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NEWS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

Community Energy Association Engages Norm Connolly as Executive Director

The Community Energy Association (CEA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Norm Connolly as Executive Director, commencing July 2009. The Community Energy Association is a collaboration of the Union of BC Municipalities, the Province, the Planning Institute of BC, transit providers, energy utilities and individual local governments. The organization assists BC local governments to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy through community energy planning and project implementation.

Norm Connolly is an urban planning professional with ten years experience in corporate, municipal, federal, academic and non-profit sectors. He has served the past ten years as a senior researcher and project manager for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, managing sustainable planning workshops and integrated design charrettes for prominent projects throughout western Canada. Most recently Norm has been managing a team developing a 20-year renewal plan for Granville Island, addressing infrastructure, sustainability, transportation and land use challenges. Norm holds a Masters in Environmental Design – Urban Planning from University of Calgary, LEED™ accreditation and a Bachelor of Commerce.

"Norm's experience with local governments, private sector land developers and other partners will help CEA meet growing local government demand for CEA services, as local governments strive to set and meet greenhouse gas reduction targets, and plan more sustainable communities," said Dan Rogers, CEA Co-Chair and Mayor of the City of Prince George. "On behalf of the Board, I pass on my congratulations, Norm -- welcome to the CEA team!"

"Norm's strategic vision, proven ability to build cross-sector partnerships, and passion for urban planning, community engagement and sustainability, give us great confidence that Norm will effectively lead CEA forward into our next chapter," said Richard White, CEA Co-Chair, Director of Community Development for City of North Vancouver.

Norm Connolly will replace Laura Porcher, who has served as CEA Executive Director since 2003 and has chosen to reduce her hours and take a more focused role. "Laura's commitment in building the organization has been much appreciated by local governments and all the interagency partners around the CEA table. We are extremely grateful for her willingness to stay on through this time of transition," said Mayor Rogers.

Norm Connolly joins CEA staff Dale Littlejohn, Manager of CEA Local Government Advisory Services; Patricia Bell, Sr. Community Energy Planner; Community Energy Planners Peter Robinson (in Kelowna), Patricia Dehnel (in Nelson) and Adam James (in Warfield); and Laura Porcher, Partnership Development (in Victoria), in helping BC local governments meet provincial climate objectives.

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