

News

On Queen Street: New president of Canadian Hydropower Association aims to clear up fish habitat rules

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Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin became president of Canadian Hydropower Association (CHA) on Sept. 4. One of the items of concern for her and CHA is Bill C-68, an act to amend the Fisheries Act and other acts in consequence. (Photo courtesy of CHA).

As the **Canadian Hydropower Association's** (CHA) new president, one of the tasks ahead of **Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin** will be tackling Bill C-68, which CHA sees as a "significant risk to operations."

Although CHA is interested in more than one federal bill at the moment, Bill C-68, an act to amend the Fisheries Act and other acts in consequence, is of the biggest concern, according to Audouin.

The bill would amend the definition of fish habitat, to include the "quantity, timing and quality of the water flow" that is necessary to sustain the ecosystem of a fish habitat - a change which CHA thinks could open the definition of fish habitat up to too much subjectivity.

"[Quality of] flow' is creating some uncertainty about what is a fish habitat, and widening that scope. We feel this is going to result in great uncertainty in the interpretation of the definition of fish habitat, and all the corresponding prohibitions," she said. "We feel things are a bit too vague in that it could encompass anything and everything. We're seeking clarity."

Also on CHA's list of bills for discussion is Bill C-69, which would enact the Impact Assessment Act and amend the Navigation protection Act. The

bill would broaden the scope of environmental assessments by including social and economic impacts, while shortening the legislated timelines for assessments. Audouin said CHA is interested in greater predictability in terms of timelines, engagement and consultation requirements.

with almost no greenhouse gas emissions. We have been advocating for a price on carbon because we feel it's the best way to recognize our technology and the key contributions it's made to the environmental stability of Canada"

Audouin's move into the role of president on Sept. 4, is a natural



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Besides these more recent issues, Audouin will also lobby for the development of carbon pricing, or a carbon tax, which is something CHA has been advocating for since the late 1990's, according to Audouin.

"We have been in support of a price on carbon for the longest time," she said. "Hydro power is clean and renewable,

progression as she was previously the CHA's director of government and public affairs for four years. She was already registered to lobby in her previous role.

When it comes to lobbying, Audouin said it's about sharing her point of view, and making sure everyone comes away from a meeting with the best information possible.

"I try to be real," she said. "I think a lot of things are said about lobbyists trying to influence the process. Sometimes you're sitting in front of someone who just happens to share your point of view, and sometimes you have very different perspectives. It's just about having a conversation."

Audouin balances her work with CHA and her responsibilities with the Canadian Council on Renewable Energy (CanCORE). CHA was a founding member of CanCORE in 2015, along with the Canadian Solar Industries Association, Canadian Wind Energy Association, and Marine Renewables Canada. The group's mission is to educate Canadians about the benefits of renewable electricity.

Her background also includes working in social and environmental issues management at Hatch, a Mississauga, Ont.-based company that provides consulting and operation support in the sectors of mining and metals, energy and infrastructure.

As she looks ahead to lobbying as CHA's president, Audouin anticipates communicating with Fisheries Minister **Jonathan Wilkinson**, Environment Minister **Catherine McKenna**, and Natural Resources Minister **Amarjeet Sohi**.

"Our key goal is to work with government to make sure any legislation that is updated can be workable for our industry. We represent hydropower generators, but also manufacturers and private sector companies that support the hydropower industry," she said. "I'm humbled by the responsibility and the challenges ahead, but also excited."