



May 13, 2015

A Note from Bob Waddell, Chair, CanSIA Board of Directors



Good morning!

I was very involved with the preparation of CanSIA's five-year planning document, "[*Roadmap 2020: Powering Canada's Future with Solar Electricity*](#)" in December 2014.

The industry's sleeves will have to stay rolled-up if we are to achieve the 2020 goals laid-out therein: solar being a mainstream energy source and an integral part of Canada's diversified electricity mix; and for the solar electricity industry will be sustainable, with no direct subsidies, and operating in a supportive and stable policy and regulatory environment that recognizes the true value of solar.

Since becoming Chair of CanSIA's Board of Directors in January 2015, much of the Board's focus has been re-envisioning CanSIA's business model to empower the Association to deliver on these goals. The introduction of CanSIA's new Strategic Projects as part of the 2015-2016 Membership year is a large part of how we intend to do this.

Many CanSIA members want to play an active role in shaping the business environment for solar in Canada. The new Strategic Projects, which are designed to align with and leverage your company's strategic objectives, will help members do just that. These projects will be funded and driven by CanSIA Members and will help develop a robust Canadian solar industry in which to grow your solar business. To learn more about the 2015/2016 CanSIA Membership year and how you can become involved with Strategic Projects, visit www.cansia.ca/membership.

Please read on for some other policy, regulatory and market updates from the CanSIA Executive Team:

- [Introduction of Strategic Projects for 2015/2016](#)

- [Rachel Notley's NDP wins majority in Alberta](#)
- [Action on FIT 4 Draft Documents and Procurement Schedules](#)
- [The time has come for Solar plus Storage...](#)
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Kindest regards,

Bob Waddell

Chair, CanSIA Board of Directors

Strategic Projects for 2015/2016

CanSIA knows that many of its members want to play an active role in shaping the business environment for solar in Canada. To that end, CanSIA is creating new Strategic Projects for members which are designed to align with and leverage your company's strategic objectives.

These projects will be funded and steered by CanSIA members and will help develop a robust Canadian solar industry in which to grow your solar business. CanSIA's 2015-2016 Strategic Projects are as follows:

- [Federal Solar Campaign](#)
- [Campaign to Open Canadian Markets](#)
- [Ontario Solar Electricity Distributed Generation Task Force](#)
- [Ontario Solar Climate Change Initiative](#)

Full descriptions of CanSIA's 2015-2016 Strategic Projects can be found at www.cansia.ca/strategicprojects.





Rachel Notley's NDP wins majority in Alberta

With no detail in their party platform on renewables, but much conversation about what the Alberta NDP win will signal for the oil and gas sector, there is strong [hope that there will be a greater appetite for renewables under the NDP](#). The Alberta NDP's environmental platform (5.10) included plans to "phase out coal-fired electricity generation to reduce smog and greenhouse gas emissions and expand cleaner, greener sources, including wind and solar and more industrial co-generation in the oil sands, all of which will improve both the environment and the health of Albertans." Their stance on climate change (5.13) also leaned on a future commitment to renewable energy projects, with a promise to "take leadership on the issue of climate change and make sure Alberta is part of crafting solutions with stakeholders, other provinces and the federal government. First steps will include an energy efficiency strategy and a renewable energy strategy." CanSIA has been working for some time to build our profile as a trusted advisor for the staff at Alberta Energy and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. As the transition team and cabinet are appointed, the next several months will be an extremely important time to ensure that solar finally earns its meaningful role in Alberta's energy mix.

"The province has the potential to be a leader in renewable energy, new products based on hydrocarbons and environmental stewardship. In these, Alberta's economy will find its elusive diversity that will provide prosperity for generations to come." - Todd Hirsch, chief economist, ATB Financial, The Globe and Mail April 10, 2015, as quoted in the Alberta NDP official platform

Action on FIT 4.0 Draft Documents and Procurement Schedules

The IESO has provided its draft FIT 4.0 procurement schedule as well as draft FIT 4.0 Program Rules and Contract documents, and hosted a webinar on May 4, 2015 (materials can be viewed [on the IESO website](#)). Their proposed design and implementation of the program, as currently presented, includes several elements which are not appropriate and regress on past progress. CanSIA has begun to express deep concern, and is engaging with lead decision-makers on issues including the proposed 9-month application review period, the lack of visibility into the Pricing Schedule against which the Contract Price Reduction Priority Points would be applied and the Voluntary Termination clause. A formal submission will be made in advance of the consultation deadline of May 14th. In addition to submitting formal comments through the IESO's process, we are actively engaging with key decision-makers to implement a successful resolution for the final rules and contract which are scheduled to be posted later this month.

The time has come for solar plus storage...

...that's the position that CanSIA, President & CEO John Gorman took at the 14th Annual Ontario Power Summit this week. The conference for senior executives in Ontario's energy sector looked

at the future of nuclear power, power system challenges and transmission and distribution in light of both technological innovation and the implementation of the direction for the sector proposed by the Premier's Advisory Council. For further information, [John's presentation may be viewed online](#) and a recent report by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council entitled "[Deploying Distributed Energy Storage: Near-term Regulatory Considerations to Maximize Benefits](#)" makes for a good read.

All this comes at a time when there has never been more media attention on solar plus storage since Tesla Motors' CEO Elon Musk unveiled his company's much-anticipated entry into the home and utility energy storage market the Tesla "[Powerwall](#)".



The Globe and Mail has covered the story [here](#) and [here](#).



CanSIA President and CEO Attends 45th ExCo Paris Meeting

John Gorman, CanSIA President and CEO, attended the 45th IEA PVPS ExCo Meeting last week in Paris, France as the representative of Canada. "Participation in this committee gives CanSIA access to a network of industry experts across the world who are each in various stages of tackling many of the same issues in our shared goal of making solar a mainstream electricity source" said Gorman.

For an example of the committee's output, read the "[Trends 2014 in Photovoltaic Applications](#)" market intelligence report.

Federal Political Scan and the 2015 Election

The House of Commons is sitting for only another five weeks until the summer break. With Canada's fixed-date election law, there is a high likelihood that the election will be called for just after Labour Day for October 19. This [political scan prepared by Earncliffe](#) for CanSIA provides an overview of the key dynamics that will be shaping the federal political dialogue during that time.

**Solar Advocacy
Queen's Park Day**

**Solar Ontario 2015 Program
Highlights**



On May 25 2015, CanSIA and representatives of our Membership will be convening at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen's Park, Toronto) for a [solar advocacy day](#).

Throughout this day, participants will be representing CanSIA and the solar energy industry and presenting recommendations and messaging related to **the opportunity and need to continue to advance the role of solar energy in Ontario's energy-mix** to Politicians, Staff and Key Bureaucrats.

Each participant will have the opportunity to socialize during the **breakfast reception** and to attend **Question Period** where CanSIA will be formally introduced. [Learn more.](#)



[Solar Ontario](#) is a vital meeting point for the solar community. This year's event has expanded to two full days - providing **deeper insights and perspectives, more education, and more networking opportunities.**

Solar Ontario participants represent the entire value chain of Ontario's solar industry. The full range of industry professionals, policy makers, and stakeholders will be on hand to discuss the key factors that will affect future business opportunities for the solar sector in Ontario.

Explore the latest policies, market trends, and technology affecting the solar energy industry in Ontario with this year's [conference program](#).

Edmonton endorses new Energy Plan

Edmonton City Councillors unanimously [endorsed an energy plan](#) designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and save residents \$2.5 billion. The policy, which will be fleshed out with input from a community advisory panel, is designed to boost energy efficiency while weaning individuals and companies off fossil fuels. By 2035, this should spur such changes as more locally generated power, additional solar panels and larger numbers of electric vehicles, Mayor Don Iveson said.



[Join CanSIA](#) as a member to increase your access to policy forums, working groups, market research and policy advocacy events.

Join or renew for the 2015/2016 membership period by May 31st and receive **10% off your annual fee.**



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