



Canadian Waterpower Week 2021

Semaine de l'hydroélectricité canadienne 2021

Opening Remarks by Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin, President and CEO of WaterPower Canada

Mot de bienvenue par Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin, présidente d'Hydroélectricité Canada

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Good morning, everyone. I'm Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin, President and CEO of WaterPower Canada. And it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Canadian Waterpower Week.

As always, this is a uniquely important gathering.

It draws together all segments of the industry that provides 60% of Canada's electricity: clean, reliable and affordable hydropower. And is the only national event where generators from across Canada, along with their suppliers of goods and services gather to shape the future of the industry. I want to warmly thank our sponsors this year for their ongoing support, without which this event would not have been possible.

I think we all realize that this year's event is happening at a uniquely important time.

The urgency of building towards net-zero carbon emissions has never been more obvious. It's reflected in increasingly intense warnings of climate change tipping points, from both scientists and knowledge keepers. It's woven into the reality of more-and-more Canadians, with heat domes, forest fires and floods becoming a regular occurrence. And it is cast into sharper evidence by our pandemic-driven awareness of our shared vulnerability to potentially devastating natural forces.

I want to emphasize the urgency of our situation.

L'urgence de nous mettre en marche vers la carboneutralité n'a jamais été aussi claire. Elle se reflète dans les avertissements de points de bascule climatiques de plus en plus pressants, tant de la part des scientifiques que des gardiens des savoirs traditionnels. Cette urgence s'affirme d'ailleurs dans le vécu d'un nombre croissant de Canadiens, avec les dômes de chaleur, les incendies de forêt et les

inondations dont la fréquence augmente régulièrement. Et la pandémie que nous vivons nous rappelle notre vulnérabilité commune aux forces potentiellement dévastatrices de la nature.

Je tiens donc à le souligner : l'urgence est à nos portes.

Take a moment if you will to think back to 2012... where you were living and working, and what else was going on in your life that year... For me at least, 2012 feels like a very short time ago.

But if we project that same time period forward it takes us all the way to 2030. And that of course is the year by which Canada has promised an at least 40-45 per cent cut in greenhouse gases from 2005 levels... a cut that in turn is meant to be a crucial milestone along the road to a fully net zero economy by 2050.

Given the scope of the transformation that needs to happen, 2030 is a blink-of-an-eye away. Yet I'm optimistic, as I hope all of you are as well. I believe that if our actions match the urgency of our reality, we can still reach those milestones.

Étant donné l'ampleur de la transformation que nous devons faire advenir, l'année 2030... c'est pratiquement demain. Je reste quand même optimiste, et j'espère vous l'êtes tous également. Je crois que si nos actions sont à la hauteur de l'urgence que nous vivons, les objectifs fixés sont encore à notre portée.

My optimism is founded on several factors: first, Canada's tremendous natural endowment of waterpower resources... second, our unparalleled expertise in responsibly developing those resources... and finally the opportunity to do so as part of a diversified portfolio of renewable technologies – backstopped of course by waterpower.

Mon optimisme repose sur plusieurs facteurs. D'abord, les ressources hydriques considérables que la nature a conférées au Canada... Ensuite, notre expertise inégalée dans la mise en valeur responsable de ces ressources... Et enfin, l'occasion que nous avons d'utiliser l'hydroélectricité pour stabiliser un portefeuille diversifié de technologies renouvelables.

Other countries are facing the decarbonization challenge with a lot fewer of these advantages than Canada. And yet, some have better grasped the urgency, and seem to be progressing faster than we are.

How can we close that gap?

We need a policy environment that takes realistic account of the timeframes to expand hydroelectric generation, and that fast tracks non-emitting projects. What are now typically eight- to 12-year project review and development processes clearly need to be streamlined, without bypassing environmental standards.

Il nous faut un contexte réglementaire réaliste, qui tienne compte des délais de développement des installations hydroélectriques, et qui prévoie un régime accéléré pour les projets carboneutres. Les processus actuels d'examen et d'élaboration des projets, qui s'étirent souvent sur huit à douze ans, doivent absolument être allégés, sans pour autant sacrifier les normes environnementales.

We need an integrated, all-hands-on-deck approach to leveraging our various renewable energy resources. We won't meet our 2030 or 2050 goals with a patchwork of facilities and technologies, or with inadequate transmission infrastructure and inter-connections.

Il nous faut une démarche bien pensée pour mobiliser et intégrer nos diverses ressources énergétiques renouvelables. Nous n'atteindrons pas nos cibles de 2030 ou de 2050 avec un ensemble disparate d'installations et de technologies, ou avec une infrastructure de transport d'électricité inadéquate.

And we need clear, coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks, guiding reduced reliance on fossil fuels, carbon pricing, electrification, and ongoing innovation. This will be crucial to ensuring the level of investment needed to meet our 2030 and 2050 goals.

Et il nous faut un cadre stratégique clair, cohérent et complet pour guider l'abandon progressif des combustibles fossiles, la tarification du carbone, l'électrification de l'économie et une innovation soutenue. C'est là une condition essentielle pour assurer le niveau d'investissement nécessaire pour atteindre nos cibles de 2030 et de 2050.

I believe Canadians widely support such policies, as was reflected in the platforms put forward in last month's federal election. I know many policy makers – federal and otherwise – are in the virtual room today, and we look forward to ongoing engagement with you.

WaterPower Canada will also step up more assertively with the message of hydroelectricity's already central and still growing importance. I think in our sector we have sometimes assumed that that reality is more widely understood than it actually is. But there will be no achieving net zero without more fully leveraging Canada's waterpower potential, and you will hear that message loud and clear from us in the months ahead. *Mais il est impossible d'atteindre la carboneutralité sans développer plus pleinement le potentiel hydroélectrique du Canada, et nous allons faire entendre ce message haut et fort au cours des mois à venir.*

For our members, our commitment is to help pave the way for accelerated expansion and optimization, and value recognition of your generating capacity... And to enable innovation in areas such as pumped storage and green hydrogen production. These efforts – your efforts – are what will ultimately make Canada's climate ambitions achievable.

And to our valued supply chain partners, I say: please stand ready for what needs to be – and what will be – tremendous new opportunities in our sector.

Our conference this week will provide a wealth of insights on our industry's future. I'm excited to launch into this program, and to have all of you here to participate.

I'd like to close by acknowledging that the WaterPower Canada team is gratefully hosting this event from Ottawa, the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, who have lived on this land since time immemorial.

While it's more typical to make such an acknowledgement at the start of one's remarks, I'd like to leave it with you as my final thought.

Acknowledgement is important. WaterPower Canada is also striving to go further, and to actively embed reconciliation and partnership with Indigenous peoples into all aspects of how we conduct business. This of course is a journey. Our efforts in the matter will become increasingly evident as we collectively build towards a net zero future.

Thank you. Enjoy the conference, and I look forward to our networking opportunities over the course of the day.

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