



For Immediate Release

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Energy Conservation – The Opportunities in a Large and Unfinished Agenda

Queens's Park – Ontario needs a comprehensive energy conservation strategy developed with public participation, to guide energy conservation activity and measure progress. This is one of the conclusions in the report tabled by Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), before the Ontario Legislature today.

“The government's approach to energy conservation appears uncoordinated and improvised, with no clear plan,” warns Miller in the report, *Annual Energy Conservation Progress Report – 2009, Volume One*. “We are too focused on electricity,” says Miller. “We need a strategy that addresses conservation of all sources of energy. We already consume much more energy for transportation than we do for electricity, and most future growth in Ontario's energy consumption is expected to come from the transportation sector.”

In electricity, the one energy sector where Ontario had begun developing a long-term plan, Miller notes that uncertainty prevails. The development of the Integrated Power System Plan has been suspended, and the role that it will play in guiding electricity conservation action is not known. In the absence of an approved Plan, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure has set electricity conservation policy on an ad hoc basis, with little opportunity for public input.

Responding to his newly assigned duty to review progress on energy conservation, the Commissioner's report lays out action needed if Ontario is to build a meaningful and enduring culture of conservation in the province.

The report examines the policy framework governing conservation for electricity, natural gas, oil, propane and transportation fuels, makes seven specific recommendations, and lays out a four-point agenda for the province.

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