

125 YEARS STRONG

On September 28th, of this year, CEA will celebrate its 125th birthday. That's quite the milestone. And those of us that are part of the CEA family, are proud of this milestone and what it represents.

Many references in books and film focus on the role the Homebrew Computer Club played in the 70s in Silicon Valley to spur the development of personal computers and usher in the digital revolution that has led to the internet-connected world we live in today.

In a similar fashion, the Canadian electricity industry spurred its own revolution 125 years ago. Technological advances in electricity generation and transmission, coupled with new end-uses such as street lighting and electric railways, made the fledgling electricity sector a hotbed of innovation and collaboration.

Back in 1891, when lighting was from oil lamps, heating was provided by wood and coal, and transportation was either steam-driven or pulled by horse, the new electricity entrepreneurs and enthusiasts established their own club in Toronto. Mr. J. J. Wright, Manager of the Toronto Electric Light Company, presided over the founding meeting of the newly created Canadian Electrical Association (CEA). The initial purpose of CEA was to foster and encourage the science of electricity, while promoting the interests of those engaged in any

electrical enterprise. The founding committee included 20 individual members. Company membership would come at a later date.

Even at its founding, CEA was national in scope, with individual members from all regions of the country. And while founded in Toronto, the association's headquarters moved twice. In the first half of the 20th century, with the establishment and expansion of Ontario Hydro, CEA was moved to Montreal. The Board of Directors considered Montreal to be friendlier to private enterprise. One Board member suggested that this move was to keep away from the "creeping socialism" taking place in Ontario. In 1991, when the federal government became more involved in the electricity business, CEA established a permanent presence in Ottawa. In subsequent years, the association consolidated all of its activities in the capital.

Over the last 125 years, CEA has evolved. But it has remained focused on innovation and collaboration. We moved from a club of individual electricity innovators to a broad-based association of companies, representing

WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

the full value chain of electricity. From generation to the end customer, including crown corporations, investor owned companies, Canada's largest municipal companies, and the suppliers and consultants supporting Canadian electricity, all work together to deliver innovative energy solutions to Canadians from coast-to-coast-to coast. And all the while, we have managed to build one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world, with over 80% of emissions being GHG free.

With a strong history of technical excellence and more recently, acting as an advocate for the industry nationally and internationally, collaboration will continue to be the cornerstone of CEA, as the industry and its association develop and implement the next wave of innovations that will enable future generations of Canadians to benefit from the mainstays of Canadian electricity: reliability, affordability and sustainability.



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The Canadian Electricity Association:

125 YEARS OF INNOVATION

Help us celebrate our birthday and focus on our future on November 16th, 2016, in Toronto.



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LET THERE BE LIGHT

The History of Electricity is a Story of Canadian Innovation

