-world economic development.

Lorne Trottier is the co-founder of Matrox, a world-renowned computer graphics, video, and imaging company headquartered in Montreal. A two-time McGill graduate, Dr. Trottier is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Engineering and a governor emeritus. Dr. Trottier has made major contributions to many academic and health care institutions and is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

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