



CanWEA 2017 – CanWEA Board Chair Cory Basil, Day One Welcome Remarks

October 3-5, 2017, Palais des congrès de Montréal, Montreal, QC

Montreal, Quebec, October 3, 2017 – Please find below the text of the welcome remarks delivered by the Chair of the Board of the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA), Cory Basil, Vice President of Development, EDF EN, on the first day of this year's [CanWEA 2017](#) (check against delivery).

Good afternoon and welcome to CanWEA 2017! Bonjour et bienvenue à CanWEA 2017!

I have one quick safety message. Should it be necessary to evacuate, you will proceed out the nearest door, go down the escalators toward the main entrance, following the exit signs.

Now, down to business. The theme of this year's conference is Energy Transition. As vice-president of development for EDF EN Canada, I've spent a fair amount of time in Quebec, and I can't think of a better place to talk about how the dramatic changes underway in the electricity sector – and in the energy industry as a whole – will impact the future of our industry in Canada.

I can't help but see parallels with Quebec's decision in the 1960s to invest heavily in the development of a vast network of hydro generating facilities along its northern rivers. It was a forward-thinking choice that has fuelled economic growth and prosperity in the province for the last half-century. We're now at a point where Quebec's commitment to wind energy is poised to do the same. Recognizing that the world is shifting towards a low-carbon future, the provincial government released a new energy policy last year that positions Quebec to once again play a leading role.

The policy's focus on electrification, and on using the province's wind and hydro resources to deliver competitive clean power to neighbouring markets, is designed to ensure Quebec will not just compete, but thrive, in the next century of clean growth.

This not just a Quebec phenomenon. Alberta and Saskatchewan have both set ambitious renewable energy targets for 2030 as they look to diversify their energy economies. Ontario is about to release a long-term energy plan that will have to support its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 per cent by 2050, and the federal government has made it clear it sees clean energy as critical to Canada's economic and environmental future.

There is no doubt in my mind that, as the most-cost competitive source of new emissions-free electricity supply available in Canada today, wind energy will make a significant contribution to meeting all of these objectives. The discussions we have over the next couple of days will not just look at where the new

CanWEA 2017 Board Chair Cory Basil Day One Welcome Remarks

opportunities for our industry lie, but also how we can work with governments, consumers and system operators to make sure we are delivering the solutions they require.

Before we jump into those discussions, I'd like to take a moment to thank our many sponsors and exhibitors, and give a special shout-out to the staff at CanWEA and our conference partner Hannover Fairs USA for their hard work putting this event together, and to CanWEA's members for their continuous support. They have been instrumental in the success of CanWEA and the industry.

I'd also like to thank you, the attendees for taking the time to be with us and to support the important work CanWEA does on behalf of our industry. I hope you all have a productive conference.

Merci. Thank you. At this time, we have our Diamond sponsor and specifically our Opening Plenary sponsor with us to say a few words. Please welcome M. David Hickey, the Chief Executive Officer at Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy.

Thank you,

Cory Basil
CaWEA Board Chair
Vice President, Development, EDF EN

About the Canadian Wind Energy Association

CanWEA is the voice of Canada's wind energy industry, actively promoting the responsible and sustainable growth of wind energy. A national non-profit association, CanWEA serves as Canada's leading source of credible information about wind energy and its social, economic and environmental benefits. Join us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Learn more at www.canwea.ca.

For more information please contact:

Tracy Walden, Director, Media and Communications
Canadian Wind Energy Association
613.915.4857
tracywalden@canwea.ca