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## **Tolko celebrates launch of gasification plant**

Syngas plant converts wood residue into low-cost, clean thermal energy

**Vernon, BC** — Government and community leaders joined Tolko Industries Ltd. to celebrate the launch of the Company's new gasification plant located at its Heffley Creek Plywood Division. The system will not only save the mill more than \$1.5 million in annual fuel costs, but will also improve local air quality and reduce Tolko's greenhouse gas emissions by 12,000 tonnes per year.

Using technology developed by Nexterra Energy Corp., the new "syngas" plant converts wood residue obtained from the fibre used in the operation into low-cost, clean, thermal energy. This energy replaces the need for high-cost natural gas and moves the mill closer to energy self-sufficiency.

"This gasification project fits in with our goal of sustainable environmental management," said Minister Neufeld. "Using bioenergy is a concept we will be looking at as part of our bioenergy strategy as it provides economic development opportunities, takes advantage of pine beetle-attacked timber and contributes to healthy communities."

Al Thorlakson, Tolko's President and CEO, said the successful completion of the gasification plant is a collaborative effort. "Completion of this plant is a result of the combined efforts and commitment of Nexterra Energy Corp. who supplied the technology and the provincial and federal governments. We look forward to further partnership opportunities as we assess the potential to invest in technology that will achieve our business objectives and our sustainability and environmental goals to ...contribute to the well-being of future generations through responsible environmental performance."

Accompanying Minister Neufeld at today's event was Mr. Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson. The event included a tour of the gasification plant and a barbeque lunch.

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006, Tolko Industries Ltd. (Tolko) is a private, Canadian-owned forest products company based in Vernon, British Columbia that manufactures and markets specialty forest products to world markets. With manufacturing operations across Western Canada, Tolko is a major producer and marketer of lumber, veneer, plywood, oriented strand board, and kraft papers. The Company's Woodlands operations in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have received third-party certification of their sustainable forest management systems. Additional information about Tolko is available at [www.tolko.com](http://www.tolko.com)

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