



APRIL 22 & 23, 2025 | TORONTO | 22 ET 23 AVRIL 2025

THE FUTURE OF HYDROPOWER

NAVIGATING RISKS, UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

L'AVENIR DE L'HYDROÉLECTRICITÉ

GÉRER LES RISQUES, LIBÉRER LE POTENTIEL

EVENT OVERVIEW

WaterPower Canada is pleased to announce the 2025 WPC Summit, [The Future of Hydropower – Navigating Risks, Unlocking Potential](#), taking place on April 22 & 23, 2025, in Toronto, Ontario. This event will explore Canada's growing energy requirements, the risks and roadblocks to hydro infrastructure growth and strategies to mitigate them, enhance resilience, and drive innovation in an increasingly competitive and rapidly shifting energy landscape.

Hydropower is a cornerstone of energy reliability, resilience, and sustainability. With upfront costs offset by an indefinite service life through refurbishments and upgrades, it is a sound economic investment but is now challenged by lower risk tolerances, increased competition with other sectors and a rapidly changing regulatory landscape. Adding to the uncertainty is a shifting global climate conversation and an increased focus on jumpstarting infrastructure development in the U.S.

This summit will unpack the causes and effects of changing institutional risk assessment frameworks and explore how we can adapt to regulatory and social pressures to ensure hydropower's continued role in Canada's energy future.

The event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, Indigenous partners, and experts for a multi-sector dialogue on risk management and the key levers that can keep hydropower both competitive and attractive in the evolving energy landscape.

Join us this April as we address these challenges head-on and shape the future of hydropower in Canada and beyond.

EVENT DETAILS

Location The Globe and Mail Centre;
351 King St E Suite 1600, Toronto, ON M5A 0N1

Reception April 22nd from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (EDT)

Summit April 23rd from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (EDT)



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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

5:00 pm **Kick Off the 2025 WPC Summit | Earth Day Networking Reception**

Before we dive into a full day of critical discussions at the 2025 WPC Summit: The Future of Hydropower – Navigating Risks, Unlocking Potential, join WaterPower Canada for a relaxed after-work networking social on Earth Day. Unwind with industry leaders, investors, and experts in a casual setting while discussing the key themes shaping Canada's hydropower future. Connect with fellow attendees, exchange ideas, and set the stage for an engaging and insightful summit – all over great conversation and drinks.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

8:00 am **Registration & Breakfast Buffet Open**

8:30 am **Opening Remarks**

Join Lorena Patterson, President & CEO of WaterPower Canada, as she sets the stage by unpacking Canada's energy needs and the real demands they entail. Discover how hydropower stands as and will remain a cornerstone in meeting these goals and driving sustainable energy transformation across the nation.

8:45 am **Session 1 | Case Study: Facing the Challenge Head-On**

Dive into the current state of hydroelectric development in Canada. This session will highlight the challenges and opportunities defining the industry today, focusing on the urgent need for a fresh look at hydropower financing and approval.

9:30 am **Networking Break**

9:45 am **Session 2 | Navigating Risk in Hydro Development**

Discover how risk evaluation and innovative project development practices are shaping the future of hydropower. Featuring insights from Canada's hydro landscape, this session explores practical approaches to assessing and managing risks. Panelists will explore valuable lessons that hydro can learn from other industries, focusing on building resilience, maintaining reliability and competitiveness.

10:30 am **Networking Break**

11:00 am **Session 3 | Social Acceptability – Changing the Conversation**

As the conversation shifts from debating **whether** to build, to **how** we build in a way that earns social acceptance, this session will explore how trust and transparency can be fostered through meaningful engagement with communities, NGO's, and policymakers. Hear from WPC Members as they share insights on how their strategic plans align with responsible development. Hear their lessons from the field and how they navigate public perception and project approvals. Through real-world examples and collaborative approaches, we'll examine ways to balance industry priorities with environmental and social expectations, ensuring hydropower's future is both sustainable and widely supported.

12:00 pm Networking Lunch

1:15 pm Session 4 | Indigenous Economic Reconciliation

As Canada advances its clean energy future, Indigenous participation in hydropower development is more critical than ever. This session will showcase successful collaboration models from WPC Members, highlighting how Indigenous equity, risk-sharing, and innovative partnerships are driving meaningful economic opportunities. Panelists will explore financing tools and equity programs that empower Indigenous communities to take an active role in energy projects. Through real-world examples and insights from Indigenous leaders, this session will highlight the pathways to sustainable, inclusive hydropower development that benefits all stakeholders.

2:00 pm Networking Break

2:15 pm Session 5 | Financial Strategies for Hydro's Competitiveness

As hydropower competes for investment in a rapidly evolving energy market, innovative financial strategies are essential to maintain its competitiveness. This session will explore how commercial financing is adapting to support hydro development while prioritizing de-risking over traditional financing models.

Panelists will provide institutional perspectives on clean energy financing, addressing key questions: How can hydro remain attractive to investors? What financial mechanisms can help mitigate risk in long-term infrastructure projects? And how do lenders balance risk and return in the clean energy transition? Join leading financial experts for this in-depth discussion on securing hydropower's future through smart, sustainable financial innovation.

3:00 pm Networking Break

3:15 pm Summit Closing | Hydro and the Bigger Picture - A Political and Global Overview

As Canada navigates a transition in the energy conversation both at home and in the U.S., hydropower must compete in a dynamic global market shaped by shifting policies, international trade, and geopolitical forces. This closing session will provide a high-level perspective on hydropower's role in the global energy landscape with discussions exploring the influence of political will, regulatory frameworks, and policy decisions shaping hydro's competitiveness. How does Canada's hydro sector stack up against global energy trends? What policy levers can be pulled to strengthen its position? And how can industry leaders align with national and international priorities to secure hydro's future?

Post-Event Report | The Future of Hydropower - Navigating Risks, Unlocking Potential

Following the 2025 WaterPower Canada Summit, a post-event report will be published, capturing the key insights, discussions, and actionable strategies shared by during the event. This report will serve as a vital resource for policymakers and stakeholders, outlining practical recommendations for de-risking hydropower projects, enhancing competitiveness, and securing investment in a shifting energy landscape. From policy and regulatory perspectives to innovative financing models and Indigenous partnerships, [The Future of Hydropower](#) will provide a roadmap for advancing hydropower's role in Canada's clean energy transition.



Program development for the 2025 WPC Summit is ongoing, with speakers being added as the lineup takes shape. Those interested in speaking or sponsoring opportunities are encouraged to contact: conference@waterpowercanada.ca