



Innovation minister unveils federal dollars at Alberta Enterprise Group breakfast in Edmonton



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Alberta green tech is getting a cash injection after over \$206 million in federal funds were made available for 36 clean energy projects across Canada, six of which are in Alberta.

“The fundamental issue here is innovation,” explained Innovation, Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Singh Bains, following his Friday announcement at a breakfast held by the Alberta Enterprise Group in Edmonton.

“We’re focusing on companies that have the potential to come up with some really innovative ideas that can be commercialized. The idea is to provide them with an opportunity either to apply their project through demonstration or to scale up the opportunity to commercialize these very innovative ideas. If we pursue down that path, who knows which idea will really catch on?”

Only one of the recipient projects is from Edmonton. Based out of the Edmonton Research and Development Park, Quantiam Technologies is getting \$4.25 million in direct funding and a total of almost \$12 million in leveraged funding towards a \$16.2 million project that is aimed at improving the performance of equipment that turns shale gas into a substance used in plastics. The rest of the Alberta funding — a total of nearly \$26 million — is going to Calgary companies. The lion’s share of the federal funds will be going to Quebec and Ontario companies — roughly \$140 million— with another \$30 million going to B.C. firms and almost \$3 million heading to Nova Scotia.

Funds will be coming from \$325 million that were budgeted for Sustainable Development Technology Canada in 2013.

That’s still just a fraction of the \$49 billion in capital investment the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers said it expected would be made in the oil and gas industry in 2015. But Bains said the goal is to support clean energy innovation and allow the market to work out the speed of the shift towards them.

“Ultimately, the consumers will decide, the market will decide,” he said. “Industry is going to play a leadership role. The role of government is really to create an environment for them to succeed, work in collaboration with them, work in collaboration with the academic institutions, with our businesses.”

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