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November 17, 2015

A Note from Lou Hood, CanSIA Director of Member Relations & Communications



Good morning,

CanSIA's annual national conference and exposition, Solar Canada 2015, is now less than three weeks away.

As a communications professional with years of experience in the electrical utility sector and who was recently trained as a Climate Reality Leader by Al Gore, I could not be more excited to see how the announcements in advance of and during COP 21 in Paris shape the dialogue at this year's conference around the growing role of solar in Canada's energy future.

Will Prime Minister Trudeau move on renewables in Budget 2016? Which province will phase out coal next and how fast? How will carbon pricing be handled in Canada's various jurisdictions and will environmental attributes be monetized effectively? How much solar will grid modernization, micro-grids and storage enable and where will the investment in electricity infrastructure come from? These are all questions that will frame the dialogue at this year's event. I for one can't wait.

Policy announcements are just the beginning, and 2016 will be another year of dynamic responsiveness and fast growth. I'm looking forward to spending time with all of you in December as we gather and reflect on the past and look to the future together.

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

Policy & Market Development:

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2. [All Eyes on Alberta as Coal Phase-Out and Renewables Announcement Forthcoming](#)
3. [Ontario Releases White Paper on Province's Cap & Trade Regulation](#)
4. [Profiling Market Transformation in Ontario](#)
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Utilities & Regulatory Affairs:

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Kindest regards,

Lou Hood
CanSIA, Director of Member Relations & Communications

CanSIA Networks and Forums Reminder to Register

CanSIA is pleased to announce the introduction of our new Networks and Forums platform, which will replace the Caucus/Working Group model we've used for the past five years. The Networks and Forums will optimize member resources when engaging and collaborating with CanSIA while providing members with a new avenue for accessing research, analytics, and updates from the executive team. Our new structure will also serve to maximize our advocacy impact through stronger cooperation and interaction. To learn more, we encourage you to [register for CanSIA's inaugural Networks webinar scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 2:00 PM \(ET\)](#).

Federal Mandate Letters Emphasize Importance of Clean Energy and Tackling Climate Change



Prime Minister Justin [Trudeau has issued ministerial mandate letters to the thirty members of his Cabinet](#), providing direction on the approach his government will take and issuing clear expectations for each minister. The letters to all ministers made clear that climate change is a key challenge the government will tackle. Notably, progress on climate action, clean energy innovation and deployment featured extensively in the mandate letters of many ministers—including Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion's letter cites development of a North American clean energy and environment agreement as a key priority, as well as "making Canada a leader of international efforts to combat climate change." Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains and Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr are also heavily invested in the climate file, charged with investing in clean technology producers and supporting innovation in clean tech. Minister Carr has also been asked to "modernize the National Energy Board" and support the North American clean energy agreement and to work with Finance Minister Bill Morneau and the provinces and territories to "make Canada the world's most competitive tax jurisdiction" for investment in clean technology. Environment Minister Catherine McKenna is asked to provide leadership on reducing emissions, combating climate change and pricing carbon.

CanSIA will be meeting with officials at Natural Resources Canada later this month and are in the process of scoping and developing a work-plan for a strategic project focused at the federal level for 2016.

All Eyes on Alberta as Coal Phase-Out and Renewables Announcement Forthcoming

Alberta produces about one-third of Canada's total GHG emissions (267 Mt), projected to grow to 294 Mt by the end of the decade. Provincial figures indicate electricity production was responsible for 17% of Alberta's emissions in 2013, with coal-fired plants making up 85% of emissions from the power sector. So it should come as no surprise that all eyes are on Alberta, as [Premier Notley considers the final report of the Alberta Climate Change Advisory Panel to develop new policy to deliver on her campaign platform pledged to "phase out coal-fired electricity generation to reduce smog and greenhouse gas emissions and expand](#)



[cleaner, greener sources".](#)

Earlier this week, [Environment Minister Shannon Phillips told the Herald that Albertans will soon get details about "how we evolve the electricity system to phase out coal-fired electricity and phase in more renewables"](#). Once the province's climate strategy is unveiled later this month, Phillips and Notley will head to UN climate meetings being held in Paris from Nov. 30 until Dec. 11. Notley's office confirmed Thursday she will also attend a first ministers' meeting on climate change called by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for Nov. 23 in advance of the Paris conference.

Earlier this month, CanSIA and CanWEA held a Solar and Wind Energy Reception in Edmonton attended by representatives of the renewable electricity sector, MLAs and with a keynote address from Environment Minister Shannon Phillips. The Reception aimed to continue to ensure that the benefits and potential of wind and solar energy for Alberta are well understood by political decision-makers and capped off several months of briefings and advocacy and media relations in the province. (Attend ["Market Transformation: Monetizing Solar's Environmental Attributes in Alberta" at Solar Canada 2015](#) to learn more about the opportunities that the new renewable electricity will provide).

Ontario Releases White Paper on Province's Cap & Trade Regulation

During the week of November 10, 2015 and in advance of the release of the full draft Cap and Trade regulation, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) conducted a series of stakeholder sessions on their current thinking and preferred approach to a number of program design considerations for Cap and Trade. MOECC staff presented material which covered the allocation of emissions allowances, offsets, auction schedules and rules, as well as [information on the point of regulation for such products as transportation fuels and natural gas and high level timing for the rollout of the rest of the climate policy.](#)

Advisory Committee members of CanSIA's Ontario Solar Climate Change Initiative (OSCCI) will provide feedback to the MOECC on their preferred approach. This is not the only opportunity to provide feedback, however. Once the final draft regulation is released in early 2016 there will be another round of stakeholder consultation. The MOECC plans to implement the Cap and Trade Mechanism in January of 2017 with the first auction of allowances taking place in March 2017.

Profiling Market Transformation in Ontario

This year at [Solar Canada 2015](#), CanSIA will be bringing together a slate of speakers and panelists who are in the centre of ongoing market evolution in Ontario. Since 2009 and the introduction of the Green Energy Act, Ontario has experienced significant growth in both installed solar capacity as well as market size. Numerous companies entered the market and thrived under the support of the FIT and microFIT programs. As we end the life cycle of these mechanisms (both programs are scheduled to end in 2017/2018), industry and government are turning their minds to what comes next.

In the session titled [From Procurement to Market- Based Approaches in Ontario](#), participants will discuss the ongoing activities that are tackling the issues of transition from centralized government procurement of renewables, to customer-driven market-based approaches. Representatives from CanSIA's Distributed Generation Task Force and the Ministry of Energy's Net Metering/Self-Consumption Advisory Working Group will provide insight into the challenges and considerations that feed into this work and an overview of the overarching policy and system context will be provided to ground these practical endeavours in the larger picture of an evolving provincial electricity sector.

For attendees interested in what the future of Ontario solar development could look like, [this session is a must attend](#).

Nova Scotia Releases Electricity Plan and Announces \$1.5 M Pilot Program

This week, Nova Scotia's Department of Energy released ["Our Electricity Future, Nova Scotia's Electricity Plan, 2015-2040"](#). Four main themes will guide the transformation of the provincial electricity system: price stability, innovation, accountability, and competition.

From 2015 to 2019, price stability will be paramount. Fuel costs will be managed to remain well below recent increases (no rate increase 2016 - 2019) and focus will be piloting new approaches and technologies. During the next phase - the medium-term, (from 2020 to 2040), lessons learned will be applied. NS Power's aging coal-fired generators will be replaced by new regional and local supplies. Increased use of clean electricity for heat and transportation will demand efficiencies, including new tools to manage and store renewable electricity.

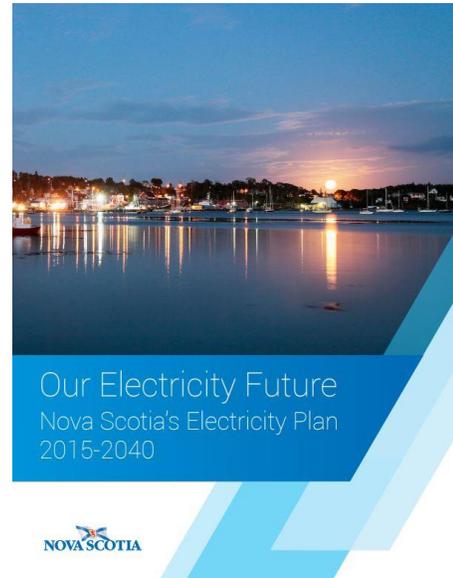
Finally, in the long term, post-2040, new renewable supplies from tidal, solar, or sources not yet developed, along with cost-effective storage technology, will have flourished and allow considerable growth in local supplies of clean electricity.

The government also says it is committing to spending of \$1.5 million over the next three years for pilot projects related to electricity use and management, storage, solar electricity and tidal energy. At the beginning of 2016, renewable power producers will have an opportunity to compete in the renewable-to-retail electricity market, giving ratepayers an option to go as green as possible.

A new Community Buildings Solar PV Pilot Program will promote installation of solar panels on community buildings such as town halls, fire halls, and community centres. Projects will be reviewed and approved based on competitive process. Firm supplier contracts will be required reduce attrition. The program will be capped and controlled to ensure no significant negative impacts on rate stability.

In addition to the net-metering program and the community solar programs over the next few years, an Electricity Innovation Pilot Program will award funding, on a competitive basis, to research projects.

The new pilot programs will support innovation while limiting effects on power rates to less than a 0.1 percent increase over three years. All projects will be awarded by the end of 2019. Participants will share data on their use and production, and the lessons learned will be evaluated during the review of the Electricity Plan.



Ontario Ministry of Energy Introduces the *Energy Statute Amendment Act, 2015 (Bill 135)*

In October, Ontario's Minister of Energy, Bob Chiarelli, introduced the [Energy Statute Amendment Act, 2015 \(Bill 135\)](#) to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for first reading. Bill 135 has impacts on how the province's Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP) is conducted going forward, as well as to the ongoing operation of the Feed-in Tariff Program.

LTEP: Bill 135 would amend the Electricity Act, 1998 to give the Minister of Energy the responsibility for developing the LTEP. Previously, long term planning was conducted by the OPA/IESO and approved by the Ontario Energy Board. The IESO will continue to provide technical advice to the Minister in the development of the LTEP. The scope of the LTEP has also been formally broadened to incorporate GHG emissions from the energy sector which could have significant impacts for the future of long term planning as the province simultaneously rolls out its climate policy in 2016.

FIT Program: Bill 135 also proposed to amend the *Electricity Act, 1998* to repeal the initial responsibility of the OPA/IESO to develop a FIT Program. This change is not expected to impact any subsequent directions issued by the Minister of Energy in regards to the FIT Program (i.e. subsequent directions that establish the next two rounds of FIT and microFIT procurement are not expected to be affected). CanSIA is continuing to consult with the Ministry of Energy on the practical impacts of Bill 135 to the FIT and microFIT Programs and will present more information for members during the [November 19, 2015 Networks and Forums Webinar](#).

Utility & Regulatory Affairs

Utility Reform and the Transformation to a 21st Century

Electricity System in Canada



[How should utilities evolve into the 21st Century? Attend Solar Canada 2015](#) to hear how from **Lisa Frantzis, Senior Vice-President at Advanced Energy Economy (AEE)**, a national business association whose mission is to transform policy to ensure a more secure, clean, and affordable energy system throughout the U.S., who lead an initiative to accelerate the transition to a 21st Century Electricity System. AEE activities include convening utility executives, PUC Commissioners, and advanced energy companies to develop a vision for electricity sector reform, participating in key regulatory proceedings to establish the appropriate policy frameworks to enable transition and driving toward concrete action and implementation. Lisa served as a Managing Director in Navigant

Consulting's Energy Practice since 2002, responsible for leading the renewable and distributed energy business. Prior to Navigant, she consulted at Arthur D. Little for 23 years in energy efficiency and clean energy. Over her 35 years of consulting experience, she has identified energy program options for international government agencies; determined renewable energy

integration options for utility companies; developed business strategies for clean energy manufacturers; and conducted due diligence for financial firms considering clean energy investments. Lisa is currently on the Board of Directors of the New England Clean Energy Council (NECEC) and previously on the Boards of three other organizations: the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), the Solar Energy Business Association of New England (SEBANE), and the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA).

Electrical Safety Authority Bulletin on the Mateability of PV Connectors

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) in Ontario is proposing to introduce a new requirement for PV connectors that would necessitate any connectors used for a system be a "mated pair" from the same manufacturer. PV connectors, sleeve and pin type, are proposed to be approved for use as a mated pair only, i.e. the connectors are certified as a pair. Although some connectors from different manufacturers, for example MC4 (Multi Contact) and Helios H4 (Amphenol), may have similar design style and appear interchangeable. Interchanging of various manufacturers' connectors voids their approval and hence is not permitted by the product standard.



This new requirement has not yet been enforced and the ESA is proposing a phase-in of the requirement for May 1, 2016. Further details will be available in the ESA's upcoming bulletin which will be distributed to CanSIA members.

Feedback to the Ontario Ministry of Energy's Net Metering/Self-Consumption Advisory Working Group

CanSIA has now submitted [feedback](#) to Ontario's Ministry of Energy Net Metering/Self-Consumption Advisory Working Group. This feedback focuses on the [policy proposal](#) released by the Ministry in September for a successor net metering program that would take the place of the microFIT Program in late 2017/early 2018.

CanSIA's feedback focuses on revisions to the existing net metering regulation to better enable solar generation in Ontario including: Accessing Time of Use (TOU) rates for consumed and exported energy, continuing to allow excess generation credits to "roll over" from billing cycle to billing cycle, and to implement a Locational Adder rather than a Value of Solar Tariff (VOST) during the transitional phase-out of the standard offer procurement framework created by the microFIT Program.

Stories We Are Following

- [Opinion: Cost of wind and solar energy dropping](#)
- [Canada's solar leaders expanding globally](#)
- [Solar panels empower indigenous people in Canada's north](#)
- [Canada could slash CO2 emissions with existing technologies, proven policies](#)
- [FERC: Renewables account for over 60% of new generation in 2015](#)
- [Proposed solar project would be largest in Western Canada](#)
- [New Research Shows Why Grid Defection Would Be a Bad Idea for the Average American](#)
- [Trudeau sends signal with appointment of Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna](#)
- [Losing Alberta Liberal candidate takes on key environment role in Ottawa](#)
- [Executive Briefing: The Future of U.S. Solar](#)
- [Notley serves notice Alberta will move to curb coal emissions, hints at higher carbon levies](#)
- [Time to start seeing Keystone's failure as an opportunity](#)
- [Evolving Regulatory Environment and Utility Business Models](#)
- [Berkley Laboratory Research on Residential Solar Home Property Values](#)
- [Opinion: Investors need a strong climate policy](#)

[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), 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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