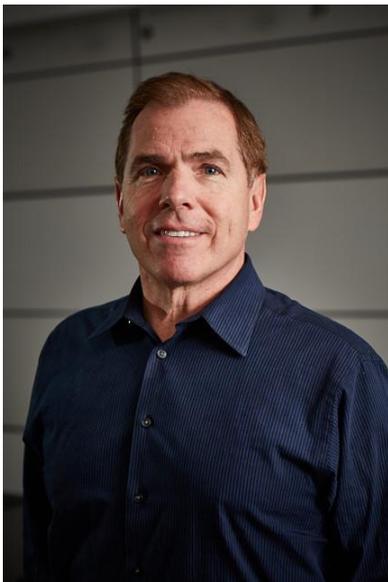




*Do you value these solar industry updates? Help your network stay up-to-date by forwarding them this email, and asking them to [subscribe to our newsletter](#). Archived versions can also be [accessed online](#).*

**August 20, 2015**

## A Note from Jon Kieran, CanSIA Board Member



Good morning,

The rapid evolution of CanSIA - member focused, market driven, agile and proactive - continues!

The association is making critical changes in its organization, staffing and work processes to ensure members get superior value for their investment of time and money. Responsiveness is key! CanSIA has recently added three senior contributors: a Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs; a Director of Member Relations & Communications; and, a Business Development & Member Relations Manager.

These professionals significantly enhance CanSIA's existing team, and will ensure that the Canadian industry has the staff support it needs to grow Canada's solar market potential. With the introduction of CanSIA's Strategic Projects, which allows the membership to fund and participate in the activities they value the most, the association is now better resourced than ever before.

The CanSIA Executive Team is now turning its attention to optimizing membership collaboration and advocacy. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm pleased to introduce you to CanSIA's new Networks, which will soon replace the Caucus/Working Group approach we've used for the past five years. Two Networks that are sure to interest you are:

***The CanSIA Policy & Market Development Network is a group of solar industry policy and***

*business development professionals who collaborate, share knowledge and manage issues for the solar industry to pursue opportunities for market growth. The Network's scope includes: energy and environmental policy development; electricity markets and supply-mix planning; procurement design and implementation.*

**The CanSIA Utility & Regulatory Affairs Network** comprises a separate group in our industry with the same commitment for collaboration, knowledge sharing and issues management, who will work together on: distributed-generation program design and implementation; rate design and the evolving utility business model; best practices for interconnection; and, technological advances at the grid-edge (including storage).

By participating in these Networks you will do more than stay abreast of the key policy and regulatory affairs in the solar sector - you can have a say in how the industry moves forward. This is a unique and exciting way to ensure that CanSIA members are squarely engaged in market, policy, regulatory and technical development.

CanSIA Members will be receiving further information in the coming month about how the transition from Caucuses to Networks will unfold. The future for solar has never looked brighter in Canada, and I look forward to tackling challenges/seizing opportunities - head-on - through this enhanced Networks process!

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

**Policy & Market Development:**

1. [Alberta Announces Climate Change Panel, CanSIA and CanWEA Join Forces to Develop Joint Renewable Electricity Policy Proposal](#)
2. [CanSIA's Ontario Solar Climate Change \(OSCCI\) Initiative Kicks Off](#)
3. [What Could the Future Role of Distributed and Utility-Scale and Storage Assets be in Alberta?](#)
4. [Ontario's IESO Reviews Contract Pricing for microFIT and FIT Contracts Issued in 2016](#)
5. [IESO Clarifies its Position on Redirection of microFIT Settlement Payments](#)

**Utilities & Regulatory Affairs:**

1. [CanSIA hosts NB Power for Solar Site-Visits and Roundtable Discussions](#)
2. [CanSIA Steps Up Participation in OEB Regulatory Processes](#)

Kindest regards,

Jon Kieran  
CanSIA,

Board

Member

## Policy & Market Development

### Alberta Announces Climate Change Panel, CanSIA and CanWEA Join Forces to Develop Joint Renewable Electricity Policy Proposal

The Government of Alberta have announced its Climate Change Panel who will consult with Albertans on how the province can do its part to address the global issue of climate change. The panel will be chaired by Dr. Andrew Leach, Associate Professor and Academic Director of Energy Programs, University of Alberta School of Business and will present their recommendations in early November. CanSIA and CanWEA have announced a partnership to work collaboratively to develop a common set of policy recommendations to the Panel and Government of Alberta for the advancement of renewable electricity in the province. The first step will be facilitated workshops with representatives of both the solar and wind energy sectors in advance of participation in the Pembina Institute's Climate Summit in Edmonton on September 9th which will feature speakers from the Government of Alberta, industry and civil society in a variety of engaging formats to provide a rich, informative conversation during the height of the province's climate change consultation process. CanSIA Campaign to Open Canadian Markets (OCM) participants and Members should expect to see policy proposals for comment during the month of September.



### CanSIA's Ontario Solar Climate Change Initiative (OSCCI) Kicks Off

CanSIA staff and participating members held the first meeting of the Ontario Solar Climate Change Initiative (OSCCI) on August 12, 2015. One of CanSIA's Strategic Projects for 2015-2016, the OSCCI will focus on engaging with government and external stakeholders with the goal of shaping Ontario's upcoming climate change policy to recognize the value that solar can bring to the various pieces of the Climate Change Action Plan and Strategy ([Video recordings of Premier Wynne, Minister Glen Murray, and other high profile figures are now available from the recent Climate Summit of the Americas](#)).

A draft terms of reference is currently being developed which will be used by participating members to decide on the best strategy for engagement, as well as on what research needs to be conducted to best position CanSIA to make recommendations on policy and implementation. Climate change policy objectives may form the basis for many of the government policy and

regulatory decisions moving forward. Capturing the zero emission profile of solar generation, and solar thermal heating, within these decisions will be a key focus of the OSCCI. This will especially be the case as the province looks toward the next iteration of the Long Term Energy Plan in 2016 and the [IESO signals that there may be a capacity deficit in summer peaking resources beginning in 2020](#). For those members interested in helping set the agenda for this important initiative, now is the time to get involved. [The initial Strategic Project Brief for the OSCCI is available here](#).

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## What Could the Future Role of Distributed and Utility-Scale and Storage Assets be in Alberta?

There has been significant economic and political change in Alberta since Solar West 2014. Solar price curves have also taken another step toward significant market-entry in Alberta. As Alberta looks to renewable energy to accelerate emissions displacement in its electricity sector, the Alberta Electric System Operator is currently updating its annual Long-Term Outlook that analyses the province's potential future electricity supply and demand. Solar West 2015 in Calgary October 7 - 9 will feature Nicole LeBlanc is the Director of Analytics & Forecasting at AESO where she has worked in a variety of roles since 2006. In Ms LeBlanc's present role she is responsible for directing all forecasting and analytics, supporting market design, policy implementation and long-term planning. Prior to joining AESO, Ms LeBlanc worked with the Canadian Energy Research Institute and attained a Masters degree in Economics and a Bachelors degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Calgary. Ms LeBlanc will speak to how AESO is adapting to policy, economy & technology change in long-term forecasting by answering questions including:



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- How are Alberta's electricity needs changing due to emissions reductions, coal phase-out and economic activity?
- How do load curves vary regionally in Alberta and where would solar and storage assets bring most system benefit?
- What are the variables being analysed that would give rise to the most solar market activity in the province?
- What would the implications for system planning be if this scenario became reality?

Register for Solar West 2015 today: [www.solarwestconference.ca](http://www.solarwestconference.ca)

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## Ontario's IESO Reviews Contract Pricing for microFIT and FIT Contracts Issued in 2016

Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is analysing market trends and data for the annual Price Schedule Review to determine what the rates (\$/kWh) should be for FIT and

microFIT contracts issued in 2016.

CanSIA continues to support the principal of Price Schedule digression at a rate consistent with the ability of the sector to deliver quality and safe generation assets. [CanSIA conducted detailed analysis which focused on the impact of exchange rates and interconnection costs on the costs of solar development in Ontario.](#) Results showed that while the real cost of solar has continued to drop globally, the temporary devaluation of the Canadian Dollar vis a vis the US Dollar, coupled with increasing connection costs due to SCADA and transfer trip requirements, have balanced out the global cost decreases in Ontario. Due to these factors, and continued programmatic based soft costs (such as the prohibition of businesses from owning microFIT Contracts and Contract Capacity Set-Asides in the FIT Program) CanSIA has recommended that the IESO maintain the current solar prices in the Price Schedule. Members should also review the recent [Laurence Berkley National Laboratory study](#) on residential and commercial system costs in the US as a comparison to Canadian installed costs.

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## IESO Clarifies its Position on Redirection of microFIT Settlement Payments

On June 11, 2015 the IESO released a communication to microFIT Contract holders (Suppliers) which specified that microFIT version 2 and 3 Contracts prohibited the assignment of generation settlement rights. This communication created a significant amount of confusion within the microFIT industry as to the permissibility of redirections of settlement payments and caused some LDCs to change their policies and prohibit redirections. CanSIA engaged quickly with the Ministry of Energy and the IESO after this communication was released in order to clarify the IESO's intent and to ensure that the Ministry and IESO understood the practical impacts this communication was having on LDCs, Suppliers and solar providers.



Redirection of settlement payments is a key business practice for solar providers in Ontario and it has allowed a significant increase in uptake of residential solar systems over the past year and a half. Obtaining clarity on the permissibility of this practice was essential to facilitating this business and to ensure that this success can be built upon moving forward.

After significant consultation, the IESO has released a set of clarifying FAQs on the microFIT website which specifies two things: (1) that redirections do not necessarily constitute an assignment of settlement rights (i.e. under certain conditions a redirection of settlement payments could be permissible by the microFIT Contract), and (2) that enforcement of contractual provisions is the responsibility of the IESO, not LDCs. These FAQs are numbers [34 and 35 in the "FAQs for Contract Holders" section of the IESO's microFIT website](#). Additionally, the IESO has provided a toll-free number in the FAQs for Suppliers to contact the IESO should they have additional questions.

### CanSIA Hosts NB Power for Solar Site-Visits and Roundtable Discussions



New Brunswick's energy and climate change policies are positioning the province to take a leadership role and enabling NB Power to become the utility of the future.

The province's Renewable Portfolio Standard [mandates a minimum of 40 percent of NB Power's in-province sales to be renewable by 2020](#) and the [Climate Action Plan 2014 - 2020](#) sets out additional key action areas for the province's electricity system to become more resilient. NB Power is building upon its [10-year partnership with Siemens Canada to integrate Smart Grid technology into the province's electrical system](#) and the completion of a [pilot project funded by the Federal Clean Energy Fund which sought to control load and allow utilities](#) to better understand how customers will react to smart grid to now assess the role of solar for the province.

To assist NB Power to understand the potential that solar presents to the province, CanSIA hosted a delegation of several representatives of NB power for visit to Celestica's solar module manufacturing facility, a 10 MW solar farm and a 150 kW commercial rooftop and for roundtable discussions with a selection of CanSIA Members where topics discussed included pre-construction site conditions, site selection and pre-COD timelines for ground-mounted solar farms in addition to typical design configurations and the value and benefits of distributed generation. CanSIA's Campaign to Open Canadian Markets (OCM) will be reviewing policy developments in the province and making representations to the provincial government thereon in the coming months.

## Invitation to Participate in a Background Webinar on Ontario's Net Metering/Self-Consumption Program Concept Proposal

Ontario's 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan committed to examine the potential for the microFIT program to transition from a generation purchasing program to a net metering program. The Ministry of Energy has now developed a program concept proposal for a net metering/self-consumption program.

You are invited to a background webinar on August 27, 2015 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (EST) on this program concept proposal. The background webinar will also outline the Ministry's phased engagement plan.

Please register [here](#).

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## CanSIA Steps Up Participation in OEB Regulatory Processes

Engagement with the Ontario Energy Board and the electricity regulatory process is an important piece of the puzzle to ensuring that the solar industry is well represented within the sector. CanSIA has already begun to step up this aspect of our work with our participation in the rate design process for residential electricity consumers (EB-2012-0410). The Draft Board Report and Final Board Policy Paper are available on the [OEB's website](#). The [CanSIA submission into this process is available here](#).



Ontario Energy Board

CanSIA has also begun engagement on the OEB's next phase of rate design dealing with commercial and industrial electricity consumers which kicked off on May 28, 2015. It will be important to ensure that the solar industry's issues and concerns are brought forward to the OEB so they can be considered in the draft and final rate design proposals for this customer class. Beginning with a scoping session with Board staff in late August, CanSIA will work towards proposing a board policy on rate design that takes account of the value that distributed solar generation can offer directly to electricity consumers as well as to the distribution and transmission systems, and to LDCs. For those members interested in the policy and issues documents released by the OEB on this issue, please [consult the OEB website](#) for this process.

CanSIA has also been invited to participate in the OEB's upcoming Energy Leaders Sector Forum for 2015. The theme of the forum will be "Harnessing Innovation to Meet Customer Needs" and will focus on an exploration of the changes envisioned to occur in how consumer engage with energy and the identification of how innovation can promote meaningful change within the Ontario energy sector to deliver benefits to customers. These are topics which are integral to the evolution of solar within the Ontario market. As CanSIA explores the future of the distributed solar generation through the Distributed Generation Task Force and the Ministry of Energy's Net Metering and Self Consumption Advisory Working Group, tying in the regulatory impact on this evolution will help translate policy recommendations into firm actionable results.

## Stories We Are Following

- [Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum results posted](#)
- [With This Airbnb For Energy, Now You Can Buy Solar Power From Your Neighbor](#)
- [British Columbians invited to review discussion paper that considers priorities for new climate action plan](#)
- [Two Numbers: Solar Energy's Price Drop, Ahead of Schedule, Could Help Save the Planet](#)
- [Tesla CTO: Batteries + Solar Will Lead to Cheap Electricity Within 10 Years](#)
- [Oxford County becomes first Ontario municipality to set 100% renewable energy target](#)
- [Going green: Does Ontario's energy shift have power to sustain?](#)
- [Provincial & Territorial Ministers Working Together to Reduce Use of Diesel for Electricity in Remote Communities](#)
- [Global Green Growth Institute and UNIDO launch green growth report to support clean energy investments and jobs](#)
- [Canada's SkyPower pushes India solar price to new low](#)
- [Canada Ranks as the top country for LEED green building for second year in a row](#)
- [Alberta minister says incentives may be possible for oil patch firms](#)
- [US Clean Power Plan Could Include Carbon Trading](#)
- [Climate Change And President Obama's Action Plan](#)
- [Obama: Power plant limits most important step U.S. has taken to combat climate change](#)
- [Climate change: Obama unveils Clean Power Plan](#)
- [Canadian Solar Completes Construction on 100 MW AC Utility-Scale Solar Farm in Ontario - Canada's largest Solar PV farm energized](#)
- [Kimberly's SunMine now operational - BC's first grid-connected solar facility and Canada's largest using solar trackers](#)
- [Photovoltaic Prices Drop for 5th Straight Year](#)
- [SunEdison, Goldman Agree to Form \\$1 Billion Clean-Power Fund](#)

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

Contact Lisa Hatina ([lhatina@cansia.ca](mailto:lhatina@cansia.ca)), Business Development and Member Relations Manager to learn more about the significant opportunities and benefits that CanSIA members receive, can participate in and support in our three core service areas:

- Policy and Advocacy;
- Industry Capacity Development; and,
- Profile Building and Networking.



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