**CANADIAN OXYGENATED FUELS ASSOCIATION**
**L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES CARBURANTS OXYGENES**

190 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario KIR 6H4 Tel: (613) 232-9729 Fax: (613)234-2107

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **B.C.** TRANSIT TO TEST NEW CLEAN BURNING METHANOL-FUELLED BUS

VANCOUVER, B.C., March 23, 1992-- The Canadian Oxygenated Fuels Association (COFA) announced today that a methanol-fuelled transit bus will be part of B.C. Transit's revenue service fleet during a two week trial period that starts today.

The methanol bus is on a national tour to demonstrate the viabllity of methanol-fuelled vehicles for transit authorities and commuters. Over the past year five Canadian cities have participated in the tour.

"This project offers an excellent opportunity for transit operators and users to gain first-hand experience with Canada's world class methanol fuel technology," said COFA's B.C. representative Ken Vidalin, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Methanex Corporation. Vidalin added: "Sixteen methanol buses are in revenue service in three Canadian transportation systems in Medicine Hat, Mberta, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Windsor, Ontario. By the end of 1992, we anticipate there will be over 430 methanol buses operating in North America."

Methanol is a clean burning, colourless liquid fuel that can be made from a variety of raw materials. Almost all methanol is made from natural gas, but it can also be derived from coal, lignite, wood, and even municipal waste. Canada is one of the world's largest producers of methanol.

"Methanol is one of the most viable alternative fuels on the market and British Columbia is poised to benefit from a rise in its consumption, since B.C. and Alberta account for 10 per cent of the world's supply or about *2.5* billion litres annually," said Vidalin.

The environmental benefits of methanol as an alternative to gas and diesel are well documented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which found that methanol in passenger cars, buses, and trucks burns clearly and significantly reduces air pollutants.

The methanol engine powering the demonstration bus is the cleanest heavy-duty compression ignition engine available in the world today and the only one of its kind that meets the tough environmental standards of the California Air Resources Board," said Vidalin.

The national alternative fuel demonstration project is sponsored by COFA, in conjunction with Motor Coach Industries, Detroit Diesel of Canada, and Energy Mines and Resources Canada.

COFA is an industry partnership organized by the Canadian methanol industry to promote the use of methanol in the transportation market. There are three methanol producers in Canada: Celanese Canada in Edmonton, Alberta; Novacor Chemicals, Medicine Hat, Alberta; and Methanex Corporation, Kitimat, British Columbia.

- 30 -