



ONTARIO BIOAUTO COUNCIL RECEIVES \$6 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF BIO-BASED MATERIALS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guelph, ON – March 22, 2007 – The opportunity for producing Ontario-made automobile parts and related materials from biological feedstocks moved one step closer to reality today with the announcement of \$6 million for the Ontario BioAuto Council.

“Today the Government of Ontario made another important investment in Ontario’s future as a leader in the bio-economy. The funding for the BioAuto Council will help us move forward with our commitment to building new commercial opportunities based on biological feedstocks for Ontario’s leading industrial sectors,” said Terry Daynard, Executive Director for the BioAuto Council.

The Ontario BioAuto Council is working to link agriculture and forestry with the chemical and plastics industry to produce materials and chemicals from biological feedstocks. The bio-based materials – such as flexible foams and rigid plastics would be supplied to the auto-parts manufacturers and auto assemblers for incorporation into Ontario-made cars and trucks. Opportunities also exist in fine chemical manufacturing using lignin and hemicellulose from trees and enhanced biofibre production – from agriculture or forestry sources – for use in composite materials and as a replacement to fiberglass.

The Council is also working to identify other markets for bio-based materials such as the packaging and construction sectors.

“Forestry, agriculture and the polymer industry linked to the manufacture of automobile parts, and other related higher-value, quality-dependent materials, represents a unique opportunity for Ontario to capture a substantial share of what is projected to be a \$50 billion global market for bio-based plastics by the year 2015,” noted BioAuto Council Chair Bernard West – former President of Canada Colors and Chemicals Limited.

The Ontario BioAuto Council operates under a founding advisory board made up of representation from automotive assembly and automobile manufacturing companies, agriculture, forestry, chemical and plastic manufacturing, public research, and several Ontario ministries. The Council has an office in Guelph.

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