

DAVID ORAZIETTI MPP

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ORAZIETTI ANNOUNCES SAULT STE. MARIE TO BECOME LOCATION FOR LARGEST SOLAR FARM IN CANADA

McGuinty Government Helping to Make Ontario a Hub of Clean Green Energy

SAULT STE. MARIE — David Orzietti, MPP was joined by Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Economic Development and Trade to announce that Sault Ste Marie is poised to become the location of Canada's largest solar farm, thanks to the latest contracts signed under the McGuinty government's Standard Offer Program.

"As a result of our government's efforts to develop cleaner energy for Ontarians, today's announcement is bringing the largest solar farm in Canada to Sault Ste. Marie," said Orzietti. "Renewable energy projects like this solar farm, the Brookfield Power wind farm and the cogeneration plant at Algoma Steel are helping to build the electricity system that Ontarians deserve while providing an innovative opportunity to keep our community's economy moving forward."

POD Generating Group in partnership with the McGuinty government already announced a significant solar project comprised of two 10 megawatt phases in September. Plans for the Sault project now include six phases that would contribute 60 megawatts to Ontario's electricity grid — that's enough electricity to supply 9,000 homes. This latest project represents a potential \$360 million investment and an important addition to the economy of Sault Ste Marie.

"It's exciting to see how Standard Offer is opening up new opportunities in communities across Ontario as well as ensuring cleaner sources of power for Ontario," said Minister Pupatello, who made the announcement on behalf of Energy Minister Gerry Phillips.

"As a team, we continue to be impressed by Ontario's commitment to develop clean, renewable power generation. The solar power facilities that we are putting into operation in Sault Ste. Marie are showing what a dedicated group of individuals can do to meet the environmental challenges facing Canada and the world," said David Livingston, CEO of Pod Generating Group.

"Pod Generating Group is looking forward to working with the Honourable Gerry Phillips, Ontario's new Minister of Energy, and key member of Premier Dalton McGuinty's new cabinet, to create a province-wide renewable power generation network and establish the Province of Ontario as a leading light in the area of solar power," said Glen Martin, President and Chief Operating Officer of Pod Generating Group and a native of Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Ste Marie's new solar farm is one of a series of significant energy projects that is resulting in sizable economic investments in the community:

- The Brookfield Power Wind Farm - Canada's largest wind installation – is a \$400 million investment
- The ASI Cogeneration facility – a 63 megawatts high efficiency cogeneration project – is a \$135 million investment and is currently under construction

Today's announcement builds on the McGuinty government's solar power strategy which includes:

- Setting a target of installing 100,000 solar roofs across the province
- Launching "Go Solar" – a one stop information shop for Ontarians interested in installing solar energy systems to heat water or generate electricity
- Extending the retail sales tax rebate on qualifying solar equipment, as well as wind, micro-hydro, and geothermal systems, to January 1, 2010

The Ontario Power Authority reports that 228 renewable energy projects had been awarded contracts under the Standard Offer Program as of November 30, 2007. Taken together with today's announcement, those projects have the potential to generate 882 megawatts (841.982 MW + 40 MW) of renewable energy.

For further information on the Standard Offer Program and tips on how to become a small generator, visit www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop.

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