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For Immediate Release

ON DECEMBER 15 CANADIANS START TO DRIVE WITH RENEWABLE FUELS

Landmark Federal Renewable Fuel Standard Comes in Effect

OTTAWA: On December 15th, the federal government's landmark *Renewable Fuels Standard* officially comes into force. This will add some two billion litres of renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, into the Canadian gasoline pool each and every year and change the way Canadians drive going forward.

"Starting on December 15th, Canadians will be fueling change every time they drive. Five per cent of the gasoline that Canadians pump into their vehicles will come from renewable green sources harvested and produced across Canada," said Gordon Quaiattini, president of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association. "Ethanol and biodiesel help diversify our fuel supply, add new income for farmers, and reduce harmful greenhouse gases."

According to a recent third party study Canadian ethanol reduces GHGs by 62 per cent compared to fossil fuels and biodiesel generates a remarkable 99 per cent reduction. The new renewable fuels standard alone represents an annual cut of 4.2 megatonnes – the equivalent of removing 1 million cars from our nation's highways.

From an economic perspective, the contribution of renewable fuels is a substantial source of economic and financial benefit to rural Canada. Construction of biofuels facilities has generated roughly \$3 billion in economic activity and ongoing operations represent a \$2 billion annual economic contribution.

For our farmers, higher incomes that flow from the sale of surplus feedstock bring additional security and lessen reliance on income and safety net programs. For our forestry sector, the use of waste wood and by-products will similarly see significant new economic gains as cellulosic and advanced biofuels are commercialized.

"With the renewable fuel standard coming into effect Canada is now positioned to become a world leader in advanced biofuels," added Quaiattini. "The production and the commercialization of next generation advanced biofuels using state-of-the-art technologies and a wide variety of feedstocks is underway."

A second renewable fuels standard specifically for biodiesel is expected to be enacted in the new year.

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