



This report for August 2015 provides my observations from the *North America Forum* on August 20 – 22 and the outcomes from an in-house workshop on August 12 towards developing a strategic plan and communication plan for the Energy Council.

It also previews this fall's Energy Council events which will be of interest to our Members and energy colleagues.

Highlights - 11th Annual North American Forum in Toronto

This annual meeting brings together prominent executives from the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss a broad cross-section of trilateral issues and opportunities. Security, energy, trade, defence and channels of trilateral dialogue were the focal points on this year's agenda. Co-chairs were Tom D'Aquino, Pedro Aspe, and Admiral Gary Roughead. The 125 attendees were prominent leaders from business, governments, leading universities and think tanks across North America.

The 2015 theme was *North American Momentum in a Competitive World: Political, Economic and Security Perspectives*. Three of the nine sessions focused specifically on energy and the environment:

- *North America's Priorities: A Strategic Perspective* with an excellent opening key note address by Dominic Barton, Global Managing Director, McKinsey & Company;
- *North America's Energy Advantage: Maximizing the Potential* with Al Monaco, President and CEO, Enbridge Inc., and Steve Williams, President and CEO, Suncor Energy Inc., as two of the four panelists; and,
- *Joint Session on Energy* with government representatives of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, with Bob Hamilton, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada as a panelist.

My pre-event contribution to the Forum focused on optimizing North America's "energy opportunity". It provides examples of ongoing trilateral energy initiatives by the United States, Mexico and Canada and offers suggestions for how they could be strengthened in the future.

A summary and highlights will be issued shortly by the Canadian secretariat. My general observations from the presentations and the excellent discussions in each session follow:

- Energy was universally recognized as an important area for increased trilateral cooperation amongst governments and the private sector;
- More continental integration in areas such as trade, agriculture, and energy was widely recognized as beneficial for North America;
- The risks to energy infrastructure from both cyber and physical threats are significant and need more attention at future forums;
- Mexico has become a player along with the United States and Canada in energy activities in North America as a consequence of its extensive reform of its electricity and oil & gas sectors;
- Broadening participation by early-career and mid-career energy professionals in subsequent Forum meetings is essential given their future leadership roles;
- Profiling energy and environmental initiatives in presentations by state governments in the United States and Mexico and by provincial governments in Canada would be a useful addition to future Forum agendas; and,

- It is timely to follow-up in a concrete way on the many opportunities for enhancing trilateral cooperation identified during the Forums to date.

The link to the Forum summary will be made available when it is received from the organizers.

Workshop on August 12 – Strategic Plan and Communication Plan

Work is underway to prepare a 2016 – 2018 strategic plan for the Energy Council and the first-ever communication plan. The planning activities began with a workshop attended by several Board Members on March 9. The March agenda gathered input on the Energy Council's primary roles and positioning, early ideas on how to engage in ongoing energy dialogue in Canada, and recommendations on how to better communicate the Energy Council's contributions to the energy dialogue in Canada.

The products from the March 9 workshop were incorporated into a meeting on August 12 attended by the Executive Committee together with Board Members who had expressed interest in contributing to the development of the strategic plan and communication plan. Nineteen people located in four cities were joined by conference call (Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary). They first reviewed the outcomes of earlier strategic plans and studies prepared over the last decade, and then discussed the elements needed in a plan to guide the Energy Council's positioning and activities for the next three years. The second half of the agenda looked into ways to enhance the Energy Council's messaging and communication techniques in order to be more effective in crafting and delivering contributions to energy dialogue and to raise the Energy Council's profile. The outcomes from this workshop will be the main ingredients for drafting the two plans. Many thanks to the hosts for the call: Hydro Québec in Montréal, Deloitte in Toronto, and Ledcor Contractors Ltd. in Calgary.

The next step will be a review of the draft plans by the Executive Committee on September 1. A workshop for Board Members will be held on September 29. The agenda will start with a review and critique of the draft 2016 – 2018 strategic plan and the draft communication plan, and then consideration of what will be needed to implement both plans in terms of staff effort and resources. All Board Members are invited to attend this one-day session at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel adjacent to the Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

Energy Council of Canada - Fall 2015 Events

Four interesting events highlight this fall's program.

1. Conference on Public Acceptance of Energy Projects, Tuesday, September 15

The Canadian Network for Energy Policy Research and Analysis (CNEPRA) is hosting a conference on September 15 in Ottawa to present the results from their initial research topic. The research examines what "social licence" means for Canada's regulatory systems. Unlike the standard approach used by regulatory agencies based on rules of evidence and the rule of law, the concept of "social licence" incorporates the interests of communities affected by the proposed project, the concerns and



aspirations of First Nations, and the intersections with broader issues involving the directions of energy supply and potential long-term environmental impacts. This half-day conference will hear presentations on CNEPRA's research results followed by a discussion on how to create a prescriptive policy position that can help regulators and the energy sector understand and manage the social licence phenomena.

Speakers will include researchers from the CNEPRA network created for this project, including Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Queen's University, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Ottawa, the University of Victoria, and the University of Toronto.

Andrew Stephens, Chair of the Energy Council's Energy Policy Research Committee will represent the Energy Council on the program. He will describe the Energy Council's strong interest in strengthening the understanding of current important energy policy issues through targeted academic research, and our ongoing funding support for CNEPRA and other university-based research in Canada.

The detailed program is available at:

<http://policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/Event%20Overview%20-%20CNEPRA.pdf>.

All Energy Council members and our energy colleagues are invited to attend. There is no charge to attend this event, but registration is required soon as spots are limited.

2. USEA 8th Annual Energy Supply Forum (October 7), North America Region Energy Forum (October 8), Washington, DC

All Energy Council members and our energy colleagues are invited to attend two back-to-back energy events in Washington, DC in early October. The theme for both events is: *how countries which have development of fossil fuel resources as a key component of their economies can contribute to achieving reductions in carbon emissions*. The planning committee for both events is chaired by the United States Energy Association, working with the Mexican World Energy Council Secretariat and the Energy Council of Canada. Both events will be held at the National Press Club, hosted by the United States Energy Association.

The *USEA's 8th Annual Energy Supply Forum* on October 7 will hear presentations by industry executives from the three countries on the latest developments and issues in energy supply. The focus will be on how they are positioning their companies to tackle issues and implications of climate change. Speakers are being invited from energy corporations in the US, Mexico and Canada.

This year's *North America Region Energy Forum* on October 8 features sessions on: recent policy initiatives to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, the views of industry associations on climate policy directions, and recent developments in carbon capture, use and storage. Closing remarks will look ahead to the possible outcomes of the upcoming UNFCCC conference in Paris.

These events will be of interest to our Members as a means to hear the latest developments from leaders in the energy sector and the policy community from the United States, Mexico and Canada and to make connections with their counterparts from across North America.

Registration details are available at: <http://www.usea.org/event/usea-8th-annual-energy-supply-forum-wec-north-america-regional-energy-forum-2-day-event>



3. Electricity Future Forum, October 19, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The province of Nova Scotia has completed a comprehensive review of its electricity system. Aspects included incorporation of clean generation sources, environmental considerations, transmission and distribution needs, and market practices. The report arising from the review and the associated recommendations for reform was released by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy in April 2015.

The Nova Scotia Electricity Plan will lay out the provincial government's plans for reform of the electricity sector. The Plan will be released in late September or early October.

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy and the Energy Council of Canada will be holding a seminar on October 19 to present the findings and recommendations on the Electricity Plan, to hear feedback, and encourage dialogue on possible future changes. The Forum's objectives are:

- To provide attendees with more in-depth knowledge of Nova Scotia's Electricity Plan; and,
- To gather input from electricity experts on what the province should focus on in terms of:
 - regional sources, infrastructure and relationships;
 - innovation; and
 - accountability and electricity literacy.

This event will be of interest to those following developments in electricity policy in Nova Scotia, to members of the Energy Council of Canada and our energy colleagues, and to interested academics.

The venue is the Silverbirch Conference Centre, Hampton Inn by Hilton, Downtown Halifax.

Registration details will be available shortly at <http://energy.novascotia.ca/>

4. Canadian Energy Person of the Year – November 25, Calgary

The CEPY Award Ceremony to honour the 2015 recipient, Mr. Mike Cleland, will be held this year on November 25 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary. This event is always a highlight of the Energy Council's annual program of events and activities.

Sponsorship opportunities are available which provide an excellent opportunity to profile your company or organization. Details are available on the Energy Council's website.

Please mark this event on your calendars and join energy colleagues from across Canada to celebrate with Mike Cleland and friends.

In closing, please mark your calendars with the dates of the upcoming meetings in this fall's Energy Council program, as noted above. We look forward to your participation.

With best regards,

Graham Campbell
President

