

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Solar Powered Mushrooms**

**Moose Creek, Ontario (Sep 26, 2013) SolarShare Co-operative Inc. -**

Mushrooms may not need sunshine to grow, but a new solar project on a Canadian mushroom farm is changing the rules.

Champion Mushrooms is now home to a 243 kW solar project and SolarShare is the proud new owner. SolarShare leases rooftops in order to develop community-based solar systems. Co-op members finance the projects through the purchase of Community Solar Bonds, 5% bonds with a 5-year term. The co-op investment model increases deployment of renewable energy projects, public acceptance and demand, and a more decentralized, democratic approach to development. It's called "Community Power" and SolarShare is leading the charge in Canada.

SolarShare leases the rooftop from the family who owns Champion Mushroom Farm. Shu Lin and Maria Ma moved to Moose Creek and bought the farm in 2007. They had never grown mushrooms before, but they had both studied agriculture at Northeast Forest University in Harbin, China where they met as professors. They decided to develop a solar project on the roof of their facility about three years ago. "Solar is a good, clean way to get electricity and it's good income for us," said Shu Lin, referring to the approximately 10% revenue he is now receiving from the project. SolarShare expects the project to generate about \$190,000 annually.

Champion Mushroom is SolarShare's 20<sup>th</sup> project, bringing their total system generation capacity to over 1 MW, representing about \$8 million in assets. Over 500 co-op members have collectively raised \$2.4 million to finance such projects.

**About SolarShare** SolarShare is a non-profit co-operative that develops solar power projects across Ontario and offers securities in the form of bonds to Ontario residents to invest in the project portfolio. SolarShare currently has 20 projects representing over 1 MW of installed solar power generation capacity. 500+ co-op members have collectively raised \$2.4 million. Incorporated in January 2010, was formed by TREC Renewable Energy Co-operative. [www.solarbonds.ca](http://www.solarbonds.ca)

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