

# The Role of Canadian Nuclear Energy in Meeting Canada's Net-Zero Goals







Peter Ozemoyah (PhD)
Past Chair, INSC
Past President, CNS

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# Canada's Net-Zero Goals To Achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050



- Reach net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050
- Have a net-zero electricity grid by 2035
- 50% of all new vehicles sold being zero-emission by 2030
- Cap emissions from the oil and gas sector at current levels (and reduce them over time)
- Protect and restore ecosystems to act as carbon sinks
- Support innovation in clean technologies
- New buildings to be net-zero carbon by 2030
- Partner with Indigenous communities to support clean energy projects and sustainable land management
- Push for the global phase-out of coal power



# **Canada's Energy Landscape**



- Energy Mix comprises
  - Fossil Fuels
  - Hydropower
  - Nuclear Energy
  - Renewables

### Nuclear Energy

- Supplies 15% of Canada's electricity (60% for the Province of Ontario), with an installed capacity of 13.5 GW
- Provides reliable alternative
- Reduces dependency on fossil fuels



## Canada's Nuclear Energy



## Provide electricity that is:

- Clean
- Reliable
- Of low-carbon

# This is crucial in transitioning to a low-carbon economy

#### 19 CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium) reactors

- unique and innovative design
- safe, efficient, and flexible in fuel use
- uses natural uranium as fuel enrichment not required
- online refueling no need to shut down to refuel
- proliferation resistance using natural uranium & design is less likely to produce weapon-grade plutonium



# Canada's Nuclear Industry Roles in Meeting The Net-Zero Goals



- Decarbonizing the Electricity Grid and Heavy Industries
- Reducing Oil and Gas Emissions
- Supporting Renewable Energy Integration
- SMR Deployment
- Hydrogen Production for decarbonization of various sectors
- Proper Nuclear Waste Management
- International Collaboration and Nuclear Technology Exportation
- Workforce Development, Job Creation and Economic Growth





# Roles In Meeting The Goals



## Roles in Meeting the Goals



#### **Decarbonizing the Electricity Grid and Heavy Industries**

#### Nuclear energy:

- generates zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during operation and can complement renewable energy sources by providing reliable base-load electricity
- help decarbonize energy-intensive industries like steel, cement, and chemical production, which are among the hardest to decarbonize due to their reliance on fossil fuels for heat and power
- SMRs can provide the high-temperature heat needed for industrial processes, thus
  offering a clean alternative to fossil fuels

#### **Reducing Oil and Gas Emissions**

Currently, nuclear energy helps avoid the emission of **about 80 million tonnes of CO₂** per year, equivalent to removing **15 million cars** from the roads

#### Nuclear energy:

- especially SMRs (when ready), could be deployed to power oil sands operations and reduce the carbon footprint of extraction and refining processes (The oil and gas sector is a major contributor to GHG emissions)
- support carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies by providing the electricity and heat required to capture and store CO₂ emissions from industrial sources



# Roles in Meeting the Goals (Contd.)



#### **Supporting Renewable Energy Integration**

Nuclear Energy acts as a stable backbone of the energy grid, providing consistent power output to ensure grid reliability thereby overcoming the intermittency of the renewable energy sources

#### **SMR Deployment**

When available and deployed, expected to reduce Canada's emissions by up to 6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. SMRs can help:

- decarbonize remote and industrial sites, particularly in northern and off-grid communities
- decarbonize heavy industries such as mining, oil sands operations, and manufacturing
- when paired with renewable energy sources for hybrid energy systems, provide a stable, zero-carbon energy supply in regions where renewables alone cannot meet energy demand

#### Hydrogen Production for decarbonization of various sectors

Nuclear power can be used for low-carbon hydrogen production which is very useful for decarbonizing sectors such as transportation, heavy industry, and energy storage. Millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be avoided in these sectors through this H<sub>2</sub> production method



## Roles in Meeting the Goals (Contd.)



#### **Proper Nuclear Waste Management**

ensures that nuclear energy remains a clean and sustainable solution as part of Canada's net-zero plan

#### **International Collaboration and Nuclear Technology Exportation**

- Canada's exporting nuclear technology and participating in global nuclear markets can help other countries reduce their emissions
- leveraging its expertise in nuclear energy to collaborate and share nuclear technology and knowledge with other countries will help these countries in their own decarbonization efforts
- Canada's leadership in nuclear education, training, and R&D through their institutions and organizations such as UNENE and CNL will drive innovation and technological advancements which can be exported globally

#### Workforce Development, Job Creation, and Economic Growth

15,000 – 20,000 new workers will be needed over the next 10 years to support the growth in the industry (SMR, etc).

- Education and Training organizations (UNENE, COG, CNS, etc.) develop HQP needed to sustain the nuclear industry
- High-quality jobs created by the nuclear industry support the country's economic growth and aid its transition to a low-carbon economy.



## CONCLUSION



Canada's nuclear industry will be integral to achieving the country's net-zero goals by:

- Providing clean, reliable energy,
- Enabling industrial decarbonization,
- Supporting renewable energy integration,
- Pioneering innovative (SMR and hydrogen) technologies.

Nuclear power's key role in the energy transition will significantly reduce Canada's carbon footprint and help Canada reach its 2050 net-zero targets







**COMMENTS**