



Canadian  
Electricity  
Association

Association  
canadienne  
de l'électricité



## Energy Supply: Electricity

Panel Remarks

by

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### Energy Council of Canada

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## PANEL DETAILS

Title: Energy Supply: Electricity

Time: 2:45 – 3:45 PM

Participants:

- Moderator:  
Colin Clark, Chief Technical Officer, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
- Sergio Marchi, President & CEO, Canadian Electricity Association
- John Gorman, Canadian Council on Renewable Electricity
- John Barrett, President & CEO, Canadian Nuclear Association
- Nicolas Muszynski, Secretary, Energy Storage Ontario
- Michelle Branigan, CEO, Electricity Human Resources Council

Format:

- Opening remarks from moderator
- Five to six minutes of remarks from each panelist
- Q&A led by moderator





## Opening Remarks

### Context

- Difficult to summarize the electricity supply story in 5 minutes.
- First, some context, and here the Paris Climate Change Agreement could prove to be a watershed moment.
- While the new Federal Government declared at COP 21 that they were “back”, the electricity sector never left.
  - Our utilities Decreased emissions by about 30% since 2005
  - Almost all coal-fired generating units will be shut down by 2030.
  - And we are over 80% free of GHG emissions, making us one of the cleanest in the globe
- Political leaders define the “ambition”, and as they now prepare for the tough work of operationalizing the Paris agreement, it will be on industry to deliver results.
- In this regard, the Canadian electricity sector is focused on 4 pillars

#### **1. First up, Collaboration.**

- a. We have been, and will continue to be, constructive partners in the dialogue. We are definitely part of a clean energy solution going forward.
- b. We will help set a pragmatic and realistic vision for what can be achieved.





- c. And with respect to a national strategy for reducing our carbon footprint, especially in the aftermath of the Paris Agreement, I believe we need a new and permanent Government and National Stakeholder Forum, that brings together federal and provincial government officials, industry, NGO's, and indigenous interests; to build common ground and a national consensus.

And the Forum should first focus on establishing a national commitment and a coherent plan that will then educate and shape the task of setting targets.

## 2. **Second, Infrastructure investment.**

- a. We need to invest \$350 B over 20 years to renew our end of life cycle systems.
- b. And as we do, we're moving away from coal-fired power to lower or non-emitting alternatives

## 3. **Third, Innovation.**

- a. Despite what some people think, utilities are also driving innovation. But too often we are sailing against the regulatory winds to do it.
- b. Utilities need the mandate, the resources, the regulatory cooperation and a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurs – both inside the company and out – to drive the innovation agenda forward.
- c. Talking about our future innovation needs and regulators, there is a real and significant policy “gap” that needs to be urgently addressed.
- d. Regulators focus on immediate costs, and their imperative is to keep those costs low. That's understandable. But cost cannot be the only variable. If we are concerned about the future reliability of power, is procuring only the cheapest system wise?





- e. Moreover, regulators are also reluctant to support, for example:
  - o Experimental pilot projects
  - o Innovative technologies
  - o Renewable or green technologies
  - o Or extend service to areas without sufficient rate payer critical mass, such as Canada's North.
  - o And yet, these are all legitimate and important policy needs for our regions and our country.
- f. So how will these gaps be filled and by whom? Especially since the agendas of our federal and provincial governments include these very same policy aspirations.

#### 4. Finally, Electrification:

- a. Transportation, which is 25% of our carbon foot print, plus space heating and various industrial processes, will each require wide-scale electrification, if we are to make deep cuts to Canada's national emissions profile.
- b. We have the low-carbon supply mix largely in place. The question becomes, then, how we leverage it to achieve Canada's climate ambitions?

And that my friends, is the 'quick and dirty' 5 minute version. I look forward to your comments and questions.

Thanks.

