

Transcript of keynote luncheon speech by Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna (transcript provided by Minister`s Office)

Transcription du dîner-conférence donné par Catherine McKenna, ministre de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique du Canada (transcription fournie par le cabinet de la ministre)

2016 CanWEA Spring Forum – Apr. 6, 2016, National Capital Region

Colloque du printemps 2016 de CanWEA – le 6 avril 2016, région de la capitale nationale

Gatineau, Quebec, April 6, 2016 – Please find below the transcript of the keynote luncheon speech by Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna at this year's [CanWEA Spring Forum](#).

Gatineau (Québec), le 6 avril 2016. – Vous trouverez ci-dessous la transcription du dîner-conférence donné par Catherine McKenna, ministre de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique du Canada, à l'occasion du [Colloque du printemps 2016 de CanWEA](#).

INTRODUCTION: By Romain They, Director of Canada, Vestas

PRÉSENTATION : Romain They, directeur général au Canada, Vestas

Thank you, Robert [Hornung, CanWEA President] and thank you to CanWEA for hosting this year's spring forum and thank you for the opportunity to sponsor the lunch. So it's a great pleasure to spend time with our fellow wind industry partners. Vestas received its first order in Canada in 1997 and since that time, we have installed our 1,600 turbines. That is close to 3,000 megawatts and we employ nearly 300 people throughout the country. We've been proud to participate in the growth of Canada's wind industry which surpassed 10,000 megawatts this year, at the end of 2015. The growth in the market has enabled Vestas to secure a long-term supply agreements to meet local requirements, supporting local jobs in manufacturing, engineering, construction and service. Each project installed translates into not only jobs needed to bring the project to fruition, but long-term service jobs to ensure the lifelong operations of the plant. We at Vestas will keep leading the effort on the cost on the cost of energy reduction and we look forward to working with wind industry partners, the provinces, the federal government, the system operators and the local communities to ensure cost competitive wind is delivered to Canada.

And now, it's my great pleasure to introduce the final keynote speaker at this summit, Canada's federal minister of Environment and Climate Change, the honorable Catherine McKenna. Minister McKenna was elected last October to represent the riding of Ottawa Centre and within weeks, was leading Canada's delegation at the COP 21 climate talks and playing a strong and constructive role in reaching the Paris agreement. The success of this agreement rests on the measures Canada and the

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other 194 signatories take to implement it. Now the hard work continues and we're fortunate that minister McKenna is up for the challenge.

Madame McKenna est membre des barreaux de l'Ontario et de New York. Elle a été co-fondatrice de l'organisme caritatif Avocats canadiens à l'étranger, lequel va dans les pays en développement et au Canada dans les domaines de la bonne gouvernance, de la primauté du droit, des enjeux environnementaux et des droits de la personne. Madame McKenna a enseigné à l'École Monk des Affaires internationales de l'Université de Toronto et a été membre du Conseil du Centre Trudeau d'études sur la paix et les conflits. In addition to her environmental and climate change portfolio, she is currently also responsible for Parks Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Please give a warm welcome to Canada's Environment and Climate Change minister, Catherine McKenna.

(Applause)

**HON. CATHERINE MCKENNA:
L'HON. CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Merci. Thank you very much for this kind words, Romain and thank you, Robert, for CanWEA's invitation to join the spring forum. It's also nice to see hydro and solar industries represented here today. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Mesdames et messieurs, bonjour à tous. First I would like to recognize that we're on the traditional territory of the Algonquin and Anishnabeh people.

For thousands of years, people have been harnessing the power of the wind, to sail the seven seas, to pump water and mill grain, to build prosperity and all without harming the environment. Je sais que je n'ai pas besoin de vous convaincre que les changements climatiques sont réels. Personnellement, je considère que c'est le défi le plus important de notre génération. C'est pourquoi aussi je suis si honorée que le premier ministre m'ait demandé de travailler sur la question des changements climatiques. Je suis mère de trois jeunes enfants. J'ai commencé à faire de la politique pour apporter ma contribution et essayer de bâtir un monde meilleur pour eux, nos concitoyens et notre pays.

That's why I wake up every day thinking about how we can tackle climate change, how we can reduce our GHG emissions and how we create a sustainable and prosperous economy for Canadians today and for future generations. What is very clear to me is that not one minister, not one prime minister, not one province, municipality or business can tackle climate change alone. It must be a collective effort, one where we move beyond aspirational words words to achieve real and lasting progress.

And let's be frank about it. It's long past the time that Canada made progress when it comes to fighting climate change. For a decade, the previous federal government scoffed at the warnings and

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ignored the challenges. That legacy is ten years of silence and indifference during a critical period for our planet and for our climate. As a result, Canada came to be perceived around the world as an environmental laggard, part of the problem rather than part of the solution. Well, that was then.

Aujourd'hui, je veux vous parler de comment nous pouvons travailler ensemble pour lutter avec succès contre les changements climatiques. Pendant plus d'un siècle, l'énergie renouvelable a été dans l'ombre des combustibles fossiles mais comme c'est souvent le cas, le vent a tourné. Les émissions mondiales de carbone nous amènent à un constat : nous avons plus que jamais besoin du pouvoir des énergies renouvelables.

Clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy is a significant part of the climate change solution and our country certainly has what it takes for this to happen. With our large land mass and diverse geography, we can produce energy from any number of renewable sources, from wind, water, biomass and solar to geothermal and ocean energy. General attitudes are also shifting with more and more Canadians eager to have access to alternative energy sources. Just last week, I heard that more than two dozen school boards in Alberta which represents more than 500 schools signed up for 25 years of energy from a wind farm. This is really great and encouraging, not only because they'll be using green energy but also it sets a terrific example for students.

Currently renewable sources already generate just under two thirds of our electricity and 79% of our electricity comes from non-emitting sources. All told, renewable energy sources provide about 19% of our total primary energy supply. Thanks to many of you here today, Canada ranks seventh in the world in terms of total wind power installed capacity in 2014. We're also ranked sixth in the world for new installations and new investment in renewable energy.

I was very happy to see minister Chiarelli announce yesterday that Ontario will launch the second phase of the competitive large renewable procurement process calling for more than 900 megawatts of renewable energy from solar, wind, hydroelectric and bio energy sources. Last year, global investments in renewable energy including wind and solar hit \$286 billion, setting a new world record and renewable energies are becoming more and more affordable. For example, wind energy is now the lowest cost option for new electricity supply in most Canadian provinces. Contractors contracts awarded in Hydro-Québec's most recent request for wind proposals set a new low average price for wind in Canada of 6.3 cents per kilowatt/hr.

This data and these statistics are very encouraging, but I think you will agree with me that we can do even better and be even more ambitious to secure a cleaner energy future. Can Canada take a bigger share of the global market? I like to think so and when it comes to renewable energy, we all need to walk the talk, starting with the government.

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Je suis heureuse de dire que le gouvernement du Canada travaille fort pour assurer la propreté de l'environnement et la prospérité de l'économie. Pendant trop longtemps ces deux objectifs ont semblé être totalement à l'opposé l'un de l'autre. En réalité, ils vont de pair. Tout d'abord, nous collaborerons avec les provinces et les territoires afin de définir un cadre pan-canadien de croissance propre et de lutte contre les changements climatiques. Ce cadre nous aidera à faire la transition vers une économie à faibles émissions de carbone solides et résilientes. Il nous permettra aussi d'atteindre ou même de dépasser nos cibles d'émissions internationales. Les discussions du premier ministre et de ses homologues à Vancouver le mois dernier ont été très profitables. La déclaration de Vancouver sur la croissance propre et les changements climatiques qui s'en est dégagée sera un important fondement pour d'éventuelles mesures collectives d'envergure.

Les premiers ministres ont été également annoncé la création de quatre groupes de travail. Ces groupes formeront les recommandations sur les technologies propres, l'innovation et les emplois, les mécanismes de tarification du carbone, les possibilités d'atténuation ciblées ainsi que sur l'adaptation et la résilience climatiques. Leurs rapports seront étudiés dans le cadre d'une réunion des premiers ministres qui aura lieu à l'automne premier prochain. Ils serviront ensuite à élaborer un cadre pan-canadien pour la croissance propre et la lutte contre les changements climatiques. Ce n'est qu'en travaillant ensemble que nous permettrons à notre pays de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

I'm really counting on you to take an active part in the consultations on climate change that will inform the findings and recommendations of the working groups. We will also be launching a web portal on Earth Day, April 22th, that will allow anyone to submit ideas and solutions. Please give me your solutions. Every submission will be reviewed by members of the working groups and the portal will also allow everyone across Canada and the world to view the comments. I feel very strongly that transparency is an essential component of this, of an informed debate. So I urge you to use this tool and also to think outside the box. Maybe you want to team up with unusual suspects in your field or outside, making your suggestions all the more powerful.

Now if you want to talk about how specific sectors can help us reach our climate change objectives, I'm sure you will agree with me when I say that Canada should be a global leader in supplying the world with clean energy. Our government believes that the global clean technology market is growing rapidly, presenting Canadian businesses with an immense opportunity to showcase your ingenuity, create good jobs and support Canada's transformation to a low-carbon economy.

That's why the government's first budget pays particular attention to how we can support a clean growth economy. Let me give you some highlights. We're establishing a low-carbon economy fund. This \$2-billion-dollar fund will enable us to encourage and foster innovation and ideas all across the country and help position Canada to take advantage of opportunities worldwide. As part of our

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innovation agenda, we're investing more than \$1 billion over four years to support clean technologies in a variety of sectors. We're expanding capital cost allowances for clean energy, including for electric car charging stations and for broader stationary electrical energy storage equipment. These tax incentives will facilitate the integration of even more renewable electricity generation into the electrical grid and encourage more businesses to invest in clean energy equipment.

The budget also pays attention, special attention to the energy needs of indigenous and northern communities. As you know, Canada's north has been hit already very hard by climate change. My counterpart from Nunavut, minister Mike, one day told me in a very compelling way how global warming is already putting traditional hunting and fishing practices of his people at grave risk. Not only is their livelihood threatened, it also means that the basis of their cultural and social identity is disappearing. Yet, for a variety of reasons, many indigenous and northern northern communities continue to rely on diesel fuel for heat and power. In fact, there are virtually no renewable energy options in Nunavut.

C'est pourquoi je suis très contente que le budget de 2016 accorde 10,7 millions \$ sur deux ans pour la réalisation de projets d'énergie renouvelable dans des collectivités situées hors réseau de l'Arctique canadien et je suis certaine que le secteur de l'énergie éolienne peut contribuer à la solution. Moving forward and as we phase out coal power, I'm confident that wind power will grow as an increasing source of renewable electricity generation in Canada. With your ingenuity and expertise, you can help Canada diversity its economy and open access to new markets and I certainly know that this that our country does not lack in ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Last month, I toured the University of British Columbia's clean energy research centre state-of-the-art facilities. I saw their fleet of electric vehicles and charging stations at the Living Innovation Laboratory. They're testing these cars as the for their potential as emergency generators during a natural disaster. I also saw their innovative work on solar energy and smart grids. The possibilities here in Canada are tremendous. Solar power is becoming truly affordable. Electric car sales are growing. Just look at the just look at the line-ups for the new Tesla. Wind power is taking an increasingly larger role in our electricity supply.

I like to think the sky is the limit. Canada and Canadians and I are counting on you to help us reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and meet our climate change commitments. I want to leave you today with something that has been a source of inspiration for me over the last few months. As we were leaving for the Paris negotiations last fall, we reached out to Canadians. We encouraged them to send us their ideas on climate change.

We received a phenomenal response but one stood out. It was from a group of grade 6 students from Sherbrooke. They recorded a video in which they sing a song. The song is written from a

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future in which humanity is nearing its end. The Earth is lunar landscapes and suffocating heat. The planet and its people are victims of shortsighted leaders who refused to take on the challenges of their time. There's a moment near the start of the video when a young boy in his jacket and tuque holds up a sign to the camera. The sign reads, Deux choses infinies : l'univers et les bêtises de l'homme, the universe and the follies of man. The image has struck with me, has stuck with me, the boy and his sign, and his sign. It motivates me. It also reassures and inspires me. Our children have the passion and commitment to reach out to the prime minister of the country to make the case and to encourage him and to encourage our government to make tough but important decisions.

Comme pays, nous avons mis fin à une décennie d'inaction. C'est le premier pas sur une longue route vers un avenir meilleur pour le jeune garçon qui tenait l'écriteau pour ses camarades de classes, pour mes enfants et tes enfants et pour tous les Canadiens. As a country, we've closed the door on a decade of inaction. We're taking the first steps in a long journey to build a better future for that young boy for with the sign, for his classmates, for your children and my children and for all Canadians. Thank you and may the wind always be at your back.

(Applause)

About the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)

CanWEA is the voice of Canada's wind energy industry, actively promoting the responsible and sustainable growth of wind energy. A national non-profit association, CanWEA serves as Canada's leading source of credible information about wind energy and its social, economic and environmental benefits. Join us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and join the conversation at www.windfacts.ca.

À propos de l'Association canadienne de l'énergie éolienne (CanWEA)

CanWEA est la voix de l'industrie éolienne au Canada, faisant activement la promotion d'une croissance responsable et durable du secteur éolien. Association nationale sans but lucratif, CanWEA constitue la plus importante source de renseignements fiables sur l'énergie éolienne ainsi que sur ses avantages pour la société, l'économie et l'environnement. Suivez-nous sur [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) et [LinkedIn](#) et participez à la conversation à leolien-lesfaits.ca.