



# STRAIT OF CANSO OFFSHORE WIND TASK FORCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force Attracts over 30 Organizations*

**Cape Breton Island, NS** – The Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force is excited to announce that their Terms of Reference have been approved by over 30 signatories who are committed to working together to advance our clean energy future. The Task Force is composed of a diverse group with representation from key stakeholder groups across the region who have helped increase the profile of the Strait of Canso by highlighting the port and its competitive advantages at an international level for offshore wind.

President of the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, John Ouellette highlighted the work of the task force in his opening remarks at the State of the Strait Business Update on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

“Opportunity is knocking at our door, and we must work together to build this industry here in Cape Breton – Unama’ki and across the province. It’s critical that we engage all stakeholders and rights holders to make sure that we secure our own energy future. We have a world-class wind resource, the assets and the competitive advantage all right at our fingertips here,” said Amanda Mombourquette, Warden of Richmond County and Co-Chair of the Task Force.

The Task Force has been at the forefront of Nova Scotia’s pursuit to become the first offshore wind and green hydrogen energy hub in Canada. They have worked to develop key partnerships, including working alongside all levels of government, Mi’kmaq community leaders, industry partners, municipalities, ocean users, and local businesses to ensure the responsible, sustainable, and inclusive development of the offshore wind and green hydrogen industry.

The Task Force understands that establishing Canada’s first green offshore wind and hydrogen hub will require ongoing planning, partnerships, research, promotion, and capacity-building to facilitate the following regional priorities:

1. Establishing an Oceans and Green Energy Innovation and Research Centre;
2. Growing and strengthening a local supply chain to create synergies with new and existing businesses and industries;
3. Engagement that is meaningful, timely, and inclusive;
4. Training and building a resilient and skilled workforce; and
5. Creating a plan for building critical infrastructure for land, air, and sea to support this emerging industry.

“This is the beginning of a brand new industry right here at home. Not only will this industry pave the path to a greener and more sustainable future, but it will create employment opportunities that will see

skilled workers re-locate here to be part of Canada’s first green energy hub. It’s an exciting opportunity for a new workforce and for future generations,” said Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton and Co-Chair of the Task Force. “By continuing to harness the Strait Area’s socioeconomic and geographic advantages, we will work towards the development of Canada’s first green hydrogen and offshore wind hub. “

To learn more about the work of the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force, including accomplishments to date, visit <http://www.capebretonpartnership.com/strait-offshore-wind-taskforce>.

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