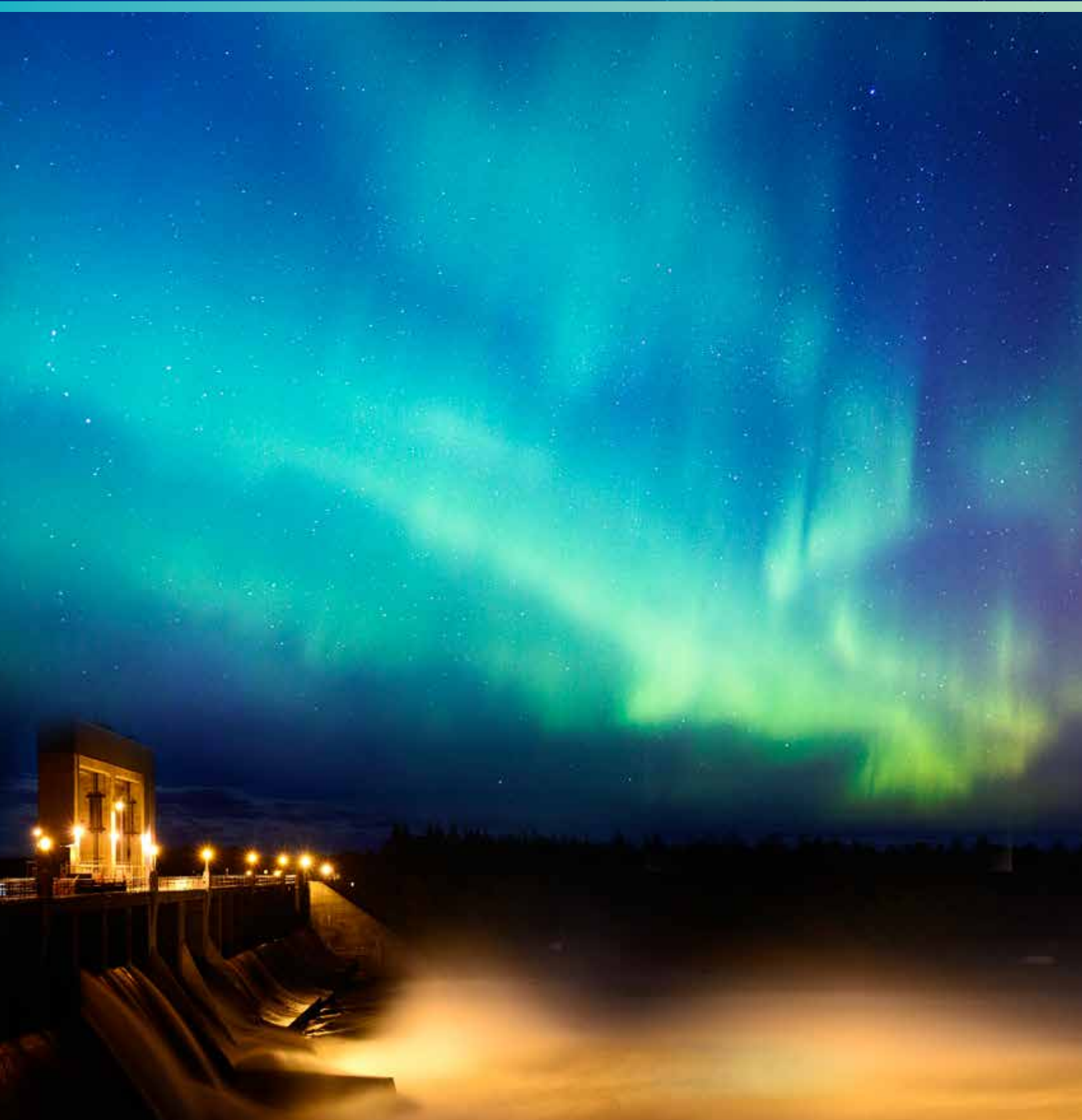




Canadian Hydropower
Association
Association canadienne
de l'hydroélectricité

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2016





VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

HYDROPOWER LEADS THE WAY TO RELIABLE, RENEWABLE, CLEAN ENERGY.

We, the Canadian hydropower industry, promote the technical, economic, social and environmental advantages of hydropower. We advocate the responsible development and use of hydropower to meet present and future electricity needs in a sustainable manner.

MESSAGE FROM CHA PRESIDENT

When the federal government announced the release of its Climate Change Framework at the end of 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he hoped to see “Canada move towards 90% renewable energy by 2030”. Our industry heard the call loud and clear and immediately recommitted to helping the federal government meet its ambitious greenhouse emissions reduction targets.

Over the past year, we have highlighted hydropower as Canada’s most powerful weapon in the fight against climate change while the federal government developed its climate action plan following the adoption of the Paris Accord. If Canada is to achieve the deep decarbonisation that is necessary for achieving its greenhouse gas reduction targets, hydropower will be needed like never before. The Canadian Hydropower Association (CHA) was encouraged to deliver this central message to a government that was interested to hear it. We took this opportunity to meet with several key ministers, deputy ministers, senior civil servants, Members of Parliament and Senators to reinforce the environmental, social and economic benefits of hydropower.

The federal government, in parallel with its climate action initiatives, has also launched in-depth reviews of several pieces of legislation that are central to our industry’s activities. After being completely overhauled just four short years ago, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigation Protection Act* are once again subject to change. The CHA participated in roundtables, consultation workshops, parliamentary committees and expert panels, and published several technical submissions highlighting our positions and recommendations.

We will continue to work relentlessly to ensure the improvements brought by the 2012 amendments are maintained or improved. Just like 2016, we expect 2017 and 2018 will be heavily focused on regulatory affairs. Throughout our dedicated work on these complex issues, we will not forget the importance of connecting with Canadians to better tell the hydropower story and to share the positive difference we make in their daily lives. Our national Forum on hydropower continues to be a success in this regard and we will remain present in national media, telling our unique and enviable story.

All of these achievements were made possible by the continued support and engagement of our members.

As we reflect upon another successful year of regulatory and public affairs, we look forward to how the future will reward our industry’s efforts.



Jacob Irving, President,
Canadian Hydropower Association



REGULATORY UPDATE

The legislative reviews of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigation Protection Act* were announced in the spring and summer of 2016. Following the announcement, official consultation activities were launched by the federal government. In November 2016, the CHA appeared in front of the Expert Panel advising the Environment and Climate Change Minister for the CEAA review. We also appeared in front of the Fisheries and Oceans Parliamentary Committee in December as part of the Fisheries Act review. We drafted technical submissions with our members and working groups which were submitted in the fall 2016. Work on these files picked up again in 2017 and we expect new legislation to be tabled in 2018.



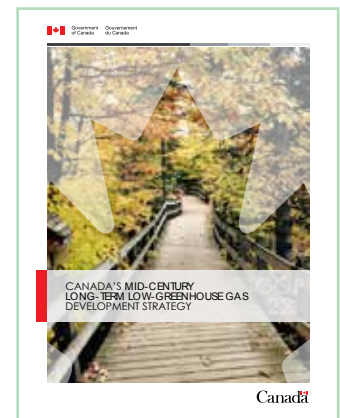
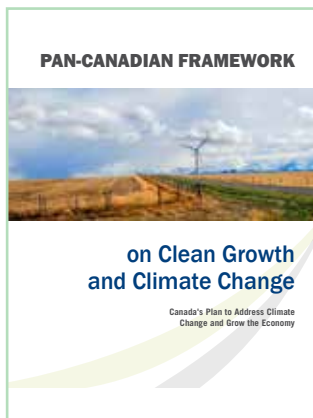
2016 CHA FORUM

Despite unusual circumstances and the evacuation of our venue, our Forum 2016 was yet another successful event. The theme *'Hydropower: Canada's Clean Electricity Superhero'* echoed the federal government's climate actions and initiatives, and timed well with the regulatory reviews announced a few weeks prior to our event. For the first time, we introduced table top exhibits which allowed our sponsors to showcase their expertise and share project updates. Networking remained at the centre of our Forum activities, and with more than 120 executive participants, it offered many opportunities to connect and learn from one another. It turns out nothing, not even a sinkhole, can thwart the momentum of our Hydropower Forum.



HYDROPOWER ADVOCACY & CLIMATE CHANGE

We have been very encouraged to see the federal government take tangible steps in 2016 in the fight against climate change. We believe the release of the *Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* and *Canada's Mid-Century Long-Term Low-Greenhouse Gas Development Strategy* sent a forceful message that Canada seeks a leadership role in reducing emissions and leading in climate action. Hydropower makes our electricity grid one of the cleanest in the world, but we could do even more! We will continue to work with the federal government and participate in all relevant consultations to ensure hydropower is fully recognized for the indispensable role we play: past, present and future. Canada, the world's second largest hydropower generator, can still more than double in size. We plan to be front and centre as the federal government seeks solutions for electrifying and decarbonizing our economy for future generations.



WORKING GROUPS, PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE HYDROPOWER INDUSTRY IN CANADA

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

In 2016, the Indigenous Relations Working Group continued to monitor federal government activity regarding Indigenous inclusion. Important information was relayed and discussed regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, on the formation of a permanent bilateral mechanism with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), First Nations, Inuit and Metis organizations; and on the establishment of an Interim Board of Directors to make recommendations on the creation of a National Council on Reconciliation.

CLEAN ENERGY POLICY WORKING GROUP

The Clean Energy Policy Working Group had its hands full in 2016 with exciting federal announcements pertaining to climate action (e.g., Vancouver Declaration in March 2016) and carbon pricing in particular. 2016 also saw a new President elected in the United States. The Clean Energy Policy Working Group kept a close eye on these new developments in the U.S. and what they might mean for Canadian hydropower.

FISHERIES ACT WORKING GROUP

The review of the Fisheries Act was announced in the spring 2016. CHA and the Fisheries Working Group engaged with the Minister's office and senior public servants throughout 2016 to ensure hydro-power's positions were understood. Through its Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, CHA was able to have an ongoing and open dialogue with senior officials. The work on this file will continue intensely in 2017 through 2018.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

The Public Affairs Working Group supported the CHA in developing important position papers throughout the year. Of particular importance, was the update of a fact sheet on methylmercury which will become part of CHA's website in 2017. This Working Group also provided key guidance in preparing the 2016 Forum, developing the event's program and selecting speakers.

REGULATORY PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

The review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *Navigation Protection Act* was formally announced in the spring of 2016. Many meetings took place and several communications / briefs were exchanged with the Minister's office and relevant government departments. The CHA, through this Working Group, was very active on these two files in 2016 and is expected to remain engaged throughout 2017 and 2018.

SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) WORKING GROUP

This Working Group worked on several important deliverables pertaining to species at risk. It helped develop a high level letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on the draft SARA policies released for comment in October 2016. The government also announced in 2016 that the Species at Risk Advisory Committee will be re-established. CHA is now represented on this Committee and work will be underway in 2017.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP

Members of this Working Group shared some information pertaining to their live storage data with the intent for the CHA to consolidate this information nationally. This Working Group continues to work on developing arguments that highlight hydropower's economic benefits and full value proposition.



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