

**Green Solutions MPP Information Session**

Remarks to MPPs

John Davies

Queen's Park, Toronto

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Good morning and welcome,

I am glad to welcome you to this showcase of green initiatives being undertaken at Ontario's public colleges. As you will see, there are some incredibly innovative projects that have been completed or are in the works.

I'm very proud of the sector's commitment to finding and implementing green solutions to our environmental challenges.

The college sector recognizes the imperative of promoting environmental sustainability. In fact, Ontario colleges are leaders in energy conservation initiatives. We are particularly proud of the Real Time Operating System (which we call the RTOS). It is an innovative and collaborative project which has achieved excellent results.

This project has been an excellent example of how a modest investment can yield big rewards. As well as its positive environmental impact, the RTOS has resulted in cost savings which benefit our students, colleges and our local economy.

And it reflects the value of the teamwork and leadership of Ontario's public colleges, which took the initiative to find this energy solution. We worked together on this project and will continue to do so as we seek to achieve even more positive results for our sector and beyond.

As well, the RTOS demonstrates the advantages a college education provides. The students involved in this project and others like it benefit enormously from valuable training on cutting edge technology. Our colleges are market-driven which means that our graduates are market-ready. This is enormously important to both the labour force and the economy.

We want to take this opportunity to thank OntarioBuys and the Ontario Power Authority for their financial support, which has been invaluable to the implementation of RTOS across the college sector.

We believe there is potential for this project, and for the collaborative approach taken here, to be expanded to the broader public service as a key plank in the government's green strategy.

We were pleased with the green initiatives outlined in the spring budget and we want to work cooperatively with the government to advance the green economy. I believe you will find that this initiative should be maintained and advanced so that Ontario's green economy can grow.

It is now my pleasure to introduce Phil McNeely, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

Phil is well-experienced on the intersections of infrastructure, energy and the environment. He has also served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Infrastructure. And he previously served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation.

Phil has an advantage over many of us in understanding the engineering behind the kinds of projects being showcased in this room: after graduating from McGill University with a Bachelor of Engineering degree, he earned the equivalent of a Master's degree in Engineering from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, England.

We had the pleasure of briefing Phil and Wayne Arthurs on the RTOS and they received a tour of Humber's facilities several months ago. We are very pleased with their interest in this project.

Phil, we look forward to you speaking about your experience with the RTOS project.

Please join me in welcoming Phil McNeely.