

(Check against delivery)

*Merci* [Thank you] \* \* \*

*Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour.* [Good afternoon everyone.]

I would first like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka [Kenyon – kay–ha –ka] people.

I'm happy to be here today on behalf of Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Jim Carr, and to see the progress that's being made in wind energy — in Canada and around the world.

*Cette rencontre a lieu à un moment historique, un moment où l'actualité nous rappelle presque quotidiennement les impacts du réchauffement planétaire.*

*Feux de forêt en Colombie-Britannique. Ouragans qui détruisent des vies et des*

*biens dans les Caraïbes et dans plusieurs États du sud.* [We meet at a historic

moment. A time when we're reminded almost daily of the effects of a warming planet. Forest fires in British Columbia. Hurricanes that have swept away

lives and property throughout the Caribbean and across several southern states.]

While we can't attribute any single weather event to climate change, we do know that the frequency — and severity — of these kinds of storms will increase as the planet warms.

Making the imperative for action clearer than ever. And the case for renewable energy more compelling than ever.

At the same time, we've seen significant developments on the transportation front, signaling a fundamental, and long-term, structural change in how we move from place to place.

India, France, Norway and Great Britain have all announced that they will ban gas and diesel vehicles in the coming years. Germany has indicated it's headed in the same direction, and China is expected to follow suit.

Meanwhile, Volvo has said that all of its vehicles will be electric or hybrid by 2019. Tesla has started production of its Model 3. And virtually every other carmaker is investing in electric and hybrid engines.

Of course, it's much more than just electric vehicles, but transportation is the canary in the proverbial coal mine — announcing not danger, but opportunity. And pointing the way to a very different future.

We can debate how quickly electric vehicles will be adopted. Or how soon wind or solar or other renewables will displace traditional sources of energy, but what we can't debate is the trajectory the world is on.

We are headed to a future built on clean energy. There is no going back or reversing course. The changes we've already seen in transportation, or how we light our homes, or power our factories, these aren't passing fads. They're becoming permanent features.

And as the demand for electricity increases, the opportunities for wind grow.

We're already seeing it.

In 2016, the world added almost 55 gigawatts of new wind power — the second-highest amount installed in a single year.

China led the way, adding almost 43 percent of that new capacity. By 2021 — just four years from now — global wind capacity is expected to hit 800 gigawatts. That's 64 percent higher than today.

Around the world, countries are embracing the power, and possibilities, of wind energy. Denmark now gets 40 percent of its electricity from wind. Uruguay, Portugal and Ireland have more than 20 percent of their needs met by wind.

Secretary Perry commissioned a study of American electricity markets that confirmed the importance of variable renewables in the evolution of America's energy markets.

That study found that by the end of 2016, some 8,700 megawatts of new wind capacity were in development.

Meanwhile, the timelines for wind projects are dramatically less than for other, conventional projects and costs continue to fall. By 2040, the cost of onshore wind is projected to decline by about 47 percent and offshore by more than 70 percent.

*Qu'il s'agisse du coût de production de l'électricité ou du temps nécessaire à l'élaboration de projets, ou qu'il s'agisse de répondre à la demande d'énergie additionnelle, l'énergie éolienne commence à se démarquer dans les marchés mondiaux. [Whether it's the cost of producing electricity or the time required to develop projects or meeting the demand for additional power, wind energy is surging ahead on global markets.]*

*Au Canada, il y a près de douze mille mégawatts de capacité éolienne installée – ce qui nous place au huitième rang à l'échelle mondiale. L'éolien est la principale*

*source de nouvelle électricité au pays depuis plus d'une décennie.* [Here in Canada, there is almost 12,000 megawatts of installed wind generating capacity — the eighth most in the world. Wind has been the largest source of new electricity in this country for more than decade.]

In fact, more wind energy has been built in Canada in the last five years than any other form of electricity generation. Today, it's providing enough energy to power more than three million homes. And, in many communities, it is now the lowest-cost option for new electricity supply.

Our government understands the potential of wind energy. We see your industry playing a key role in Canada's energy future.

Our first budget established a \$2-billion Low Carbon Economy Fund to foster innovation and spur new ideas in clean tech.

And, to encourage businesses to adopt renewable energy — including bringing more of it onto the grid — we expanded the capital cost allowance for clean-energy investments.

Our second budget went further, investing nearly \$22 billion for green infrastructure, including clean electricity and smart grid-to-grid interconnections.

Specifically, it allocated \$200 million to support renewable energy technologies, such as geothermal power, offshore wind and tidal.

Since then, we've continued to work hard at advancing renewable energy projects. In July, we called for expressions of interest for the next generation of clean energy infrastructure projects. This includes projects for smart grid systems and reducing reliance on diesel fuel in Indigenous and remote communities.

We've also reached out to industry through project concept questionnaires — and we're seeing a number of really innovative ideas for projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable power, create well-paying middle-class jobs and advance Canada down the road to a low-carbon future.

Our government funded the Pan-Canadian Wind Integration Study, which concluded that with the right investment in interties, Canada could produce 35 percent of our electricity from wind.

More broadly, interties will be critical to bringing more renewable energy online, enabling Canada to meet its emissions reduction targets. Advancing those interties requires greater collaboration across jurisdictions in terms of electricity planning, electricity markets and electricity infrastructure.

Our government stands ready to do its part, engaging with provinces and territories reliant on fossil fuel-fired electricity to help them move to a lower carbon mix.

We're holding dialogues across the country, examining scenarios with a view to identifying the generation and transmission projects that can most effectively reduce GHG emissions. We'll be reporting on the results of these studies in the coming months.

Our government is also working internationally, particularly with our Mexican and American partners.

We're involved in the North American Renewable Energy Integration Study — the largest study of its kind — in terms of geography — in the world. It's looking at the interconnection of the three countries' power systems to explore the opportunities for adding more variable clean energy across the continent.

Above all, our government understands — as you do — the urgency for action. The pace of technological change is advancing at breakneck speed, making it imperative that governments act quickly.

I began by saying that we meet at an historic moment, with the world embarking on a fundamental shift toward renewable energy. As the Prime Minister has said, there will come a day — far off, but inevitable — when traditional energy sources will no longer be needed. It's our responsibility to prepare for that day.

I've mentioned some of the ways our government is preparing — through substantial investments, by fostering innovation and developing the legislative and regulatory regimes that will enable you to do what you do best — innovate, create jobs and advance renewable energy.

We're also preparing for the future by engaging Canadians. For the past six months we've been having an unprecedented discussion about what Canada's energy future might look like.

We're calling this initiative Generation Energy, because it's really the conversation of a generation. A national dialogue about how a country like ours sets its sights and charts a course for a long-term vision on energy. A dialogue that goes beyond politicians or interest groups to Canadians living in large cities and small towns, in towering condominiums and farms that stretch to the horizon.

And Canadians have responded. More than 200,000 of them. Participating on panels, online and in workshops. We heard from schoolchildren and environmentalists, energy company CEOs and Indigenous leaders. From every province and territory.

The Canadian Wind Energy Association was well represented, with Robert providing a clear voice and compelling vision at a Generation Energy event in Ottawa. I want to thank Robert for his leadership.

In just a few days, Generation Energy Forum will take place in Winnipeg. We'll hear from leading experts and everyday Canadians, re-imagining how we make, move and use energy.

It will be a seminal moment in our country's history. A time that we will one day look back on and say, "this was when the nation came together to envision a new way forward."

*Nous rendrons publics les résultats de ce forum et, dans les jours à venir, nous commencerons à transformer les idées que nous avons entendues en mesures concrètes que nous pouvons prendre.* [We'll be sharing the results of that Forum with Canadians and, in the days ahead, begin to transform the ideas we heard into actions we can take.

It's been said that the winds are always blowing, but you have to raise a sail to catch them. In those efforts, you are leading the way. Through innovation and imagination, you are transforming the movement of air into a source of energy.

Thank you for the work that you do and the difference you are making.

Pointing us all to a cleaner, a better and a brighter future.

*Merci de votre attention.*