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PRIME MINISTER'S ECO-TRUST ANNOUNCEMENT IN
VANCOUVER

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(APPLAUSE)

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Thank you very much John. Bonjour mesdames et messieurs. Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for that welcome, and thank you Premier Campbell, Ministers and Members, both federal and provincial, thank you for being here today as well as government officials and members of industry. We're glad you can all spend a few moments to be with us.

It's great to be back in British Columbia, particularly this time of year, not least because it gives me a little bit of a taste of what spring will be like when it arrives in Ottawa in another couple of months.
(LAUGHTER)

C'est le plus récent arrêt de la tournée nationale que le ministre Baird, Lunn et moi-même avons entrepris sur Éco-fiducie Canada.

This is our latest stop on the national tour that Ministers Baird, Lunn and myself have undertaken in support of our government's new Canada Eco-Trust for clean air and climate change. These trusts are designed to help all the provinces and territories finance projects that will advance the development of clean energy and directly reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. At every stop on the tour, we've enjoyed tremendous cooperation with our provincial partners.

La relation d'ouverture entre Ottawa et les provinces que nous avons promis lors de la dernière élection est une fois de plus démontrée par cette excellente collaboration sur les changements climatiques et l'air pur.

The more productive relationship between Ottawa and the provinces that we promised Canadians during the last campaign is being

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demonstrated again by the successful collaboration on clean air and climate change. All governments agree that achieving the right balance between environmental protection and a healthy economy is the fundamental public policy challenge of our time. All Canadians are concerned about the environment. For far too long, there's been too much talk, too much posturing, too much empty rhetoric. We're replacing that with practical action.

Au Québec, Éco-fiducie Canada permettra de soutenir diverses initiatives du gouvernement du Québec qui vise à réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre de près de 14 millions de tonnes d'ici 2012.

In Ontario the trust fund will help the province phase out its dirty coal-fired electrical plants and import clean power from Manitoba. Last week in Alberta, we announced that it will help fund the development of carbon capture and storage, an exciting new technology that takes CO₂ out of the air and buries it deep underground.

Aujourd'hui je suis très heureux d'annoncer que la Colombie-Britannique va consacrer sa part des fonds d'Éco-fiducie à des initiatives environnementales qui vont contribuer de manière concrète et mesurable à la diminution des gaz à effet de serre et de la pollution atmosphérique.

Today I'm very pleased to announce that British Columbia will dedicate its share of the trust fund to environmental initiatives that will make real, measurable contributions to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. These include getting clean electricity to remote rural areas now fuelled by dirty diesel, including the electrification of highway 37, support...go ahead. (APPLAUSE) Support for new geothermal and bioenergy

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projects, including the capture of biomass from landfill sites and extracting energy from sawmill scrap and beetle wood.

A fourth initiative is what brings us to this impressive National Research Council facility today. Here at the NRC's Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation, federal government scientists are working closely with province and industry partners on what could be the dominant form of energy in the future. Hydrogen fuel cells have the potential to produce energy much more efficiently than the conventional internal combustion engine. They run almost silently. Best of all, their only by-product is water vapour. The technology has already moved beyond the prototype stage. Large fuel cells are powering entire buildings; small ones are energizing electrical gadgets. Over the past decade, engineers based right here in Vancouver have made important contributions to the development of increasingly efficient and economically viable hydrogen fuel cells. One of their dreams is of the day when we can wean our automobiles off of gasoline, but they've got a chicken and egg problem. No automaker wants to bring hydrogen fuelled cars until there's a network of fuelling stations, and no fuel maker wants to build the stations until there are cars that need them. That's where we come in.

L'annonce aujourd'hui est basée sur notre engagement d'appuyer la Colombie-Britannique dans ses efforts de réaliser l'autoroute de l'hydrogène de Vancouver jusqu'à Whistler à temps pour les Jeux olympiques d'hiver de 2010.

Today's trust fund announcement builds on our existing commitment to assist BC in the development of the Hydrogen Highway, from Vancouver to Whistler, in time for the 2010 Olympics. This initiative will showcase the technology for the world, and for the visionaries here at IFCI, it

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will be just the first stage of the world's first international hydrogen highway stretching all the way from BC to California. Obviously this is a long-term project. The global hydrocarbon economy will not be transformed overnight. But the Stone Age did not end because the world ran out of stones, and the Oil Age will end long before the world runs out of oil. Someday historians may look back and conclude that all started right here in British Columbia, so on behalf of Canada's new government, we're honoured, Premier, to play a part in it, and merci beaucoup, and thank you all, and I'll call on Gordon to say a few words. (APPLAUSE)

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