

## Backgrounder - Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum 2008

For Nova Scotia to become a viable and competitive place to conduct business and innovation, we must bridge the research gaps and utilize our abundant resources to find cleaner, more economically efficient and accessible forms of energy. Nova Scotia's current research focuses on the many forms of energy available to us, including tidal, wind, offshore oil and gas, bioenergy, and energy storage. Globally, many countries have research knowledge that would be vital to developing our local resources. Therefore, it is essential that we collaborate with global partners in order to develop a strategy that will help secure Nova Scotia's energy future.

In May 2004, the first Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum was presented at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The theme of the 2004 Forum was "Energy - Innovation - Opportunity". The conference was held in response to the Nova Scotia Department of Energy's 2001 Energy Strategy, which set out specific objectives related to enhancing the province's research and development capacity in key energy sectors, to establish a higher degree of partnership between various stakeholders for the purpose of strengthening research and development, and to encourage growth as a knowledge and innovation-based economy.

Nova Scotia's second Forum was held in May 2006 at Saint Francis Xavier University. The Forum theme was "Partnership - Inspiration - Sustainability" and had three pillars: "Energy and Marine Environment", "Petroleum Energy Systems: What Works; What Doesn't", and "Energy Sustainability". The 2006 Forum built on the success of the 2004 Forum and provided new and exciting opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Follow-up surveys of both the 2004 and 2006 Forum participants indicated that the conference achieved its objectives of creating opportunities for networking, collaboration and sharing technical information covering a range of areas related to the further development of Nova Scotia's energy sector. The forums enabled the exchange of ideas and the consideration of how research and development can help address the energy challenges Nova Scotia faces as well as realize the province's energy potential. There was strong support for future forums of this nature, supporting the view that this conference was of value to participants and well organized, with credible speakers who were knowledgeable in their particular fields.

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy is re-examining the 2001 Energy Strategy because of dramatic changes in energy supply, demand, changes in technology, and climate change. Begun in 2007, the Energy Strategy Renewal will help Nova Scotia develop a diverse energy supply with both local and regional energy sources. To attain these goals Nova Scotia is committed to research and development to assess resources, address *sustainable energy development, and energy conservation*. This commitment provided an opportunity to hold the third Forum, which was held in May 2008, also at Saint Francis Xavier University. The theme of the 2008 Forum was *Securing our Energy Future: Research, Resources, Results*, which represented the significant progress being made in Nova Scotia to find solutions to energy resource challenges through dedicated support for research and development programs. Forum sessions included: *ocean energy, strategic environmental assessment, risk management, geological storage of carbon dioxide, offshore petroleum development and alternative & renewable energy*.