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PM HARPER'S REMARKS AT LESTER B. PEARSON COLLEGE
IN VICTORIA

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STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister): Bonjour. Good morning. Thank you all for coming. Thank you, David, for your kind introduction, and thanks to...to you and to everyone at Pearson College for hosting us here today at this beautiful facility. My...regret being here is I can't stay a while. Looks like a wonderful place to...to pass some time. Je tiens à dire combien aussi je suis impressionné par votre beau campus et vos étudiants visiblement exceptionnels. I know that Pearson College puts great emphasis on teaching the importance of sustainable development, so it's appropriate to be here today to announce another practical, results-based environmental initiative, but before I begin, I'd just like to once again thank all of you for taking time from your busy schedule to be here. The sheer number of notable guests in attendance is a testament of the importance of today's announcement, and although my time is limited and I can't mention everyone I'd like to, I would just like to quickly acknowledge a couple of people: the president of the Forest Products Association of Canada, who's come all the way from Ottawa, Avrim Lazar is here. Thank you, Avrim.

(Applause)

HARPER: Go ahead, give him a hand. The president and director of Clean Current, Glen Darou.

(Applause)

HARPER: And they're here in attendance with other partners who have contributed to the Race Rocks tidal demonstration project that hopefully we'll take a look at a bit later. We also have, of course, our Minister of Natural Resources. He's the Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands, and Gary Lunn has been doing a tremendous job representing

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British Columbia and Vancouver Island in Ottawa and in cabinet, so give him a big hand.

(Applause)

HARPER: Also, John Baird, Minister Baird, who successfully shepherded the landmark Federal Accountability Act through Parliament last year, and is Canada's new Environment Minister. Give him a big welcome.

(Applause)

HARPER: And, as I say, there's so many notables...I do see Richard Neufeld, the BC Minister of the...of Energy, is also here today. Thank you, Richard, for coming as well. So give Richard a hand.

(Applause)

HARPER: Le nouveau gouvernement du Canada prend ses responsabilités environnementales très au sérieux, et c'est pourquoi nous avons agi de façon décisive en nous concentrant sur des résultats réalistes en tant que point commun de toutes nos initiatives. Canada's new government takes its responsibility for the environment very seriously. That's why we've acted decisively with a focus on outcomes and achievable results serving as the common thread that runs through all of our initiatives. For instance, since taking office, our government has introduced the Clean Air Act, the most ambitious plan in Canadian history to regulate and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions across industrial sectors. We've made Canada a world leader in assessing and regulating potentially-dangerous chemicals with our comprehensive chemicals management plan. We've taken action to reduce the amount of mercury released into our surroundings and toxic substances released from base metal smelters. And we of course have also invested

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heavily in public transit infrastructure and brought in a personal income tax credit to reward those who use public transit. While we've accomplished much, we recognize that there is much more to do, and that's why we're undertaking three what we call eco-energy initiatives. These initiatives will encourage Canadians to use energy more efficiently, reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from conventional energy sources, and increase Canada's supply of clean energy. Two days ago, Minister Lunn revealed our eco-energy...eco-energy technology initiative, which will support Canada's energy producers in their efforts to reduce emissions. Et nous présentons aujourd'hui notre initiative éco-énergie renouvelable qui nous permettra de faire des investissements considérables dans de nouvelles technologies énergétiques durables. Today we're unveiling our eco-energy renewable initiative, under which we'll be making very significant investments in the development of alternative sustainable energy technologies, because not only is Canada blessed with vast stores of conventional energy in the form of oil, gas, coal, uranium, we also have a superabundance of energy from natural, renewable sources – the mighty winds that blow across the land, the rushing waters of our rivers, and the tides of the Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic oceans. There is no end to the potential of these and other alternative, natural, non-polluting energy sources. The eco-energy renewable initiative will help scientists and entrepreneurs harness the power of these natural forces that are all around us. The first component of the initiative – eco-energy for renewable power – will boost Canada's supply of clean electricity by offering generous incentives to spur production. The second component – eco-energy for renewable heat – will offer incentives to encourage the use of clean renewable technologies for water heating and space heating and cooling in homes and

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buildings. The incentives contained in today's announcement are projected to boost the production of clean renewable Canadian energy by up to 4000 megawatts a year. In terms of greenhouse gas reductions, that's the equivalent of taking one million cars off of the road. That is real, practical, achievable action on climate change. Disons simplement que l'initiative éco-énergie renouvelable vise à utiliser notre environnement afin de protéger notre environnement – un air plus pur, moins d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre, et un meilleur avenir pour un Canada plus vert et plus sain. Simply put, the purpose of eco-energy renewable initiative is to use our environment to protect our environment – cleaner air, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and a brighter future for a greener and healthier Canada. Our final eco-energy initiative will be unveiled by Minister Lunn this weekend. I'll leave it to Gary to reveal the details then, but suffice it to say that the eco-energy efficiency initiative is the final piece in our government's eco-energy strategy. By harnessing the kinetic power of nature, cutting emissions from conventional energy sources, and developing the technologies and infrastructure that reduce energy consumption, our eco-energy initiatives are going to help create a healthier ecosystem for Canadians today, tomorrow, and beyond. So thank you for your attention, merci beaucoup, and I will ask Minister Lunn to say a few words.

(Applause)

GARY LUNN (Minister of Natural Resources): Well thank you very much, Prime Minister. It's great to be back in my home province, and it's even...great to have you here for this very important announcement. In Canada, energy production and consumption is the cornerstone of our economy, and our land is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. But with these natural resources and these enormous

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economic opportunities also comes responsibility. Canada's a world...Canada's the world's third largest producer of gas, the seventh largest producer of oil, the largest supplier of uranium of any other country in the world, and the list goes on and on. But we must be responsible. Energy, both the production and the use downstream, is responsible for 85 per cent of the greenhouse gases we put into the atmosphere, and also the pollutants and the emissions as well. We must do better in reducing pollutants and greenhouse gases. We in Canada's new government take this challenge very seriously, the responsibility to manage the impacts of our abundant energy. Now as the Prime Minister has just mentioned, I recently announced our eco-energy technology initiative. This is a targeted investment of \$230 million to help us clean up our conventional energy. We want to focus these resources on areas...things like clean coal technology. Right now the science is able to reduce up to 90 per cent of the pollutants we put in the atmosphere, and you combine that with carbon capture and storage, we can take all the greenhouse gases out. This is enormous...enormous opportunities in where we can go, and our government is delivering a focused, direct approach to deliver results in these areas. Now the...the second part of our announcement, which the Prime Minister just announced, is a two-pronged approach. We are investing one and a half billion dollars in our eco-energy renewable initiative. This yet marks another step by our government to its quest to preserve and protect our environment. Under the first component of this initiative, eco-energy for renewable power, we'll invest \$1.48 billion to boost our supply of clean energy from renewable sources, things from wind, from the power in the ocean, from biomass to small hydro, these are all opportunities where we can put clean energy directly on the grid. The second component, as the Prime

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Minister touched on it, is the eco-energy for renewable heat. We're investing \$36 million in incentives which will be provided over the next four years to encourage the adaptation of renewable technologies for water heating, space heating, and space cooling. If owners of these buildings install renewable thermal energy technologies, we can reduce national emissions substantially and save a considerable amount of money. Now I want to come back to the renewable energy push, and why we're here at Pearson College. I should...I know the Prime Minister has already acknowledged, but...the project I'm going to just touch on a little bit, I should acknowledge Glen Darou from Clean Current. He's the CEO. Randy Eresman, the CEO and president of EnCana. And also David here from Pearson. They've all banded together, and we've been able to support them federally as well, to install the first tidal turbine in North America. It's just a few kilometres here off the coast, and it's now producing electricity as we speak. This is an extraordinary development. It's a small pilot project, but the fact that they've been able to do this, it's anchored to the ocean floor, and it's absolutely emission-free. There are absolutely no greenhouse gases. This is just the very, very beginning of us starting to be able to harness the enormous energy in our oceans. So we're very pleased to have been supporting this project, and this type of projects obviously would be eligible under our new renewable energy eco-energy initiative. Now, as you know, the college here is the custodian of the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, which is located just three nautical miles from the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In the past, two guardians living at Race Rocks were supplied their electricity from dual diesel generators. Not to mention all the pollution that's going up in the atmosphere from these generators, you have to transport that diesel out to Race Rocks. Right now, all of their energy out at

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Race Rocks research facility is supplied by this tidal turbine. So I think that's an enormous first step in harnessing the energy in our oceans, and we look forward to seeing much more in the years ahead. Now, the...as of this week, Race Rocks is now being powered...I've just...I'm repeating myself. Sorry about that. This project is creating a source of clean, renewable, and predictable energy by capturing the power found in the everyday tidal currents in our oceans. Race Rocks is precisely the type of project that Canada's new...or Canada's government will support through our eco-energy renewable initiative. So I want to thank you all for coming, and right now I'd like to turn the podium over to my friend, the Honourable John Baird, the Minister of the Environment. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

JOHN BAIRD (Minister of the Environment): Merci beaucoup. C'est bien sûr un grand plaisir pour moi d'être ici, parler ici avec vous, en cette bonne journée pour une bonne annonce pour l'avenir de notre environnement. It's a real pleasure for me to be here today. The health of Canadians and our environment are a real priority for our government. It is our goal to deliver to Canadians meaningful short, medium, and long-term action, action that will improve the quality of our environment and improve the quality of the lives of Canadians, and the eco-energy renewable initiative does just that. With this announcement, Canada's new government is investing in renewable energy sources that will help us ensure that cleaner air, water, land, and energy for Canadians today and into the future. This investment is particularly important to us because energy is a key driver in our economy, and we now produce and use energy, and we look at the impacts on our environment and our economy. As it stands, the production and use of

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energy accounts for over 80 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions. So, the challenge is for Canadians and for industry to find ways to produce and deliver energy in a cleaner, more efficient manner. But this is not just a challenge. It's also an opportunity, an opportunity to make renewable energy part of Canada's energy mix. We have an opportunity, and I believe we have a responsibility to think about production and the use of energy differently from the generation before us. Last fall, we introduced our Clean Air Act, which sets out our intention to reduce emissions from key industrial sectors that contribute to about half of Canada's air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. By increasing our renewable energy base, the eco-energy renewable initiative complements the Clean Air Act and will help us reach those targets, and we are the first government in Canadian history to come forward with regulation and requirements for industry to accept their...their part of the greenhouse gas and climate change challenge. I was excited to see the participation and active investment of EnCana in the development of this...one of the important initiatives we're talking about today. Without a doubt, renewable energy in Canada holds huge potential for us to deliver real progress in reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases while also improving air quality and the health of Canadians. Canadians see a huge link between our environment and their health, and our government sees that as a huge priority. This announcement is another action, real action, another important step in the right direction, but we will not get to where we need to be without the help and without the participation of ordinary Canadians. Environmental responsibility extends beyond government, it extends beyond industry. All Canadians have an important role to play. It's no longer tolerable to drive without a seatbelt, to drink and drive, or to smoke in public. If we're going to

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affect real change, we need to see this kind of shift in our attitudes with respect to our environment. This is the only way we will make progress as individuals and as a country. Today is just one more step delivering on Canada's new government's commitment to resolve and address the biggest challenge that this planet is facing today – climate change. We have much work ahead, but this is a very key and important step along that important journey for Canada. Thank you, merci beaucoup.

(Applause)

MODÉRATRICE: Nous allons maintenant prendre les questions des membres des médias. We will now be taking questions from members of the media. We'll just ask for you to wait that the mic gets to you before asking a question. On va commencer, we'll be starting with Erick Thompson, A-Channel.

ERICK THOMPSON (Reporter, A-Channel News): A quick question about the Doomsday Clock, Prime Minister. The Doomsday Clock has been moved ahead by two minutes, and I wanted to know what you think the significance of that is.

HARPER: I'm not sure...I'm not sure I really can comment on that. I read the story. It's a...It's an interesting story in the newspaper. It's obviously a private organization that makes these calculations, and, you know, I...used to be based, as you know, primarily on the potential of nuclear war. I think while we still live in a dangerous world, that potential looks to me to be a little less than it was when I was younger. But, you know, beyond that, I'm not sure I can provide any...any informed comment on it really. Did you want to say anything, John?

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BAIRD: I think it does...you know, it's just another reminder that we've got to do more in Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to make our air cleaner, for the health of Canadians. We are facing a challenge. You know, 10 years ago, when Kyoto was negotiated and signed, a starting pistol went off to a 15-year marathon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And under the leadership of Stéphane Dion and the Liberal Party, when that starting pistol went off, we went running in the opposite direction, and now we've got to play catch-up for those 10 lost years. Canadians I think want us to look to the future, to what we can do, what real action we can take today to begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and that's why the announcement on clean energy is such an important part of that, the announcement we're making today.

MODERATOR: We'll follow with Les Leyne, Victoria Times.

LES LEYNE (Reporter, Victoria Times Colonist): Thank you. Good morning. Prime Minister, you equated, I think, the change in output from the initiatives you announced this morning to removing a million cars off of Canadian roads. The other way you could do that would be to remove a million cars off Canadian roads, and I'm just wondering if the changes that you're announcing today and the kind of general attitude that you're describing, are they going to get it done or do you have to do kind of an equivalent measure on the conservation side?

HARPER: Well, we've been...we've been clear. First of all, as I say, the initiatives today will have the equivalent effect to removing a million cars. That said, we're clear that the initiatives undertaken today are not the entire answer to the problem by any means. Our...Our plan to regulate

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emissions from Canadian industry right across the country on both greenhouse gas and air pollution are still critical to the achievement of long-run objectives for this country. You know, I...you said we could do it by removing a million cars from the highways. You know, that would obviously have a real substantial impact in a lot of people's lives, a lot of their ability to...to earn an income. What we're trying to do with our environmental plan is a realistic environmental plan that will achieve environmental objectives while allowing people to...to be prosperous and have energy security as well. So, obviously it isn't a matter of, you know, doing things like taking away cars. It's a matter of...of using fuel and resources more efficiently and more environmentally...in a more environmentally sound manner.

LEYNE: Is there...Is there a way of...Looking out long-term, is there a way to avoid those kind of draconian impacts and make some real differences on GHG?

HARPER: Well, that's...that's what we hope. As I've said repeatedly, in terms of the long term, we can...we believe that enormous reductions in emissions are possible, but that obviously depends fundamentally on technological change and innovation and adaptation, and most of our plans are obviously designed to make that happen over time.

MODERATOR: We'll move on to Greg Rasmussen, CBC.

GREG RASMUSSEN (Reporter, CBC News): Good morning, Prime Minister. I hope you won't feel slighted. I've got a question for the Environment Minister, actually.

HARPER: That's fine.

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RASMUSSEN: You mentioned in your remarks that you'd like to see polluters in the same category as people who drink and drive, or other socially unacceptable things. So, are you saying that people who drive large vehicles or corporations that put up polluting industries should become social pariahs?

BAIRD: I think what I said was is that Canadians expect our government, Canada's government, to take real action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to reduce pollution, which has a huge impact on human health. I think Canadians expect industry to take their role. That's why we're the first government in Canadian history to come forward and indicate our intent, on October the 11th, to regulate industry in this country. What I also believe, though, is Canadians themselves, ourselves, have got to do our part and look at the choices that we make today, and that's why we've come forward with some exciting initiatives like the transportation tax credit, public transportation tax credit, to try to encourage Canadians to get out of their cars and onto...and onto public transit. We're also, you know, Gary and I made an announcement...Gary made an announcement in Ottawa just a few days ago. We travelled out to the announcement on a hybrid bus. Gary travelled on a...what was it, a...

LUNN: Hydrogen.

BAIRD: ...hydrogen bus. So there's some examples where, you know, Canadians can begin to make choices, Canadians can begin to make choices themselves when they...you know, how they live their lives, and those will be, you know, you know, any...a number of a hundred decisions that we would make today on how we use energy, and I think Canadians obviously have an important role to play, but that does not let off government,

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which it must take a leadership role, and industry, from...from important regulation.

RASMUSSEN: Just a quick supplemental, Prime Minister. As the evidence mounts of the impact of climate change, Canada is still increasing the levels of greenhouse gas even as you make announcements like this today, the levels are still increasing and are projected to increase, as you acknowledge. I'm just wondering about the sense of urgency with your government. Is there thought to moving up some of your benchmarks and trying to achieve those goals earlier than first proposed?

HARPER: Well, we're, you know, we're working hard to get initiatives out as quickly as we can. You know, for instance, the initiatives we're announcing today were funded in the last budget. You know, it may seem like a year is a long time to put them in place, but what we faced when we took office was we had a whole series of environmental programs that either weren't reducing emissions in most cases, or hadn't even...hadn't even got off the ground, hadn't even come into existence, so I insisted the minister take the time to get the initiatives right. Likewise, we all know that the regulatory plan for...for industry is long-term, but at the same time, we're hurrying to get some of the ground work laid for that even as early as this spring. So, these things take time. They're fundamentally long-term challenges. As John says, the great challenge we face is that we spent the first 10 years not only not doing anything, but actually going the other direction. We're 10 years behind, but if we...we have a long-term plan and we stick to it, we can achieve...we can make significant achievements. If I could just maybe add a little bit to what John said about your interpretation of his remarks, if you don't mind me elaborating on that. You know, all the emissions we

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generate in this country come from transportation, come from energy, or come fundamentally from the products that are produced. Now we can look at that and say, Well that's all about transportation, the transportation business, the auto companies, the oil companies, or the utilities, and industry, and that's true, and as I say, we're going to apply regulations across those sectors. But we can also look at it in another way. These emissions are all fundamentally about the transportation we take as individuals, the heating and the energy we consume, and also the products we use. And John is saying if we're to make the kind of transformations in our economy and our society we want to make over time, then there's going to have to be a responsibility of everyone to participate in that.

BAIRD: I would just add, though, I reject the notion that, you know, our intent to regulate that we announced on October the 11th, the first time Canada's government ever came forward with an initiative of that sort, you know, there's been far too much discussion, profile of the long-term initiatives going out to 2050. There are a lot of tangible initiatives that are going to begin to happen, real action going to begin to happen in very short order. The short-term and medium-term parts are equally as important as our long-term parts, and we're going to be putting a lot of focus on that. Obviously the energy that's created here, you know, today is a huge part of that.

MODÉRATRICE: Nous allons passer à Frédéric Arnould, Radio-Canada.

FRÉDÉRIC ARNOULD (journaliste, Radio-Canada) : M. Harper, bonjour. Je voulais connaître la position officielle du Canada sur l'essai de tir réussi par la Chine le 11 janvier dernier avec un armement qui

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permettrait de détruire d'éventuels satellites. Et ma question du jour sur votre annonce, en fait ce que vous annoncez aujourd'hui, ça ressemble beaucoup à ce qu'avaient proposé les Libéraux. Il y a pas grande différence. Est-ce que vous changez un peu de couleur, vous devenez un petit peu plus rouge libéral pour paraître plus vert auprès des électeurs?

HARPER : Premièrement, nous avons exprimé nos inquiétudes envers les actions de la Chine. Je pense que le ministre des Affaires étrangères et ses homologues des États-Unis et d'autres pays ont exprimé nos préoccupations là-dessus, et, évidemment, nous tentons d'engager la Chine dans des affaires économiques, mais à même chose nous...nous...nous retenons le droit d'exprimer nos concerns dans...dans autres dossiers, comme ceci. Pour les initiatives, il y a une grande différence. Nous annonçons des initiatives réelles, des vraies initiatives qui vont réduire les gaz à effet de serre. Les Libéraux ont leur chance. Ils ont décidé de ne rien faire. Et la difficulté, je pense à la fin, quand nous aurons une élection, que M. Dion continué...il continue de parler...de parler de...il continue à parler d'une élection, les différences, et il a un bilan, un bilan d'inaction. Nous sommes en train de créer un bilan d'action.

MODÉRATRICE : Nous allons passer à Philippe Murat, Radio-Canada.

PHILIPPE MURAT (journaliste, Radio-Canada) : Oui, M. Harper, bonjour. Dans les programmes que vous annoncés, vous annoncez des choses pour les nouvelles...les nouvelles installations, de nouveaux parcs éoliens, de la biomasse, etc. Ce sont des choses, des projets qui vont voir le jour, mais pour ce qui existe présentement, ce qui produit actuellement des gaz à effet de serre, est-ce que vous avez des projets, des initiatives pour réduire

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les émissions qui sont actuellement produites par non seulement les véhicules, mais l'industrie en ce moment?

HARPER : Oui. Une partie de l'initiative éco-énergie est de...de supporter le développement de la technologie pour réduire les émissions des...des industries actuelles, et peut-être le ministre peut...peut élaborer. I just said that our initiatives, the set of initiatives under eco-energy also deal with existing industry and existing technology, and how to build...how to make those things use energy more efficiently. That's part of the initiative. Do you want to elaborate at all, Gary, on that? Okay. I think you'll find it all in the background.

ARNOULD: Excusez-moi, Monsieur le premier ministre. Le programme éco-énergie, dans son ensemble, ça va représenter combien d'argent?

HARPER : Je pense qu'ensemble, ça représente \$1,5 milliards. Les annonces d'aujourd'hui représentent \$1,5 milliards pendant la prochaine décennie, mais la grande majorité de ces fonds seront dépensés dans les quatre prochaines années.

MODERATOR: We'll move on to Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist.

LINDSAY KINES (Reporter, Victoria Times Colonist): I just wondered what plans the government might have to assist with repairs to the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island.

HARPER: West Coast Trail, I understand that the trail constitutes...it's federal government property, it constitutes part of the national park system. I don't know if the minister wants to comment.

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BAIRD: I got a briefing on that this morning. That was one of the...the terrible weather we've seen here in British Columbia. I've only been minister two weeks, and I've already been out here twice. We've taken some immediate action in Stanley Park, which is actually federally-owned. Obviously the...the federal lands, whether it's Parks Canada or beyond, it's something we're going to have to assess the...the damage. I think many of you will have noticed some of the trees, very old trees that had come down in...just in this vicinity of the college, so it's something we're going to be on top of. It's obviously important, and we want to ensure that, you know, the huge interest in...in Canadians visiting the trails is significant. People even are making reservations well ahead of time to ensure that they can...they can enjoy the park system, so it's something we're going to be looking at very closely, and if important federal investments and actions are needed, we'll obviously be there, particularly when it deals with health and safety and the fundamental access to parks. That's something that's...that's very important.

MODERATOR: We'll move on to Sean Leslie, CKNW.

SEAN LESLIE (Reporter, CKNW News): Thank you. Just a question about wind farms. They're not without controversy themselves, obviously. Some people say they're ugly, they're noisy, they kill birds, that kind of thing. Are those folks NIMBYs, in your opinion, Prime Minister? How would you feel about a wind farm in your neighbourhood?

HARPER: Well, you know, I think...part of the government's approach is to ensure, given the enormity of the challenge, the environmental challenge, the challenge as well that that implies to economic prosperity and energy security, the approach of the government will be to...to go on several tracks – obviously to...to develop new technology, to try and

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improve energy efficiency of existing...of existing energy sources, and to encourage the development of a range of possible commercial alternatives, including wind. And, as you know, yes, as with all energy sources, there are some complaints. There are also some organizations and provinces who are very interested in this form, and it shows promise. So, the government isn't going to, at the front end of this exercise, rule out any particular alternatives. I think we have to explore all avenues. Do you want to elaborate on that, Gary?

LUNN: Yeah, I should, and I should just mention, I know Minister Neufeld and I, we have discussed this in the past, and talking about the renewable energies, but most of the wind farms, the large-scale wind farms, are in very remote areas. There's great enormous potential up in the Queen Charlottes, up in the northeast corner of British Columbia, so I don't think there's any suggestion these are even remotely close to heavily urban areas. In fact, they're quite remote. They've done a lot of science. They need the right kind of winds and the right speeds, and they have to be fairly constant. So, overall, I think the public is very, very supportive. Again, this energy is emitting zero greenhouse gases, zero emissions, and we have to be open up to...open up to that. We want to do our part. As the Prime Minister said earlier, this will put...this announcement today will put 4000 megawatts of energy, clean energy, on the grid. How much is that? That's the equivalent to power, not only take a thousand cars off the road, but would power a million homes. I mean, I said...I meant a million cars, but it would power a million homes. So, it's significant. While I'm at the microphone, Prime Minister, there's one person I should've recognized when I was speaking earlier, and that's Vicky Sharpe. Vicky, I somehow didn't...manage to forget you, but Vicky is the president of Sustainable Development Technology Canada, an

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agency funded by the federal government who had the wisdom and the foresight to invest I think almost a million and a half dollars in this tidal turbine. So I thank you for your leadership, and I wanted to acknowledge your presence.

MODERATOR: We'll move on to Ed Watson, CH.

ED WATSON (Reporter, CH News): Good morning. Just some clarification, Mr. Baird. Did you say you were going to put money into cleaning up the West Coast Trail, or that you're just going to look at it?

BAIRD: What I said is that we're going to get an assessment of what the costs are from the (inaudible) weather we've had this winter, and if funds are required, we'll be there. It's important. The number of visitors that it attracts, you know, particularly the access to the trail, is something that's important to me. You know, I've come out to Vancouver Island...to learn more about it, and if...if...we'll look at the existing budget within Parks Canada, within the department, but we'll look at it very closely. We want to get a real assessment of what it's going to cost, get the best advice from the foresters in terms of how it's best to deal with that. I know the park board at Stanley Park has had some considerable discussions about what the best actions to take. I mean there they've got obviously sea wall and the threat of soil erosion, but we'll get the assessment, you know, in short order. It's...you know, the full consequences of some of the damages isn't really known yet, but it's something that's obviously important frankly not just to people on Vancouver Island, but to Canadians who hold our park system in...as one of the...one of the important things that defines Canada.

WATSON: Can I ask, Prime Minister, one question? The BC government is now in the process of pondering their approval of two coal-

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fired power plants. I'm wondering if you think that's appropriate, given the sort of announcements you're making today and have made over the last little while. Is that the sort of technology, do you think, that we should be embracing?

HARPER: Well, I...I...appreciate that Minister Neufeld has attended today. I don't intend to engage in a federal-provincial debate at this meeting. Obviously, as you know, all governments are concerned about developing electricity that reduces emissions, and that's obviously part of the plans we're bringing forward and working with the provinces on.

WATSON: You're working at cross-purposes, though, aren't you...

MODERATOR: We'll move on to Todd Battis, CTV.

TODD BATTIS (Reporter, CTV News): Good morning, Prime Minister. At the risk of repeating my colleague at Radio-Canada, I wonder if you would reiterate your statement on the Chinese test, and secondly, on those who say that this is...these announcements look very similar to what the Liberals announced in their last budget.

HARPER: Um...

(End of recording)
