

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM25.4	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Endorsing a Series of Recommendations on a Canadian Energy Strategy Intended to Accelerate the Nation’s Transition to an Efficient and Prosperous Low-Carbon Economy - by Councillor Gord Perks, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Gord Perks, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Provincial Government adopt the following principles and framework to ensure any Canadian energy strategy is successful for current and future generations:

Principles for a Canadian Energy Strategy

A. Energy Security

Provide affordable, accessible, reliable, sustainable, and efficient energy services to citizens with minimal risk to future generations;

B. Jobs and Prosperity

Leverage Canada’s considerable renewable and non-renewable resources to increase our share of the global market for low-carbon goods and services, spurring new jobs, investment, and innovation; and

C. Climate Change and Environment

Reduce the impacts of climate change by lowering carbon emissions at a pace and at a scale recommended by Canadian and international climate scientists. Protect and restore air, land, and water resources by ensuring rigorous environmental assessments and setting hard limits on cumulative ecosystem impacts.

2. City Council direct that a copy of this Item be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton

McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy, the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Joe Oliver, Federal Minister of Natural Resources, and Karen Leibovici, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, for their information.

## **Summary**

This summer, Canada's First Ministers will meet to discuss the shape and scope of an energy strategy for Canada. In recent months a coalition of businesses, environmental groups, labour organizations, and other civil-society interests, led by Tides Canada, have united around the idea that a Canadian energy strategy could be an effective tool to accelerate Canada's transition to an efficient low-carbon energy economy. Any Canadian energy strategy must seek to produce affordable, accessible, reliable, and efficient energy services to citizens with minimal risk to future generations. The Canadian energy strategy must seek to leverage Canada's considerable renewable and non-renewable resources to increase our share of the global market for low-carbon goods and services, spurring new jobs, investment, and innovation.

Leading economies are now undergoing a necessary shift away from fossil fuels towards clean, renewable and locally available sources of energy that will meet the majority of our energy needs for the long term. According to a recent Bloomberg New Energy Finance study, global clean energy investment hit a record \$263 billion in 2011. The same report notes that Canada did not rank in the Top 10 of G20 economies investing in clean energy. According to another recent report by the Auditor General of Canada, our nation does not yet have a meaningful plan to meet its greenhouse-gas reduction commitments. This has not stopped municipal initiatives or provincial goals such as the Long Term Energy Plan for Ontario which is committed and on track to the complete phase out of Coal Plants by 2014, investment and promotion of Ontario's growing renewable energy sector is predicted to create 50,000 jobs.

If enacted in a Canadian energy strategy, these recommendations could help accelerate the nation's transition to an efficient and prosperous low-carbon economy, and help the City of Toronto achieve the goals set out in the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Plan approved by Council in 2007.

(Submitted to City Council on July 11 and 12, 2012 as MM25.4)

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM25.4