



March 17, 2006

“Go Green” standard means better quality of life in provincial buildings

Calgary... The Alberta government is adopting a new environmental standard for the operation of its major provincial government buildings across the province.

The decision to adopt the Go Green certification program for provincial facilities builds on previous government initiatives to improve energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in its buildings. The Go Green program, operated by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), emphasizes ecologically sound building operations by establishing performance standards in such areas as energy use, water use and indoor air quality.

“BOMA Go Green is a green building initiative that ensures our buildings are safer for those who work in them and improves staff health and productivity, while reducing energy consumption and operating costs,” said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

“The Government of Alberta is a national leader when it comes to an action plan that addresses climate change,” said Guy Boutilier, Minister of Environment. “This program is another excellent example of a made-in-Alberta initiative that will help protect our environment for this generation, and generations to come.”

McDougall Centre in Calgary has been certified as the first Alberta government-owned Go Green facility. On March 14, a second provincial building, the Alberta Research Council facility in Edmonton, achieved Go Green certification. Government has also submitted an application to certify the Pincher Creek provincial building. More than 80 major provincial buildings are under consideration for Go Green certification. The privately owned Telus Convention Centre in Calgary was the very first building in Alberta to be certified Go Green.

“The Go Green program provides building owners with the tools they need to reduce their energy consumption, improve waste management, and generally enhance their environmental stewardship,” said William Partridge, Executive Vice-President of BOMA Calgary. “We are very pleased the government has adopted our standard.”

To qualify, staff and contractors will complete the certification process, which includes an energy audit. The application fee is nominal and certification is valid for three years. Through current operating procedures, government already meets many of the required criteria for certification. New procedures and energy efficiency projects will be funded through related cost savings. Best practices from the Go Green program will also be implemented in smaller government facilities.

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Attachment: Background on Go Green and other environmentally friendly initiatives

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About Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) and BOMA Go Green

To achieve Go Green certification, facilities must demonstrate a commitment to minimum standards in ten categories: 1) energy use, 2) water use, 3) construction waste, 4) recycling, 5) hazardous materials, 6) materials selection, 7) ozone-depleting substances, 8) indoor air quality, 9) HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) maintenance, and 10) building occupant communication. For more information on BOMA Go Green, visit <http://www.bomagogreen.com>. For information on BOMA, visit <http://www.bomacanada.ca>.

Other ways government is leading by example:

Green power

Since January 1, 2005, over *90 percent* of the electricity consumed by government-owned facilities comes from green power sources. This is more than any other jurisdiction in Canada. Enmax Energy Corporation is providing 105,000 megawatt hours per year from its McBride Lake wind farm. Canadian Hydro Developers EcoPower Centre, a biomass facility in Grand Prairie, is providing 110,000 megawatt hours per year.

Energy Retrofit Program

Through the Energy Retrofit Program: By 2006, the Alberta Government has implemented energy improvements to 200 major government facilities, with projected annual savings of \$6 million and a payback time of six to seven years after each project is completed.

Environmentally sustainable building design

Government is encouraging environmental sustainability in the design and construction of new government facilities. Five Alberta government buildings currently under construction have been designed to meet the LEED Silver standard. These include the Calgary Law Courts Centre and four provincial park buildings:

- Park office/visitor centre—Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park
- Expansion to Tyrell Field Station—Dinosaur Provincial Park
- Interpretive Centre—Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
- Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation—Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a points-based green building rating system covering six topic areas: site development, water efficiency, energy efficiency, material selection (i.e. re-use), indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

Climate Change Plan

The Alberta government was the first province in Canada to register an Action Plan with the National Registry on Climate Change, Voluntary Challenge and Registry Program. The Alberta government has received three Voluntary Challenge and Registry Awards for its leadership and success with the Alberta action plan on climate change.

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