

*Media Release – for immediate release*

## **Significant LEED® Achievement for Sainte-Marie among the Hurons**

As a National Historic Site, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons maintains a deep rooted connection to the land and environs surrounding Southern Georgian Bay. The organizations environmental commitment to the management of the historic attraction has been carried through to the green, sustainable development of the new Administration and Maintenance Building, opened in October 2010.

This pledge to implement a green and sustainable design and build of the new facility has recently resulted in Sainte-Marie among the Hurons receiving LEED® Gold certification in the area of *New Construction and Major Renovation* for the Administration and Maintenance Building. The LEED® acronym stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and the program is administered by the Canada Green Building Council.

When representatives from Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, the construction company, Ameresco Canada Inc. and the project managers, MHPM Project Managers Inc. assembled September 19<sup>th</sup> to announce the achievement, this commitment to reach a LEED® standard was evident by the pride and sense of accomplishment from the group.

Driven at the onset of the project to develop a design and construction strategy that would meet LEED® criteria, the group exceeded expectations by reaching the Gold rating, beyond the original goal of Silver.

Jan Gray, General Manager of Huronia Historical Parks (HHP) which operates Sainte-Marie among the Hurons noted “The design and build was managed throughout the construction process with rateable LEED® categories front of mind. We excelled in the areas of Water Efficiency, achieving a 30% water use reduction. Under Innovation and Design, we managed to divert 88% of the construction waste from landfill and used materials that had 35% recycled content and were manufactured regionally”.

Working in a green building has drastically improved the day-to-day quality of working life and staff are thrilled to be in this new environment. HHP also made a commitment to educate the public with LEED® information on their web site, in a brochure, and via a video screen in the reception area. Jan Gray also personally briefed several organizations who were interested in how the LEED® criteria would impact their proposed new building projects, supporting the Green Education aspect of the scorecard.

Mario Iusi, President of Ameresco Canada Inc. added “We at Ameresco Canada are committed to a healthier environment. Our work with Sainte Marie among The Hurons assists in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, conserves resources and reduces dependence on costly, nonrenewable energy resources. Congratulations to Sainte Marie among the Hurons for achieving LEED Gold Certification and distinguishing themselves as a leader among visitor centres across Canada.”

Project architect Peter Archer from Peter Archer and Associates designed the building to be completely compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Design features welcomed by staff included improved indoor air quality by using low VOC emitting paints, adhesives, sealants, carpets, the use of operable windows, the control systems for the various building areas and the daylight and views to the outdoors from the occupied spaces.

The Administration and Maintenance Building awarded the LEED® Gold rating is located at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, 16164 Highway #12, Midland Ontario. For more information on Sainte-Marie among the Hurons please visit [hhp.on.ca](http://hhp.on.ca)

For more information LEED® Green Building Rating System please visit the Canada Green Building Council web site at [cagbc.org](http://cagbc.org)

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*Sainte-Marie among the Hurons is operated by Huronia Historical Parks, and is an Attraction of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.*

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