

**Pierre Charlebois**  
**Chairman: Canadian Nuclear Association**  
**Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer**  
**Ontario Power Generation**  
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## **NOTES FOR OPENING REMARKS**

### **Introduction**

Good morning everyone and welcome to the CNA's annual seminar. It is my privilege to be chairman of the CNA. I follow my colleague Duncan Hawthorne in this role, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Duncan for the great service he has provided to the CNA during his tenure as chairman.

Many of you will no doubt recall that Duncan would sometimes call attention to his strong Scottish accent (not that he needed to) when he spoke as Chairman at previous seminars. Well, it should be obvious to you that I am not Scottish but French. In recognition of many of our colleagues here who speak French, I would like to say a few words.

*C'est pour moi un honneur de présider l'Association Nucléaire Canadienne. L'ANC joue un rôle important au Canada. Nous sommes la voix de l'industrie nucléaire canadienne et cette voix retient de plus en plus l'attention des gouvernements et du public. Et on nous écoute parce que nous avons des options, des suggestions et des solutions à présenter pour rencontrer les besoins énergétiques du futur.*

*[I am honored to be the chairman of the Canadian Nuclear Association. The CNA performs an important role in Canada. We are the voice of the Canadian nuclear industry. Increasingly, this voice is being heard by governments and the public. We're being heard because we are offering options, suggestions, and solutions to meet future energy needs.]*

### **Key Strengths**

Today, the Canadian nuclear industry is in a stronger position than it has ever been before. There are many reasons for this – not the least of which are the men and women who are in this room. Your efforts as operators, managers, policy makers and regulatory officials have contributed significantly to the strength and reputation that our industry enjoys today.

**Safety**

Our strengths include an excellent safety record in terms of both public and workplace safety.

In their nearly 40 years of operation, no member of the Canadian public has ever been harmed as a result of a radiation emission from one of Canada's nuclear facilities.

By the same token, it's not uncommon for employees at several of our nuclear stations to work millions of hours without a lost time injury.

The same is true of the uranium sector. In 2006, the frequency of lost-time injuries at sites operated by Cameco was about 40% lower than the three-year average for both the Ontario and Saskatchewan mining sectors.

Few industries in the world can boast a safety record like ours.

**Performance**

The operational performance record of our industry is equally impressive. In 2007, five of world's top 10 performing CANDU reactors were Canadian – all with capability factors above 90 per cent. By any standard, this is very strong performance.

**Environmental Benefits**

On the environmental front, there is growing recognition of the many advantages of nuclear energy. The fact that nuclear electricity production is the only large scale energy source that is virtually free of acid- and greenhouse gas emissions makes it an important contributor to our environment. This has led a number of highly respected environmentalists to support nuclear energy for its ability to significantly mitigate climate change.

While the environmental benefits of nuclear are a key strength of our industry, so too is our impeccable record of safely managing and storing nuclear waste. OPG has been shipping radioactive waste materials for more than 35 years over millions of kilometers and not a single gram has ever been released to the environment.

**The Nuclear Renaissance**

Our industry is also witnessing a major resurgence of planning activity for new and refurbished nuclear facilities. Governments around the world – including here in Canada – see nuclear energy as a major contributor to their energy needs going forward.

It is an exciting time to be in the nuclear energy business.

- Worldwide, more than 30 nuclear reactors are under construction – and another 300 are being planned or proposed.
- Reactors are being built or rebuilt in Russia; India; China; South Korea; Japan; Slovakia; Argentina; and here in Canada.
- Finland is building a Generation III reactor – its fifth nuclear power plant.
- France has also committed to building a Generation III reactor and expects it to be operational in less than 10 years (2017).
- China has plans to build 30 nuclear generating units within the next two decades.
- In the U.S., life extension licences have been granted for most of that country’s 104 reactors.
- Here in Canada, OPG and Bruce Power have recently restarted four reactors.
- Two more reactors – Units 1 and 2 -- are currently being refurbished at Bruce A. Last year, Bruce Power announced it would refurbish a third Bruce A reactor when it completed the other two.
- At the same time, OPG is assessing the feasibility of refurbishing its Pickering B and Darlington nuclear stations and is also exploring the possibility of new nuclear units at its Darlington site. Bruce Power is engaged in a similar process for new nuclear units at the Bruce site.
- Beyond Ontario, in the Maritimes, New Brunswick Power will this year begin to refurbish its Point Lepreau reactor – extending its life to the year 2032
- In Quebec, Hydro Quebec is in the process of making a recommendation on refurbishing its Gentilly-2 nuclear facility.
- And out West in Alberta, they’re considering nuclear energy as a power supply option for the oil sands.

### **Nuclear Waste Management**

In addition to these examples of nuclear generation, there’s also a tremendous amount of work underway in the area of nuclear waste management.

OPG just opened up a new state-of-the-art facility at its Darlington station to safely store used nuclear fuel. The company is also going through an approvals process to build a Deep Geologic Repository in Kincardine, Ontario to safely store -- on a long-term basis - - low and intermediate nuclear waste.

As I said, this is an exciting time for the nuclear sector. And I think part of the reason why we are seeing this Renaissance of activity is because our industry has demonstrated that we can do the job.

Our safety record...our improved performance...our recent success here in Canada in undertaking massive return-to-service projects and other major rehabilitation work...these achievements and others have created an increased confidence in our business judgment, our technical expertise and our management capabilities.

We must continue to develop these strengths and carry them forward.

### **Challenges**

It's not going to be easy...We face challenges. All this activity places a tremendous burden on our ability to source the right parts and supplies.

It also places tremendous pressure on us to develop, find, attract and mentor qualified, skilled people – people who are capable of operating, maintaining and building our nuclear facilities.

This is a huge challenge for our industry. The strength of the nuclear industry is its people. We must work together to ensure that we have the people we need to take on the growing role we're being asked to play in the world and here at home.

### **Importance of the CNSC**

There's a final strength I want to mention.

In the midst of all these exciting and challenging developments, our industry is regulated by a strong and effective regulator in the form of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

This outstanding safety record of the Canadian nuclear industry is in part the result of regulatory policies and processes which have served Canadians well for decades. The existing reactor fleet operating in Canada was built and is now being operated in accordance with safety requirements set by the CNSC. The CNSC staff provides oversight and monitors the industry on a continuous basis, reporting their findings publicly every year.

As we look forward to the potential growth in the industry, it is paramount we maintain an unwavering commitment to safety.

Vital qualities include transparency; adequate staffing and resourcing; alignment with international standards; the ability to assess and balance risk; and a clear mandate based on the interests of all Canadians.

All of us -- politicians, bureaucrats, and the industry – must work together to make sure that our nuclear regulatory regime has these qualities so that it can continue – as it has in the past – to provide the oversight and governance necessary to contribute to our success now and in the future.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

To summarize, we should be proud of our achievements.

- Our industry is extremely safe.
- Its performance is strong.
- We deliver significant environmental benefits.
- Our management of nuclear waste is a major success story.
- We have demonstrated that we have the ability to successfully undertake major new projects.
- We have a strong and effective regulator.

These strengths will sustain us as we cross the threshold into a new and exciting era of expansion in our industry.

In closing, I'd like to draw attention to the theme of this year's conference -- "Going the Distance."

I believe Canada's nuclear industry has what it takes to go the distance as a viable energy source for meeting our long term energy needs.

Today, many fine speakers will be discussing aspects of this theme. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to hear them and to share ideas with each other as well.

Despite the progress we have made, we still have much to do and learn as an industry. We cannot take success for granted.

This conference promises to be one of our best ever in terms of providing new information and insights to help us sustain our momentum going forward.

Let's make the most of it.

Thank you very much