

INDUSTRY ADVISORY

EcoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Program Expanded
Grants for geexchange installations increased by 25 percent

Montréal, March 31, 2009 – The Canadian GeoExchange Coalition (CGC) informs industry stakeholders that the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced yesterday that grants under the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program will be increased, for a limited time, by 25 percent.

The grant for a *new geexchange installation* (i.e. installing a new system where no geexchange system existed before) has been increased from \$3,500 to \$4,375. The grant for the replacement (upgrade) of an existing geexchange installation has been raised from \$1,400 to \$1,750. Access to the program continues to be on a first-come, first-served basis, and grants are subject to the availability of funds.

In order to qualify, homeowners will need to have a pre-retrofit evaluation completed by a certified energy advisor. Homeowners will then have until March 31, 2011, or 18 months from the date of their pre-retrofit evaluation report to complete the post-retrofit evaluation in order to receive a grant at the increased level, subject to available funding.

Homeowners who have had their pre-retrofit evaluations completed under the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes initiative but have not yet completed their post-retrofit evaluation, will receive grants based on the new rates. No adjustments will be made to grants for homeowners who have already received grants or who have already had their post-retrofit evaluation completed.

As a condition of the program ALL geexchange systems must be certified by the CGC in order to be eligible for the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes. A CGC certified geexchange system has to be designed and installed by CGC accredited professionals and a CGC qualified firm. The system has to be fully compliant with the *C448.2-02 Design and Installation of Earth Energy Systems standard*.

A number of provincial and territorial governments have announced their own energy grants and financial incentives. For more information on these incentives, contact your provincial government or visit the CGC website at: http://www.geo-exchange.ca/en/geoexchange_financial_support_grants_rsc70.php.

The Canadian GeoExchange™ Coalition acts as the industry catalyst to unite private and public sector stakeholders, and to expand the market for geexchange™ technology in Canada. As the nexus of information, training, certification, industry standards and public awareness, our mandate is to work with stakeholders to build the necessary infrastructure to foster the growth of the Canadian geexchange™ industry. For more information, visit www.geo-exchange.ca