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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

### **\$222,000 HELPS DEVELOPERS DESIGN FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

VANCOUVER – Government funding of \$222,000 will support developers in meeting higher energy efficiency targets in new building designs, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld announced today.

“This funding reinforces our commitment, through our Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy, to help the industry learn about the options and cost-effectiveness of energy efficient building designs and equipment,” said Neufeld. “This program also helps support the goal of the BC Energy Plan to implement new energy efficiency standards for buildings by 2010.”

The funding allows the Energy Savings Plan (ESP) and the Light House Sustainable Building Centre on Granville Island to act as a “first-stop shop” for builders and developers. Here, they can access information on sustainable building and federal, provincial and utility incentives for energy efficiency. The building design program includes energy efficiency design consultation services to help developers of 10 new institutional, commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential projects access funding and incentive programs. Leading edge computer software is used to model the buildings and predict energy efficiency and savings.

“Industry is hungry for this valuable information, and this is a unique, risk-free opportunity to access it,” said Gordon Monk, director of the Energy Savings Plan at Light House. “In the design phase, developers can choose from several energy-saving options, each of which can save thousands per year in operating costs.”

For example, through Light House’s energy modelling program, installation of energy efficient components such as high efficiency windows, occupancy/daylight sensors, an 80 per cent efficient heat recovery/ventilation system and a condensing boiler can result in energy cost savings of more than \$21,000 per year on a standard 100,000-square-foot building, and overall energy savings can increase by 26 per cent.

Light House is also using an educational tool developed by Natural Resources Canada to screen 90 building plans. This will establish a profile of energy demand typical of commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings. Options for improving energy performance and their costs are included. The program will also provide energy screening for projects proposed by communities applying for provincial grants under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program and Towns for Tomorrow.

Funding for this project comes from the \$11-million Opportunities Envelope program announced last July, which advances the energy efficiency targets for all types of buildings, outlined in B.C.’s Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy.

The Light House Sustainable Building Centre is a first-stop-shop for green and sustainable building information that showcases B.C. success stories, and provides resources, information and education programs to industry and the public.

This energy modelling support program is endorsed by the National Association of Industrial Office Properties and the Urban Development Institute.

For information on the Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy, visit [www.em.gov.bc.ca/AlternativeEnergy/](http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/AlternativeEnergy/). Information on the Light House Sustainable Building Centre is available at [www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com](http://www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com).

Media contact: Jake Jacobs  
Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and  
Petroleum Resources  
250 952-0628

Gordon Monk  
Director, Energy Services  
Light House Sustainable Building Centre  
Gordon@sustainablebuildingcentre.com

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