



MEDIA RELEASE

July 5, 2010

FortisBC contribution energizes Centre of Excellence fundraising campaign

FortisBC is supporting the establishment of Penticton's new Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation with a \$50,000 donation to create dedicated classroom space for students entering the technologically challenging electrical apprenticeship program.

FortisBC Inc., a Canadian-owned electric utility with 14 field offices throughout the Southern Interior, has a longstanding relationship with Okanagan College since 1992.

John Walker, President and CEO of FortisBC and Terasen Gas Inc., made the announcement in Kelowna this morning in front of dozens of electrical apprentice students.

Over the years, the company has helped the Kelowna campus save more than 1.3 megawatts, or 5,808,839 kwh of energy — enough to power nearly 450 homes for a year. They've also provided more than \$600,000 in energy efficiency rebates.

"We are proud to support Okanagan College in creating a sustainable building technologies and renewable energy conservation campus," said Walker. "Our community investment strategy supports projects that promote electrical trades, literacy, leadership and safety."

The company's pledge of \$50,000 establishes the FortisBC Electrical Apprenticeship Classroom.

"FortisBC is the latest of a host of organizations that have recognized the value in supporting the Centre of Excellence," said Steve Tuck, president of the Okanagan College Foundation. "We have been fortunate to partner with FortisBC in the past and this new development is a very real indication of their commitment to this region and its future."

FortisBC's contribution has helped push the Okanagan College Foundation's fundraising campaign for the Centre of Excellence over the \$1.52 million mark.

The Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation is playing a pivotal role in shifting the perspective of Canada's construction community, demonstrating that going "deep green" on an institutional project doesn't mean having to pay a premium.

The Centre is being built with the investment of \$22.5-million from both federal and provincial governments, along with a further \$5-million from the Okanagan College Foundation and donors such as FortisBC.

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EDS: Please find attached a jpg image of (l to r – front row): John Walker, CEO & President Fortis BC & Terasen Gas Inc.; Jim Hamilton, President Okanagan College; Jamie Haynes, 2nd year electrical apprentice; Jim Henderson, Centre of Excellence Fundraising Campaign Chair, Steve Tuck, President Okanagan College Foundation (back row): second year electrical apprentices.

For more information:

Steve Tuck
Okanagan College Foundation
250-862-5630

Marnie Douglas
FortisBC Corporate Communications
250-718-1718