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CANBIO welcomes the BC Government's Bioenergy Strategy

Canada boasts 18 times more forest than Finland and has substantial, unused agricultural residues. Yet only 6 per cent of our energy comes from biomass compared with nearly 25 per cent in Finland. The Canadian Bioenergy Association (CANBIO) is on a mission to redress this situation.

As such, CANBIO welcomes the initiative of the BC Government in developing a Bioenergy Strategy, announced on 31 January and updated this week. CANBIO has called for favourable, bioenergy-specific policies nationally and provincially in Canada – not just renewable energy strategies. British Columbia is the first Province in Canada to move the yardsticks forward.

"This is immensely important in laying out the path for everyone else to follow" commented Doug Bradley, CANBIO's President. "We feel that all provinces with substantial amounts of biomass should develop a bioenergy strategy to increase renewable energy use. Although we would like the BC Strategy to go further with more funding attached, we are encouraged by the BC priorities: a comprehensive biomass inventory; ten community bioenergy projects; a target of 50 per cent or more of the province's renewable fuel requirements to be met by biofuels by 2020 and a Call for Power process."

CANBIO is especially supportive of the BC Government's intention to streamline the regulatory and permitting environment for bioenergy and to review the Safety Standards Act Power Engineers, Boiler Pressure Vessel Safety Regulations to accelerate the adoption of bioenergy technology.

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CANBIO, with regional chapters in British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes provides a strong voice for the bioenergy sector and includes in its membership large power users, bioenergy technology leaders, consultants, communities and project developers. For more information see the website www.canbio.ca