



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hydro Collaboration Earns Prestigious Safety Award

*Unique program recognized by Electrical Safety Authority as providing significant contribution towards advancing public electrical safety awareness*

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**September 23, 2011** – Last night four local electricity distribution companies (LDCs) — Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc., Guelph Hydro Inc., Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc., and Waterloo North Hydro Inc. — jointly received a *Powerline Safety* award at the Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) "Achievements in Electrical Safety" event in Mississauga, Ontario.

The ESA presents the Ontario Electrical Safety Awards to recognize outstanding contributions to safety in those areas that present the greatest harm to Ontarians. These four local distribution companies were celebrated for establishing a unique partnership that delivers targeted safety programs and training to key groups throughout the communities they serve.

"We are honoured to share the distinction of receiving a Powerline Safety award with our colleagues," said John Grotheer, President and CEO of Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc. "And we are proud of our employees, who work diligently to promote electrical safety awareness to those who need it most."

Barry Chuddy, CEO of Guelph Hydro Inc. added, "As distributors of electricity, safety is a top priority. But our commitment to safety does not begin and end with our employees. This award recognizes our commitment to extend our safety culture to contractors, customers and the general public."

"By delivering targeted safety messages to key groups, like school children, and workers most likely to come into contact with electrical hazards, we are helping to improve electrical safety for the well-being of the people in our communities and all of Ontario," said Jerry Van Ooteghem, President and CEO of Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.

"We consider promoting safety awareness to be a key part of our mandate and the way we do business," said Rene Gatien, President and CEO of Waterloo North Hydro Inc. "Working in partnership with the other LDCs allows us to maximize resource efficiency and ultimately reach more individuals with the critical message of how to stay safe around electricity."

#### **About the Joint Safety Training**

The safety training targets four distinct groups in the community. All sessions are delivered free of charge and employees from the four LDCs volunteer to present the sessions.

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**School Safety Training** – School children from grades JK – 8 learn about the hazards posed by electrical outlets, appliances, substations, transformers, hydro poles and overhead electrical wires. LDCs use a unique Hazard Hamlet display to help children easily identify and avoid electrical hazards in their everyday lives.

**Contractor Safety Training** – Every two years the group sponsors and hosts the *Contractor Electrical Safety Seminar*. To date, over 200 local contractors have attended and learned from presentations by the Ministry of Labour, Electrical Safety Authority and Infrastructure Health and Safety Association.

**First Responder Safety Training** – Police and Fire Department personnel have benefitted from seminars focusing on legislative requirements, basic electrical theory, overhead/underground electrical awareness, and how to maintain personal safety when dealing with electricity in emergency situations.

**Construction Industry Safety Training** – This training provides education on the various hazards associated with electrical equipment and is targeted towards the roles within construction that are at the highest risk of uncontrolled electrical exposure: crane operators, truck drivers, dump truck drivers, excavator operators, equipment operators, and construction workers/supervisors.

### **About the ESA**

The role of the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. They are responsible for administering specific regulations related to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC), licensing Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians, electricity distribution system safety, and electrical products safety. ESA also works extensively with stakeholders throughout the province to educate, train, promote, and foster electrical safety. To learn more about the Electrical Safety Authority visit [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com).

### **About the Powerline Safety Award**

The Electrical Safety Authority held the inaugural Electrical Safety Awards in 2010 in order to acknowledge the efforts of individuals and organizations towards advancing safety culture and supporting ESA in achieving their vision of an Ontario free of electrical fatalities, serious injury, damage or loss.

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