

CanWEA 2018 Conference – Pre-conference Symposium: Managing Impacts to Bats at Canadian Wind Farms – Welcome Remarks

By CanWEA President Robert Hornung

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Good morning, everyone. Thank you all for being here. It is a pleasure to welcome you to Calgary for our pre-conference symposium: Managing Impacts to Bats at Canadian Wind Farms.

Bonjour à tous. Merci beaucoup de votre présence ici aujourd'hui.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we stand today on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy – comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda, which includes the Chiniki, Bears paw, and Wesley First Nations. The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Bat conservation is a topic of vital importance to our industry. Canada is home to at least 18 different species of bats, and these bats play an important role in the balance of biodiversity and ecosystems across the country. The impacts of climate change and the devastating impacts of white-nose syndrome on several bat species has heightened the industry's awareness of the importance of bat conservation, particularly in relation to how we develop and operate wind energy projects throughout the country.

For the past two decades, our industry has made great strides in innovating and managing the impacts to bat populations in the areas where we operate. Through collaboration with industry, environmental scientists, biologists, regulators and researchers we have worked to grow our understanding of the interactions between bats and wind energy.

Indeed, the wind industry is one of the only industries that voluntarily studies and manages wildlife impacts. Through our cooperative efforts, we have learned the importance of considerations related to project turbine siting, wind speed identification and certain effective deterrence methods.

In August, with the help of our members and the scientific community, CanWEA published a comprehensive biological review on this topic – a collection of decades worth of scientific and practical knowledge. The review provides the wind industry, policy makers, stakeholders and community members with an ecological and strategic approach to supply clean renewable power to Canadian communities – all while minimizing the potential effects on bat populations. You can find the review on CanWEA's website.

I'd like to acknowledge DNV GL as the authors of the review, as well as many other contributors for their hard work on this document – some of whom will be speaking later on in today's session. Because of the efforts of

these individuals, our industry is better equipped to holistically manage and mitigate this crucial aspect of our business.

I'd also like to thank CanWEA members for their guidance and leadership in ensuring that Canada's wind energy industry operates in a safe, responsible and sustainable way, so we may continue to produce clean power for all Canadians.

Now I'd like to introduce your moderator for today's session, Brandy Giannetta. Brandy is CanWEA's Regional Director for Ontario and was pivotal in managing the project to develop the Wind Energy and Bat Conservation Review and remains the point person for CanWEA on this file.

Ladies and gentlemen, Brandy Giannetta.