President's Message  By John Barrett, PhD

It is never good to hover between past and future. This is true of Canada’s nuclear industry.

Proud as Canadians may be of this country's path-breaking, innovative achievements in nuclear technology, they must also see clearly what the future can hold. They want to see how their quality of life is sustained, indeed improved, by investment in unlocking the power and benefits of the atom.

It is up to the nuclear industry—from academic centres of research, innovation and medicine to the power generators, uranium miners, engineers, suppliers, operators and technicians—to articulate and promote this vision. I believe this to be one of the important challenges facing the industry in Canada today—and especially so in a time of uncertainty in policy direction and investment confidence.

That is why a coherent, understandable roadmap showing the interplay of nuclear research, technology and energy with a better future for Canadians is all the more needed. A map that shows how today's policy and investment decisions can, over the medium and longer-term, bring improved healthcare, better jobs, and reliable, affordable, emissions-free energy—and give Canada a secure foothold in the highly skilled knowledge economy of tomorrow.

Only by developing and communicating such a coherent and forward-looking perspective can we hope to show Canadians how important the nuclear industry is to their quality of life.

We at the Canadian Nuclear Association look forward to working with CNA members towards this vital objective.

As recently stated by the Public Policy Forum, Canada is “a respected leader in uranium mining, reactor technology, plant manufacturing and operations, research and development, and environmental and safety standards and regulation.”

Let us use this leadership to advantage, in a world where collaboration, innovation and partnership take us towards new achievements in Canada and abroad.
Myth-Busting at APPrO

CNA Vice President Heather Kleb delivered a myth-dispelling keynote speech to the Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPrO) conference in November.

Her speech targeted three myths spread by nuclear critics: that nuclear is too expensive, not safe, and not environmentally beneficial. Heather conveyed a number of key messages about nuclear energy’s economic and environmental benefits, as well as its affordability and reliability.

She also described the industry’s global construction program, with 70 reactors under construction, 173 more in planning and 314 at the stage of firm proposals.

Let’s Talk Energy Week

In a bid to raise Canadians’ energy awareness, the federal government has launched a week of special activities across the country for the week of February 24th – 28th.

The project, led by the Canadian Science and Technology Museum Corporation, will include special exhibits targeting consumers at key shopping centres in Toronto, Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver.

The National Museum of Science and Technology, and other federal museums, will provide special programming during the week, and speakers will engage with students in schools.

The CNA is sponsoring the week as a way to provide members with promotional opportunities in their communities.

New Communication Strategy

Meeting in December, the association’s board of directors approved a new strategic communication plan that places a strong focus on building third-party support for the nuclear industry through 2014.

The association will work to develop and reinforce relationships with leading figures in Canadian business, environmental interest groups, and the health-care sector (cancer detection and therapies). The plan also targets the association’s website for a content overhaul, along with updates to the education website, www.teachnuclear.ca.
Fisheries Protection Policy Developments

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has issued a “Fisheries Protection Policy Statement,” coinciding with the implementation of the 2012 amendments to the Fisheries Act.

The department is also developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to allow the commission to review s. 35(2)(b) authorizations regarding serious harm to fish.

The department proposes that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans would have the final decision, and that the department will retain responsibility for enforcement.

GE Hitachi Intervention

CNA President John Barrett and Regulatory Affairs Manager Peter Poruks intervened at the CNSC’s December 10th hearing in Toronto. “It is a clean, efficient facility,” Dr. Barrett told the safety commission. “Its staff take safety seriously, both their own and that of the public.”

See You at the Conference

The 2014 Canadian Nuclear Association Conference and Trade Show is taking place from February 26-28, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa. Our theme, “Developing the Next Generation,” focuses the event on how the industry can best prepare the next wave of employees for a new generation of Canadian nuclear excellence.

Speakers include renowned demographer David Foot, pro-nuclear convert environmentalist Gwyneth Cravens, and Taylor Wilson, the teenage physicist who made his first working fusion reactor at the age of 14. Come see this great line-up!

Emergency Response Legislation and Guidance:

The CNSC has issued Emergency Management and Fire Protection: Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response for consultation for licensees. Environment Canada plans to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act’s emergency response regulations, including a proposal to add to their controlled substances list some of the fuels that may be present at our nuclear facilities and some of the acids that are used in the leaching process at our uranium mills.

As well, the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada are proposing to tailor the maritime commerce resilience (MCR) planning guidelines that were developed for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region to the Great Lakes region. The guidelines provide recommendations to ensure rapid response to and recovery from disasters on either side of the border to ensure minimum economic disruption.
Pandora’s Promise

Cameco, AREVA and the CNA combined forces to ignite a nuclear-energy debate in Saskatoon on October 1st. An audience of some 700 people viewed Pandora’s Promise, the Robert Stone documentary that invites environmentalists to re-examine their beliefs about nuclear energy.

Following the movie, CNA Vice President Heather Kleb and OCI President Ron Oberth squared off for a debate with Jim Harding, a retired University of Regina professor, and David Geary, from the Coalition for a Green Clean Saskatchewan.

The discussion lasted well into the night, and earned excellent coverage from the Saskatoon news media.

Keeping Government Connected

The CNA’s government-relations team has spent the last few months reconnecting with key government and opposition parliamentarians, ministerial officials and departmental advisors. It’s important to maintain a working relationship with key federal stakeholders, so we can promote the nuclear industry’s role in providing economic, social and environmental benefits to Canadians.

In addition to our talks with the recently formed federal Conservative nuclear caucus, we have also been developing and implementing initiatives that connect the CNA with senior government officials on several issues. These include energy policy, the environment, employment, trade and research. Our reach extends beyond Ottawa to include the provinces of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

We have also set up new monitoring capabilities for the federal parliament and five legislatures: Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and New Brunswick. This has greatly increased our information flow to members on key government initiatives.

Cameco Intervention

CNA Vice President Heather Kleb and Communications Director Malcolm Bernard journeyed to La Ronge, Saskatchewan in October to support Cameco’s application to extend its licence for its Key Lake, McArthur River and Rabbit Lake operations. “It’s all there,” Kleb told the CNSC. “Clean air, reliable power, good jobs and pay cheques, and a safety record that sets the bar for Canadian industry.”
Communicators’ Corner

The CNA’s communications department welcomed Erin Polka and Romeo St. Martin at the start of the year.

Erin Polka brings the CNA a wealth of experience in online marketing and web services, and will lead the rejuvenation of the CNA’s website this spring.

Proposed Amendments to NSCA Regulations

The CNSC has released Discussion Paper DIS-13-02 with proposed amendments to the Nuclear Safety and Control Act.

The three most significant changes involve the submission of provincial offsite emergency plans to the CNSC, the inclusion of human performance and fitness for duty requirements in regulations, and the inclusion of periodic integrated safety reviews for nuclear power plants.

Comments on this discussion paper are due by March 21, 2014.

Policy and Research

CNA Policy and Research has been supporting preparation of the Nuclear Leadership Forum’s 25-year Vision and Action Plan.

The Vision is “Canada Thrives as a Tier One Nuclear Nation,” having the full spectrum of capabilities and resources in nuclear technology.

The near-term Action Plan proposes commitments on skilled workers, refurbishment project delivery, long-term waste management, innovation, and international business.

The Innovation action item would respond to the federal government’s call for business cases to build a Nuclear Innovation Agenda.

Romeo St. Martin, a former Parliament Hill journalist, researches and edits the Daily NUze, and contributes to relations with traditional and social media.
Teaching Nuclear

The CNA has engaged Let’s Talk Science, a non-profit organization that promotes science education, to update the association’s education-focused website, www.teachnuclear.ca.

The updates will include material on nuclear incidents and accidents, including Fukushima, as well as new material on nuclear’s role in offsetting the impacts of climate change.

The CNA intends to have the new material online in time for the 2014-15 school year.

Upcoming Events

**February**

- Feb 24 - 28: Let’s Talk Energy Week
- Feb 26: Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb 26 - 28: CNA Conference
- Feb 26: CNA Conference

**March**

- Mar 2 – 5: PDAC 2014
- Mar 23 – 25: Nuclear Industry Summit
- Mar 26 – 28: Globe Conference

**April**

- Apr 8 – 10: World Nuclear Fuel Cycle
- Apr 15: Ontario Energy Network
- Apr 15 – 16: Ontario Power Conference
- Apr 27 – 30: Canada-China Conference on Advanced Reactor Development

**May**

- May 4 – 6: CNS Nuclear Education and Outreach

Research and Education Manager Alex Wolf engaged Ontario science teachers in talks about the support that the CNA provides them through www.teachnuclear.ca.