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2017

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ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES
125 YEARS

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DEVELOPED OR CONSTRUCTED
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80 MW
CONSTRUCTED IN ONTARIO



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 28, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my best wishes to everyone marking the 125th anniversary of the Canadian Electricity Association.



The members of the Canadian Electricity Association have been generating, transmitting and distributing electrical energy since 1891. Through their work, they have supported technological advances, innovation and development in all areas of endeavour. This milestone is an ideal opportunity to celebrate your many achievements and to set goals for the future.

Canadian electricity is one of the cleanest sources of energy in the world. The sector remains indispensable to the quality of life enjoyed by Canadians and to the competitiveness of our country's economy. I would like to commend everyone involved with the Canadian Electricity Association for contributing to build a brighter, greener and prosperous future for all.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



SETTING OUR SIGHTS TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, Mr. J.J. Wright, Manager of the Toronto Electric Light Company, presided over the founding meeting of the newly created Canadian Electrical Association, the precursor to the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA).

The initial mission was to foster and encourage the science of electricity, while promoting the interests of those engaged in any electrical enterprise. The Association grew to providing networking opportunities, then expanded to include R&D support and finally it transitioned to industry wide advocacy, where it remains today.

Today, CEA is the national voice for safe, reliable and sustainable electricity, promoting it as an indispensable driver of Canada's social and economic prosperity. Over the last 125 years the Association has evolved, but it has remained true to its founding principles of innovation and collaboration.

Electricity has powered Canadian ideas and idealism for a century and a quarter. As we set our sights to the next generation of challenges and opportunities – climate change, clean growth, broad based community engagement – clean Canadian electricity will remain critical to our shared future.

Hon. Sergio Marchi
President and CEO
Canadian Electricity Association

4 1873 – First arc lamp switched on in front of the Davis Hotel in Winnipeg.

Congratulations to the Canadian Electricity Association for 125 Years of Powering Progress

We look forward to partnering with CEA on the next century of innovation.

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ELECTRICITY IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE



In the 1880s, electricity brought light to Canada's streets. Today, it powers the cars that drive on them. In fact, electricity has powered nearly every major advancement in our country's history. In the process, it has become indispensable to our economic competitiveness and our quality of life.

The Canadian Electricity Association includes members from every province and two territories. These companies, along with manufacturers and suppliers, reliably generate, transmit and distribute the electricity that keeps the system on which Canadians rely every day running smoothly.

Member companies represent nearly every source of generation, from hydro to thermal and wind to nuclear. In fact, thanks in part to the innovation of Canada's utilities, more than

80% of Canadian electricity is greenhouse gas free. This makes Canadian electricity some of the cleanest in the world.

The first arc lamp was switched on in Winnipeg just six years after confederation. Since then, electricity has become an integral part of the very fabric of our nation, and during the next 125 years will power a clean and prosperous future for all Canadians.

Scott Thon
President and CEO
AltaLink

1883 — Hamilton becomes Canada's first city with an incandescent streetlight system.

5



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CANADA'S CLEAN GROWTH ADVANTAGE

Tomorrow's economy will be built on a solid foundation of clean, sustainable growth. Growth that will drive new technologies, increase productivity, and create good jobs for Canadians. With the signing of the Paris Agreement a year behind us, we must now move from the "poetry" of international summits, to the "prose" of concrete policy action.

Meeting our ambitious climate change targets is as much an economic challenge as it is an environmental one, particularly for resource-based economies such as ours. Canada's electricity sector operates at this nexus. With a generation mix that

is already over 80% greenhouse gas-free and climbing, Canadian electricity is among the cleanest in the world. It has remained a key driver of economic growth while reducing emissions by 30% since 2005, more than any other industrial sector in the country.

This is both an economic and environmental success story. One that we need to export to other higher-emitting sectors across North America. There are four key ways in which Canada can leverage this strategic asset to reduce emissions while growing the economy.

There are four key ways in which Canada can reduce emissions while growing the economy: Infrastructure, Innovation, Trade, and Electrification.



Photo courtesy of Brookfield Renewable



Photo courtesy of BC Hydro

INFRASTRUCTURE

Canada's electricity sector must invest \$350 billion over the next twenty years to renew our aging infrastructure. There's just no getting around it. This is a huge undertaking, but it is an equally huge opportunity.

We must build a smarter, stronger and more responsive electricity system. One capable of supporting new electricity uses; increasing responsiveness and storage capabilities; accommodating a two-way grid that Canadians can contribute to; and enabling new forms of energy generation, such as wind, solar and tidal. Today's energy companies are empowering customers with the tools and information they need to better manage their consumption, and consequently their bills.

As we move towards a more integrated future, we must build a power grid to support it. One that will power a rapidly-changing environment for years to come.

INNOVATION

Canadian companies are some of the most innovative and resourceful in the world. Canadian contributions, from art to science, have made impacts around the globe and benefited our economy in the process. But each and every success starts as an untested idea. It requires risk taking. If we are to find the next game-changing technology, Canadian electricity companies need a real-world 'sand box' in which technologies and innovations can be encouraged, tested and refined.

We need to ensure that our regulatory system matches our national ambition. We need to address the gaps between what rate-focused regulators allow utilities to do, and what governments are asking them to do, in an effort to reduce emissions, increase efficiency and make Canada a leader in the high-margin knowledge-economy.

TRADE

The Canadian and the U.S. grids are joined at more than 35 points, the first of which was established over 110 years ago. In 2015, Canada saw a C\$3.1 billion trade surplus after exporting over 68,500 gigawatt hours to the United States.

With the requirements of the U.S.'s Clean Power Plan and the new commitments taken by North America's three leaders in June, we are in a position to significantly grow that relationship. The half-dozen cross-border transmission projects already under development would increase Canadian energy exports by 50%. That's enough clean power to offset 28 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually.

But to make this happen we need to address trade barriers, streamline permitting processes, and better share information. This is already a win-win deal for Canada and the U.S., which will become a triple win as Mexico integrates into the North American electricity system.



Photo courtesy of Columbia Power

ELECTRIFICATION


Today, electricity powers only 20% of our industrial, commercial, residential and transportation activities. As a society, if we are to meet our ambitious climate targets, we must grow that number. To do so we need an electrification strategy. Transportation alone accounts for nearly a quarter of North American emissions, and represents an immense opportunity for electrification. By some

estimates, there could be as many as half a million electric vehicles on the road by 2018.

Full electrification of Canada's economy is not going to happen overnight. We must pursue a reasonable economic evolution, not revolution. Incremental shifts will allow energy companies to better understand the impacts, make adjustments and implement innovative solutions. We need to begin building a

system today that will serve Canada's economic needs of tomorrow.


Throughout our history, Canadians have never shied away from undertaking major projects. Be they the great railroads of the 19th century, the highway, seaway and national broadcast systems of the 20th, or the Canadian arm that extended mankind's reach out to space. We were able to accomplish these transformational ambitions because Canadians understood the importance of thinking ahead.

Today, we are again at one of those transformative moments. A moment to build something important. Something enduring. And to harness the power of Canadian electricity to build a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Canadians. 

8 1902 – The Shawinigan Electric Company built the largest generators and longest transmission lines in the world.

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ELECTRIFICATION OF THE NORTH



Photo courtesy of Yukon Energy

Canada suffers from significant energy inequality when it comes to our remote and northern communities.

Despite the enormous potential for clean energy, remote and northern communities still lack access to safe and reliable power. The vast majority rely on expensive, imported diesel-fuel for meeting their basic energy needs. The cost of electricity in many regions is estimated to be over 10 times higher per kilowatt-hour than the Canadian average.

In short, Canada suffers from significant energy inequality when it comes to our remote and northern communities. This is as much an economic issue as it is a social one. The lack of access to affordable power limits economic opportunities and stifles growth and prosperity.

One of many examples is the “Ring of Fire” mineral belt in northern Ontario.

Congratulations CEA
on 125 years of
SUCCESS

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**Canadian
Electricity
Association**



The absence of electricity infrastructure has hindered the economic case for mineral resource development in the region. Development that is welcomed by indigenous and northern communities and would create sustainable jobs, drive economic growth and reduce emissions by bringing clean energy solutions online.

If policy and technical barriers can be overcome, remote and northern communities are also ideal candidates for the deployment of renewable energy systems. New advancements in energy storage and distributed generation continue to open clean energy opportunities for these communities.

We need to ensure our remote and northern communities, specifically our Aboriginal communities, become partners in their own energy future. There already are nearly 100 electricity projects on Aboriginal lands, with an estimated capital expenditure of \$50B; and another 200 additional projects,

valued at between \$120 and \$140B, are in the pipeline.

CEA members already enjoy a multiplicity of local relationships with aboriginal communities across Canada. This is backstopped by a rich array of initiatives, from joint ventures to educational and skills training, and from community programs to environmental stewardship.

Studies show that if Aboriginal Peoples in Canada reach the same education and employment level as non-Indigenous people, Canada's GDP would increase by \$401 billion by 2026. By establishing permanent and mutually-beneficial relationships with Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, CEA and its members are committed to helping turn the "if" into "when".

That is one of the reasons why CEA members took the step of enshrining a set of six *National Principles for Engagement of Aboriginal Peoples*, which

will also guide our efforts with Aboriginal Peoples at the national level.

The future holds so much potential, but much more work is required. We must find ways of funding affordable energy solutions in the North. We need sustained support from governments at all three levels. We need regulators to allow energy providers to expand to northern areas despite lack of critical mass. In short, we must drastically alter the status quo.

Access to clean, safe and reliable electricity is a precursor for clean water, better education, improved health care, increased economic development, better employment and, ultimately, a better quality of life. We electrified our cities, then our rural communities, now it is time to complete the task and electrify the North to make sure that no Canadian is left behind in the transition to a cleaner, more prosperous future.



Photo courtesy of Northwest Territories Power Corporation.



Photo courtesy of Canadian Electricity Association board meeting, 1906.

AN ELECTRIC HISTORY

It would be nearly impossible to imagine a world without electricity. It is always there, literally at the flick of a switch.

It has been called the “great enabler” of modern society. From the first arc lamp, switched on outside the Davis hotel in Winnipeg in 1873, to the new Tesla model 3, which broke records for single week sales, electricity has been powering our lives for well over a century.

And Canada has been a leader in electric use and innovation since the beginning. In 1883, our Parliament were the first government buildings in the world to be furnished with incandescent lighting. Canada opened the world’s first radio station, perfected the telegraph, the telephone, the pacemaker and the electron microscope.

Today, Canada is a leader in clean energy, producing over 80% of our power GHG free. We remain at the forefront of innovation. For example, SaskPower is operating the world’s very first commercial-scale Carbon Capture and Storage Project; jointly, Capital Power and TransAlta were the first Canadian facilities to use supercritical combustion technology; Ontario Power Generation runs the largest 100 per cent biomass-fueled plant in North America; and the list goes on.

Electricity has powered Canada’s ambitions for over 125 years, and here is how...

NOTHING IS TOO VISIONARY

125 years ago, CEA was formed to encourage the science of electricity. In 1892, the first annual meeting was attended by sixty people. By 1911, CEA membership was at 500. Between 1920 and 1960, Canadian utilities were forced to double their grids 16-times over to meet growing demand. In 1906, Sir Adam Beck, Chairman of Ontario Hydro, described the industry by stating “Nothing is too visionary”.



Photo courtesy of CMC Electronics

ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

Electricity formed the foundation of our modern economy, and vaulted Canada to the forefront of innovation. In 1912, the Steel Company of Canada opened the world’s first all-electric steel mill, revolutionizing industry. A year later, Canada installed its first electric reversing mine hoist. At the tail end of the First World War, Canada launched the world’s first electrically welded ship.

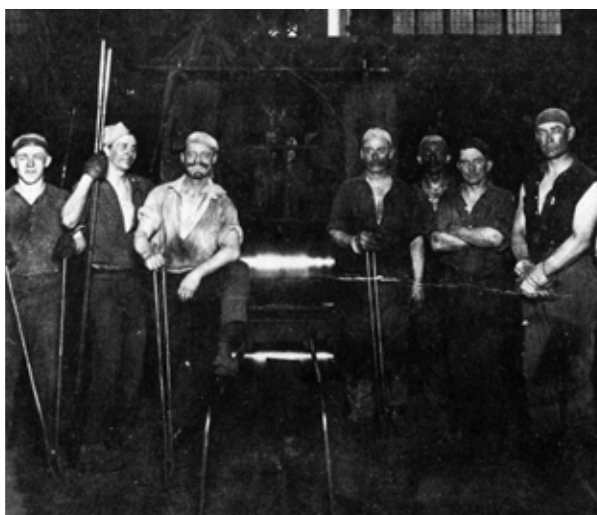
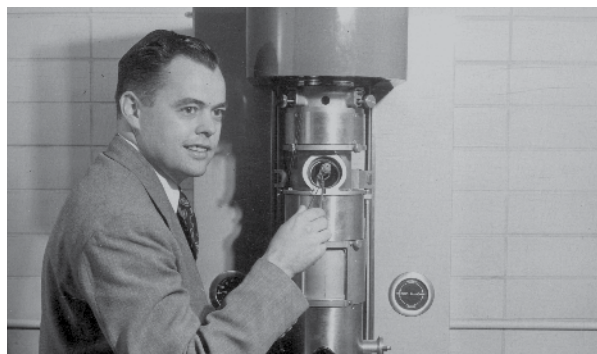


Photo courtesy of McMaster University, Labour Studies

POWERING THE NATIONAL DREAM

It took a mix of genius and electricity to really bring Canada into the modern age. In 1906 Canada opened its first movie theater in Montreal. The show was four minutes long. In 1919, the first radio station in the world opened in Montreal, broadcasting mostly recorded music over CFCF. By 1923, Canada harnessed the true power of radio - broadcasting of a professional hockey game in Regina.




Gilbert A. Milne, photographer; courtesy of the University of Toronto Archives.



Photo courtesy of York University Libraries, Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, Toronto Telegram fonds, ASC35601.

WORLD LEADERS

There is no limit to Canadian ingenuity when coupled with the power of electricity. In, 1924 the world’s first newspaper photo is transmitted by radio using a Canadian invention. Two Canadians invented the electron microscope in 1939. In 1951, Dr. John Hopps completed the world’s first pacemaker in Ontario. And in 1989 Canada opened the world’s first fully retractable roof over the Toronto Sky Dome. 

THE CELEBRATION OF 125 YEARS





It is those opportunities for the future, while paying homage to history, that have us coming together today.

— Hon. Sergio Marchi

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THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN ELECTRICITY



Electricity is a cost effective way to reduce emissions.

Canada's electricity sector will play a fundamental role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing a source of clean energy moving forward, says Sergio Marchi, the president and CEO of the Canadian Electricity Association.

Eighty per cent of the country's electricity sector is emissions free, making it one of the cleanest in the world, Marchi said at the CEA's 125th anniversary conference in Toronto.

But further decarbonizing the industry and increasing electrification will require time, significant investments in infrastructure and trade relations, and institutional reform, the conference heard during a panel discussion about the role of electricity in Canada's clean growth agenda.

Electricity is a cost effective way to reduce emissions, said Jatin Nathwani, the executive director of the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy.



One of the first steps towards further decarbonizing and expanding electricity is reworking institutions and rebuilding trust in them.

But Canada needs to make a dramatic shift away from its focus on provincial self-sufficiency when it comes to electricity to see the full potential of the industry, he said.

A major expansion of electricity trade between Canada and the U.S. also has potential to increase energy security and economic benefits, Nathwani said.

Trade is limited however by insufficient interconnections between jurisdictions, he said.

Better interconnections could also help overcome issues of intermittency associated with renewables like wind and solar, Nathwani said.

“Regional integration is key to making high level wind generation practical,” he said, noting Ontario could learn lessons from Denmark, which has significant connections to its neighbours.

Mike Cleland, a senior fellow with the University of Ottawa’s Positive Energy, said the transition to decarbonized electricity isn’t likely to happen quickly – he didn’t seem confident that Canada would meet its Paris commitments either.

One of the first steps towards further decarbonizing and expanding electricity is reworking institutions and rebuilding trust in them, Cleland said.

Work is needed, for instance, to clarify the role of local authorities including indigenous communities in shaping energy decisions, he said.

“We should have learned that people can upset the best laid plans of elites and we need to be mindful of the social contract that makes democracy work,” he said.

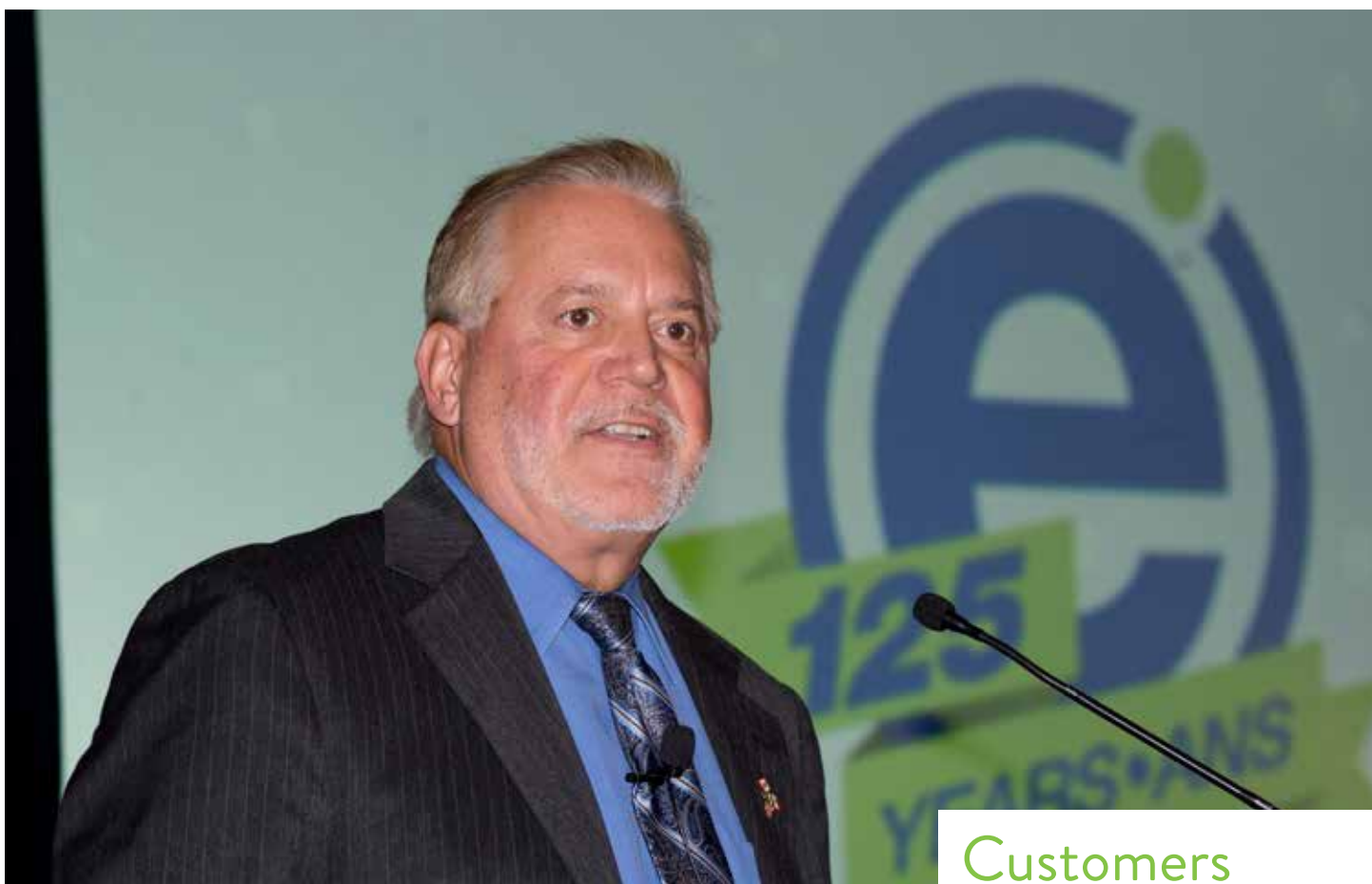
He hopes the federal government will follow through on its carbon pricing plans and noted that a price of \$50 a ton would be substantial.

“All in all we have a federal government which I think is going to prove to be pretty pragmatic and they will not act aggressively if it unduly affects our competitiveness,” he said.

But not acting can be costly as well, said Dave Sawyer, an environmental economist with EnviroEconomics Consulting. He warned that it will be more difficult to get moving later if Canada stalls just because an American government under Donald Trump is slow to take action on climate change.

– Ainslie Cruickshank

INTERCONNECTED: THE CANADA-U.S. ENERGY RELATIONSHIP



The world as we knew it hasn't ended with Donald Trump's election, said Gerry Cauley, the president and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

"In fact there may be some positives because the sense is there may be more opportunity to get some infrastructure done that we need in the electric system to meet our goals," Cauley said, speaking at the Canadian Electricity Association's 125th anniversary conference in Toronto.

"A robust, reliable and secure electricity system is essential to our national goals in the U.S. and Canada," he said, adding the U.S. public is still in favour of moving towards cleaner electricity sources.

These are all things the U.S. will continue to work towards under Trump's presidency, he said, during a panel discussion devoted to North American electricity integration.

Energy is the "lifeblood" of the economy, said Jayson Myers, the former president

Customers today aren't just looking for low cost solutions... they also want to control the source of electricity.



It's not just innovation around physical infrastructure that's needed, new ways of thinking about the business model are also important.

of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

It's also the "nervous system" facilitating the flow of information, he said.

But customers today aren't just looking for low cost solutions, immediate and reliable supply, they also want to control the source of electricity and that can impact the nature of demand, he said.

As governments are developing and implementing regulations and

pricing mechanisms they need to be conscious of supporting the electricity industry, ensuring they are providing an incentive for investments that improve productivity.

Those investments will also result in emissions decreases, he said.

Alongside investment, innovation is critical, said Lawrence Jones, the VP of international programs with the Edison Electric Institute.

Much of this innovation will come from utilities, it's not just innovation around physical infrastructure that's needed, new ways of thinking about the business model are also important, Jones said.

"We're not just looking at the cost of implementing known technologies, we're looking at a tremendous amount of uncertainty and risk and the optimal application of technologies going into the future," said Myers.

"This is a different type of investment that needs to be made and I think that carries an awful lot of risk on one hand,

a lot of uncertainty, but on the other hand tremendous opportunity to drive revenue," he said.

Cross-border innovation can help minimize risk but providing opportunities for sharing lessons learned.

There is some regional and cross-border innovation underway already but trust between the U.S. and Canada needs to be strengthened for integration to work, Myers said.

There's a lot of momentum, said Cauley.

"We aren't going to be able to get our respective countries where we need to without increased electrification," he said.

"I think there's a crossover point from where these are pilots, experimentation, dipping your toes into really just skyrocketing adoption," he said.

— Ainslie Cruickshank

POWERING ONTARIO: FROM THE MINISTER

Ontario's Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has challenged Canada's electricity sector to increase accessibility and reduce costs to ratepayers, an issue his government has repeatedly taken heat over.

Speaking at a dinner celebrating the Canadian Electricity Association's 125th anniversary, Thibeault highlighted some of his government's successes – closing Ontario's coal plants, rebuilding more than 15,000 km of aging power lines, and refurbishing nuclear power plants to ensure an abundant supply of emissions-free power.

"Our system continues to transform for the better and I know that our future holds great opportunity," Thibeault said.

"As we plan for the future we need to continue to focus not simply on innovation but how that innovation can improve access to clean energy from coast to coast to coast," he said.

Coming from northern Ontario, Thibeault said he knows energy access isn't equal.

"We have an opportunity, more than that I believe it's an obligation, to ensure that Canada's electricity systems are accessible for everyone that they all have access to energy," he said.

Across Canada there are remote indigenous communities who aren't connected to the energy grid and still rely on diesel generation, he said.

"In 2016, in a nation as wealthy as ours this



simply cannot continue to be the case," he said, to applause from the crowd.

Governments across the country are working together on a new Canadian energy strategy and he's hopeful the federal government will bring resources to the table to help connect northwestern Ontario communities to the grid.

While the provinces and federal government won't always agree, there's a positive tone of collaboration, he said.

In Ontario affordable access for families is still an issue, the minister said.

Hydro rates are a major concern in the province and while Thibeault challenged the industry to help address it, he said his government is also taking action.

Starting in January, the government will provide rebates of an amount equal to the provincial portion of the harmonized sales tax, and for rural customers they are updating the Rural or Remote Electricity

Rate Protection, which will result in an average reduction of about 20 per cent off average electricity distribution costs for eligible consumers, Thibeault said.

Following the advice of Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, the government decided to defer the second phase of its large renewable procurement of 1,000 MW.

Long-term contracts may also be a thing of the past, said Thibeault, noting his government is learning from other jurisdictions.

Ontario's next long-term energy plan will look at the province's needs from a broad perspective and how to deliver savings for Ontario ratepayers, he said.

Ontario is a leader in so many ways, Thibeault said, but both government and industry need to look forward to what the next accomplishments will be, he said.

– Ainslie Cruickshank

ENERGY IN A POST-TRUMP WORLD



Former U.S. Congressman Bill Owens had to re-write his speech for the Canadian Electricity Association's 125th anniversary when Donald Trump won the presidential election.

It wasn't a result he'd expected, but it could have big implications for Canadian trade, he said.

Trump's plan for his first 200 days includes taking a look at the North American Free Trade Agreement and it appears he's targeting Canadian issues like softwood lumber and livestock, Owens said.

"Those are issues that surprised me and I think surprised most people who follow this in some detail," he said.

Trump won't be able to reopen NAFTA without pushback from big business, Owens said.

It will be a difficult process to implement, he said, adding that he expects Trump's first 200 days in office will be filled with plenty of bumps in the road.

"He will find it difficult to take action," he said.

The vast majority of Americans don't understand the U.S. trade relationship with Canada and that can lead to negative feelings about it, he said.

Most Americans would guess the United States' largest trading partners were Britain, France, or maybe China, but not Canada, he said.

They don't know some of their products or electricity come from north of the border, Owens said.

If NAFTA were to come up for a vote, it will be important for Canadian politicians

and business leaders to meet with Congressional representatives and let them know how many people in their districts are employed by Canadian companies, he said.

Trump campaigned saying he was going to make America great again and bring back jobs, said Owens, formerly a Democrat representing a district in upstate New York.

But no one pushed him on it, and those low-skilled, heavy manpower jobs aren't coming back, he said.

If jobs do come back it will be in robotics and require fewer people, it won't be an environment where 5,000 people are put to work in a GM plant, he said.

Across the world "we're moving into an environment that is certainly right of centre, but is also very anti-globalization and very anti-trade and how you move that ball back towards the centre is a problem that we're going to be faced with as communities over the next four to possibly 10 years."

"What we've learned if anything from this election is that in fact the possibilities of bad outcomes are endless"

— Ainslie Cruickshank

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sustainable development is crucial to ensuring a prosperous future for all Canadians, it is also a mandatory part of CEA membership. Every day, CEA member companies balance environmental, social and economic goals to deliver safe, clean and reliable electricity.

On the environmental front, the electricity sector leads every other industrial sector in Canada. With a 30% reduction in GHG's since 2005, Canada already produces some of the cleanest electricity in the world. More broadly, CEA members continue to reduce adverse environmental impacts through emission abatement technologies, renewable energy sources, ecosystem management, and enhanced environmental management practices.

CEA members are as committed to our social environment, especially as new technology and greater awareness help

customers move from passive players to active energy partners. Engaging directly and transparently with Aboriginal Peoples and stakeholders, helps ensure CEA members have a positive social impact and create and benefit from meaningful engagement and the resulting social license.

Despite major GHG reductions and increased community engagement, Canada's electricity sector continues to be a key driver of Canada's economy. Providing businesses and households with the reliable power they need to work, study, and play every single day.

CEA members will continue to ensure that Canada remains at the forefront of sustainable practices. Building a solid foundation of clean, reliable power from which we can build a prosperous future.


MEMBER PROFILE: NEIL FREEMAN



Photo courtesy of Horizon Utilities

Every year CEA recognizes leaders in the field of sustainability through our Sustainable Electricity Awards. This year, CEA was proud to present its first ever award for individual achievement to Neil Freeman, Vice President of Business Development and Corporate Relations at CEA member company Horizon Utilities Inc.

Neil has always passionately campaigned for a broader acceptance of sustainability as a pillar of electricity planning. At Horizon Utilities, Neil used a three-stage approach to sustainability, getting the company's operations on a sustainable path; reorienting operations to promote customer sustainability; and, finally ensuring Horizon contributed community sustainability.

As a result of his tireless dedication to Horizon Utilities' broader sustainable development impact, Neil helped integrate community level approaches to energy use, to decrease energy use by individual customers, and increase the energy efficiency benefits for their community. 



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CEA LIFESAVING AWARDS



*Nova Scotia Power Lifesavers (L-R):
Regional Planner Robert Kelsey, Powerline Technicians Steven Doucette, Scott Eisener (lead) and Ben Robicheau*

Nova Scotia Power Employees Win CEA Lifesaving Award for Heroic Act.

Powerline Technicians Steven Doucette, Scott Eisener and Ben Robicheau, along with Regional Planner Robert Kelsey, were responding to power outages during a late January storm. As a crew for Nova Scotia Power, the four men were accustomed to heading out into weather that most would rather avoid to get people's lights on and heat flowing again.

After clearing a tree that brought down a powerline across a resident's driveway, Powerline Technician

Doucette approached the house to let the homeowners know they would be working to restore their power. An elderly woman answered the door. She did not look well so Doucette asked if she was alright. The woman told him that neither she nor her husband were feeling well. Doucette asked if the couple were running a generator. The woman said no, and assured him they would be fine.

Doucette rejoined his team members, Regional Planner Robert Kelsey, Lead

“My gut instinct was that something wasn’t right...”


Powerline Technician Scott Eisener and Powerline Technician Ben Robicheau, and commented that they should help the elderly couple by arranging to have someone plow out their driveway.

Something about the situation nagged at Doucette, and prompted him to go back to check on the couple again. As he did, he saw the woman drop to the floor while approaching the door. When Doucette gained entry, he found her husband unconscious on the living room.

The First Aid training Doucette and his coworkers received through Nova Scotia Power automatically kicked in. Suspecting carbon monoxide poisoning, Doucette threw open the doors and windows and called for his colleagues.

He then contacted emergency services while Robicheau and Kelsey tended to the couple. Meanwhile, Eisener, who happens to live across the street, plowed out the driveway so the ambulance could gain entry.

It turns out they did have a generator running in the basement that morning. Although it had a pipe running exhaust fumes from the generator to outside the house, it’s believe to have become disconnected.

Doucette remarked that “it worked out well in the end, we all did our part”, but it is not an experience that he wants to repeat. There is one fortunate couple who would surely agree. 

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