

Report add up to a major effort in restructuring our national energy system — we do not think it can be accomplished given the way energy R&D is pursued in Canada today. Canada's unimpressive record in commercializing the fruits of research is another cause for concern. Simply calling for more funds for alternative energy development will not be sufficient.

The Committee has therefore concluded that a new approach to managing development in the alternative energy sector is required. We recommend that a Ministry of State for Alternative Energy and Conservation be established under the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources. We further recommend that the new alternative energy corporation, Canertech, report to the proposed Minister of State when it becomes an independent Crown corporation. To promote the broad development of hydrogen as an energy currency in

Canada, we recommend that a Canadian Hydrogen Commission be established, also reporting to the proposed Minister of State.

Canada is not in an energy crisis. The Committee does, however, feel a strong sense of urgency about changing energy policy for a number of reasons, not the least of which is Canada's vulnerability to external developments in the petroleum sector (a vulnerability which could lead to an "oil crisis"). We further feel a sense of urgency because Canada is being left behind in the alternative energy field even though it has a lot to offer and in some new technologies holds a temporary advantage. Canada must respond to the alternative energy challenge more quickly or be placed in the paradoxical position of having a wealth of energy potential but a shortage of energy options because of a failure to capitalize upon that potential.