

CanWEA 2018 Conference – CanWEA Board Chair Cory Basil, Day One Welcome Remarks

October 23-25, 2018, BMO Centre, Calgary, Alberta

Calgary, Alberta, October 23, 2018 – 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 2018 (check against delivery).

Good afternoon, everyone.

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.

So to you all, I welcome you to the Canadian Wind Energy Association's 2018 Conference and Exhibition! On behalf of CanWEA's Board of Directors and staff, we are delighted to be your hosts here in Calgary this week.

At EDF Renewables safety is our number one priority – so I would like to begin with a safety message. Should it be necessary to evacuate, you will proceed out the nearest door at the back of the room following the exit signs.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has truly been an exciting time for wind energy development in Western Canada. And it's no coincidence that we are here today in Alberta, the province that pioneered Canada's first commercial wind farm 25 years ago. Cowley Ridge, about two hours south of here, was an historical example of the economic and environmental benefits that wind power can bring to this country.

Alberta has always been an energy innovator. As the province phases out its coal-fired generation, 5,000 megawatts of renewable power capacity will help to take its place – diversifying the economy; reducing environmental impacts; and providing clean, affordable power to Alberta's electricity customers.

And let's not forget Alberta's neighbour to the east, Saskatchewan. Its outstanding commitment to renewables will see wind energy making up 30 per cent of the province's power generating capacity by the year 2030.

As the world continues to shift to low-carbon energy sources, these two provinces are positioning themselves to be more and more competitive in the next chapter of Canada's clean growth.

We are all here because we share a common goal: to contribute to the continued development of a sustainable and prosperous wind energy industry in Canada.

This conference and exhibition brings together wind energy owners and operators, project developers, turbine manufacturers and component suppliers, service providers and other wind energy industry allies from across the country to meet, collaborate and explore the opportunities of this growing and ever-evolving market.

In true CanWEA form, our program this year is diverse and inclusive. We'll examine topics across the industry spectrum. From integrated energy solutions, to power purchase agreements, to Indigenous Peoples' engagement. We'll discuss best practices in operations and maintenance, repowering and life extension, emerging wholesale market revenue streams, the evolution of the grid, and of course we'll throw in a few surprises, and have time for networking and rich discussion.

We're also looking forward to sharing CanWEA's new *Wind Energy Vision for Canada* with all of you. After months in the making, we believe this document will serve as a pathway to expand the industry's contribution to the energy mix, as the grid evolves to power a low-carbon economy.

Friends and colleagues, we have made great strides together, and it has been an honour to be part of this organization. In 2018, CanWEA celebrates 34 years as the voice of Canada's wind energy industry. Together we have worked to actively advance and advocate for the responsible and sustainable growth of wind power.

Through education, collaboration and communication, our team and our members are dedicated to ensuring that this industry shares and promotes its best practices, while contributing and giving back to our local communities.

Before we formally jump into things, 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 for all of their hard work in putting this event together.

(Pause for Applause)

I'd also like to sincerely thank CanWEA's members for their continuous support. You have been a powerful force in the success of CanWEA and of this industry.

(Pause for Applause)

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 wish you all a fruitful and constructive conference. Thank you.

(Pause for Applause)

Thank you very much. At this time, we have one of our Gold sponsors and specifically our Opening Plenary sponsor with us to say a few words. Please welcome Mr. David Hickey, Head of Siemens Gamesa Business in Canada.