



**WATERPOWER  
CANADA**

# 2025

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Every year brings its own flavour of uncertainty, but 2025 has delivered a particularly potent mix. As the world grapples with geopolitical tensions, sluggish growth, and fragile supply chains, Canada is trying to thread the needle: how do we grow the economy and secure our energy future?

**Part of the answer is flowing through every province and territory, and it may be the most Canadian resource we have: hydropower.**

Harnessing this precious resource reflects Canada's values of collaboration and environmental protection. Hydropower facilities last generations and in many ways are the most quintessentially Canadian of all our country's resources.

Water has always shaped this country. For Indigenous peoples, water is sacred, the foundation of life and livelihood. That relationship, one rooted in stewardship, reciprocity, and long-term thinking, offers a different way of approaching economic development. Hydropower, done right, reflects those values. It's collaboration over extraction. It's infrastructure that lasts generations. It's clean energy built on respect for the land and the communities who have cared for it since time immemorial.

In a year marked by new policy direction in Ottawa, where energy security, economic growth and "nation-building" have taken centre stage, hydropower is a bridge between Canada's competing priorities.

It's a reliable source of power that supports industrial growth and clean electrification. It underpins affordable electricity and energy independence. It stabilizes the grid while supporting thousands of Canadian jobs, meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, and equity ownership models that share the benefits of development.

This is infrastructure built to last, shaped by the same long-term thinking that has always defined how Canada rises to challenges.

Yet there's a disconnect. Our permitting system hasn't quite caught up to the urgency of the moment. Complex, fragmented processes turn shovel-ready projects into long, uncertain waits. Vision stalls. Capital hesitates. And Canada loses ground, not because we lack the resources or the resolve, but because we can't seem to move at the speed this moment requires.

Which is why, this past year, we sharpened our focus. From ministerial roundtables to DFO workshops and red tape report submissions, WaterPower Canada seeks a permitting regime that reflects Canadian values: collaborative, risk-based, protective of what matters, but built to deliver.

In 2025, we saw encouraging momentum on Investment Tax Credits for hydropower, increased recognition at the federal level, and stronger member engagement. A record number of you attended the 2025 Canadian Waterpower Week conference to share solutions, celebrate progress, and prepare for the future.

**So what comes next?**

In 2026, our focus is clear: move promising projects from planning to construction. That means establishing regulatory clarity and timelines Canadians can count on, advancing Indigenous equity and leadership in major builds, and unlocking the financing these projects need to succeed.

We'll be launching our first HydroFinance summit to bring together the capital, policy clarity, and partnerships required to turn ambition into infrastructure and to strengthen hydropower's role at the heart of Canada's nation-building agenda.

**To our members, partners, and advocates across the country: thank you for your continued confidence. The opportunity is here. The urgency is real. Together, we can build a clean, reliable energy grid that will power Canadians' electricity needs for generations to come.**



**Lorena Patterson**  
President & CEO  
WaterPower Canada



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# OUR IMPACT

In 2025, we continued to grow our reach, influence, and capacity to serve the sector.

Through strategic investments in advocacy, communications, and member engagement, we strengthened the voice of waterpower at a critical time in Canada's clean energy transition.



**"Every conversation, every connection, it all builds momentum for Canada's energy future."**



**Lorena Patterson**  
President & CEO  
WaterPower Canada

**25+**



Government Meetings

**8**



Submissions and Public Letters

**17M+**



Campaign Impressions

**20%**



Membership Growth

**375+**



Delegates at Canadian Water Week

# 2025 IN PERSPECTIVE

## Organization



**5** Full-Time Staff Members



**61** WaterPower Canada Members



**5** Working Groups



**1998** WPC Founded



**HQ** Ottawa, Ontario

## Sector



**63%** of Canada's Electricity



**84.3K** MW Capacity



**26** New Projects

## Engagement



**5+** National Campaigns



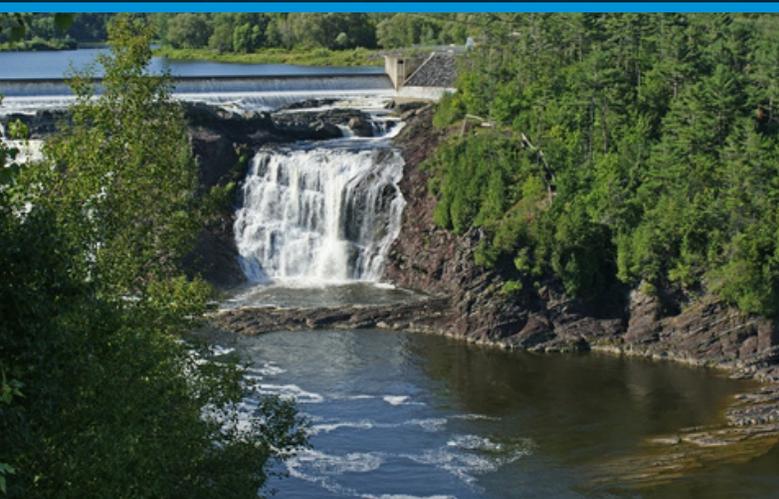
**4.9M** Canadians Reached



**8** Webinars Conducted



**375+** Event Attendance



# ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

In 2025, WaterPower Canada strengthened hydropower's advocacy in Canada's energy policy landscape. Through early and strategic engagement with the main parties' campaigns and later with the new government, we secured critical progress on regulatory reform and built relationships that will advance our sector's priorities.

## Legislative Momentum

The Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) completed the Fisheries Act Review undertaken in 2024. Notably, the DFO Deputy Minister has acknowledged that legislative changes are needed, a significant validation of our longstanding advocacy for modernized regulations.

## Regulatory Progress

We advanced practical solutions with DFO at the administrative level, and the department's participation in Canadian WaterPower Week signaled deepening collaboration between the regulator and our sector.



**First association** to engage Minister's office and FOPO Committee post-federal election, positioning hydropower early in policy discussions.



**Over 25 meetings** with elected officials, political staff, opposition groups, and public servants.



**Participated in 4 federal consultations:** Privy Council Office (PCO) sludge audit, red tape review, pre-budget, and ECCC, coordinating policy recommendations with our working groups.



**Connected WPC members** directly with officials and staff to amplify messaging, address individual project challenges, and advance business objectives.



**Co-led two full-day workshops** with DFO and Electricity Canada on practical permitting solutions and regulatory improvements.



**Developed relationships** with dozens of energy, business, academic, labour and human resources, and Indigenous groups.



**Kept abreast of developments** on U.S. tariffs and trade for our sector through strategic engagements with cross-border organizations and relevant Canadian government departments and forums.



## MEMBERSHIP

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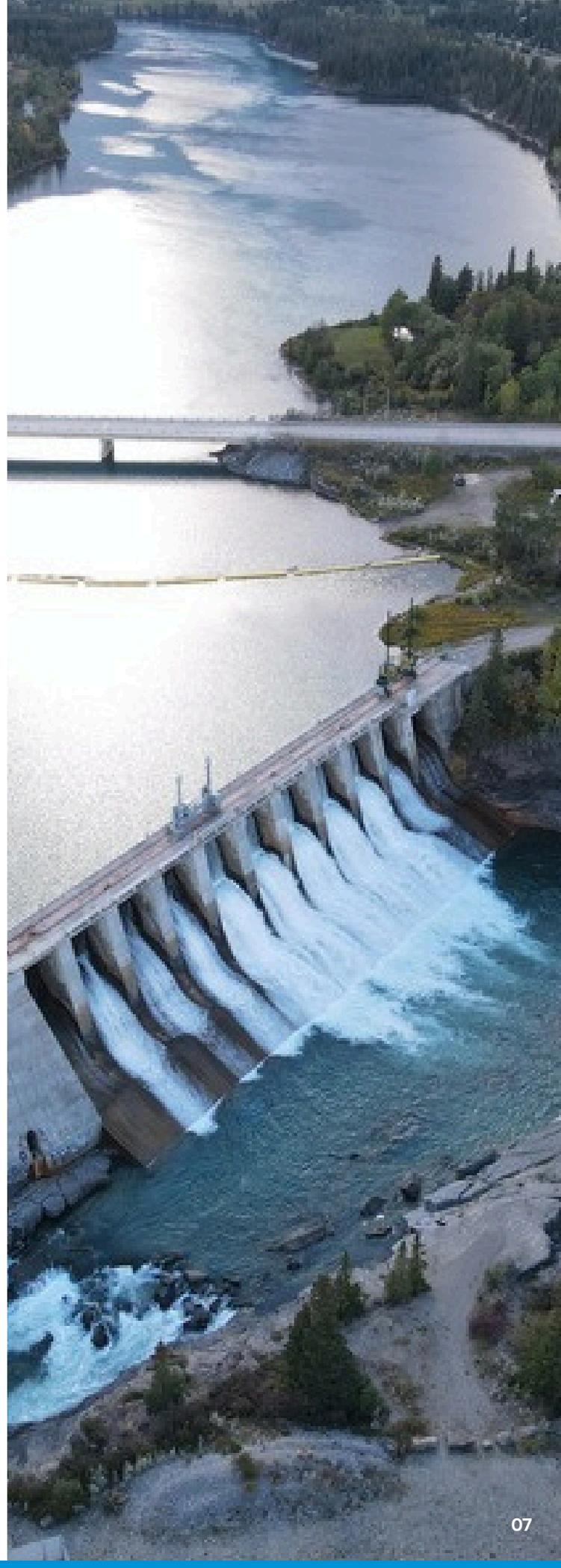
We welcomed 10 new members who recognized the tangible value our association delivers. From influencing policy to elevating the industry's profile nationally, our work is driven by one principle: advancing the success of our members and the sector as a whole.

### Delivering Value

Through strategic advocacy that opens doors and shapes policy, national communications campaigns that build public support for hydropower, member-only insights that inform business decisions, and connections that matter, from government officials to industry peers. Throughout the year, members accessed expert knowledge through webinars, engaged with policymakers through our advocacy efforts, and leveraged our national platform to amplify their projects and expertise.

### Building for the Future

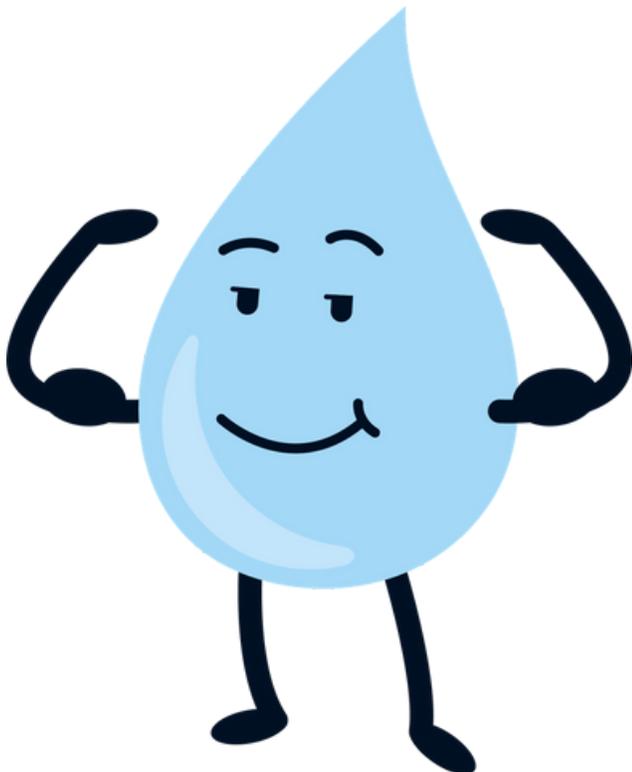
Our working groups provided forums for collaboration on the issues that matter most to the industry's future. This year, we launched the **Future of Hydropower Working Group**, bringing together business development and HR leaders to tackle the interconnected challenges of project development, from skilled labour and supply chain coordination to transmission infrastructure and trade barriers. By addressing how these pieces fit together, the group will guide our advocacy priorities and strengthen the business case for Canadian hydropower's long-term growth.



# COMMUNICATIONS

We strengthened national awareness of hydropower through strategic campaigns addressing energy security, the federal election, and public perceptions of clean energy. From myth-busting initiatives to Canadian Waterpower Day, our communications helped shape the national conversation around clean, reliable, and affordable power.

A national Abacus Data poll, conducted in March 2025, found that **91% of Canadians support expanding hydropower**. The findings align with the themes reflected in our campaigns: affordability, reliability, and sustainability, and underscore the broad public confidence in hydropower as the backbone of Canada's clean energy future.



**17,000,000+**

Campaign Impressions Across Television, Digital and Social



**4,900,000+**

Canadians Reached



**10,000+**

New Social Media Followers



**91%**

Public Support for Hydro Perceptual Baseline



**+106%**

Increase in Website Traffic



**Rebrand**

Monthly News Letter Rebrand: Making Waves

**"Canadians are sending a clear message: they want more investment in hydropower."**



**Lorena Patterson**  
President & CEO  
WaterPower Canada

## EVENTS

In 2025, WaterPower Canada continued to bring the hydropower community together through a range of impactful events designed to inform, connect, and inspire. From high-level national discussions at Canadian Waterpower Week to targeted knowledge-sharing through monthly webinars, WPC served as an anchor for collaboration across Canada's clean energy sector.



### Monthly Webinars

Throughout the year, WPC hosted a series of member-driven webinars on timely policy updates, market developments, and technological advancements. These sessions provided valuable platforms for sharing insights, strengthening connections, and ensuring members remained at the forefront of Canada's evolving hydropower and clean energy landscape.



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**October 1 to October 3**  
The Westin  
Ottawa, Ontario

## POWERING CANADA, EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Nearly 400 industry leaders, Indigenous partners, regulators, and government officials attended this year's conference to examine hydropower's role in achieving Canada's net-zero goals. The event featured dynamic panels, technical sessions, and networking opportunities, and included a major milestone: the federal government's \$17 million announcement in support of Indigenous-led hydropower projects in Quebec.

Canadian Waterpower Week 2025 also saw the successful launch of several new programs designed to enhance engagement and learning:

- **WPC Dragons' Dam Competition** spotlighting emerging innovators and clean energy entrepreneurs.
- **Pre-Conference Training Sessions** offering professional development opportunities tailored to the hydropower workforce.
- **Meet the Regulator Program** facilitating direct dialogue between members and key regulatory agencies.
- **WPC WaveMaker Awards** recognizing outstanding leadership, innovation, and collaboration within the industry.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**375+** 

Delegates,  
Record  
Attendance

**82** 

Conference  
Speakers

**26** 

Conference  
Exhibitors

**24** 

Concurrent  
Breakout  
Sessions

**19** 

Conference  
Sponsors

**6** 

Plenary  
Sessions  
Held

**3** 

Network  
Receptions and  
Awards Dinner

**Watch**

The Event  
Video on  
Youtube



# WAVEMAKER AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE  
ACROSS THE SECTOR



Hydropower Innovation Excellence:  
Ontario Power Generation



Community Impact:  
Michael Thibault, Kiewit



Canadian Waterpower Achievement:  
Yannick Bossé, AECOM



Indigenous Reconciliation & Partnership:  
Innavik Hydro Project Pituvik Landholding  
Corporation & Innergex



Lifetime Achievement: Chris O'Riley  
(Former President and CEO,  
BC Hydro)



Woman of Waterpower Award, In Partnership  
with Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE):  
Caroline Marchand, Andritz

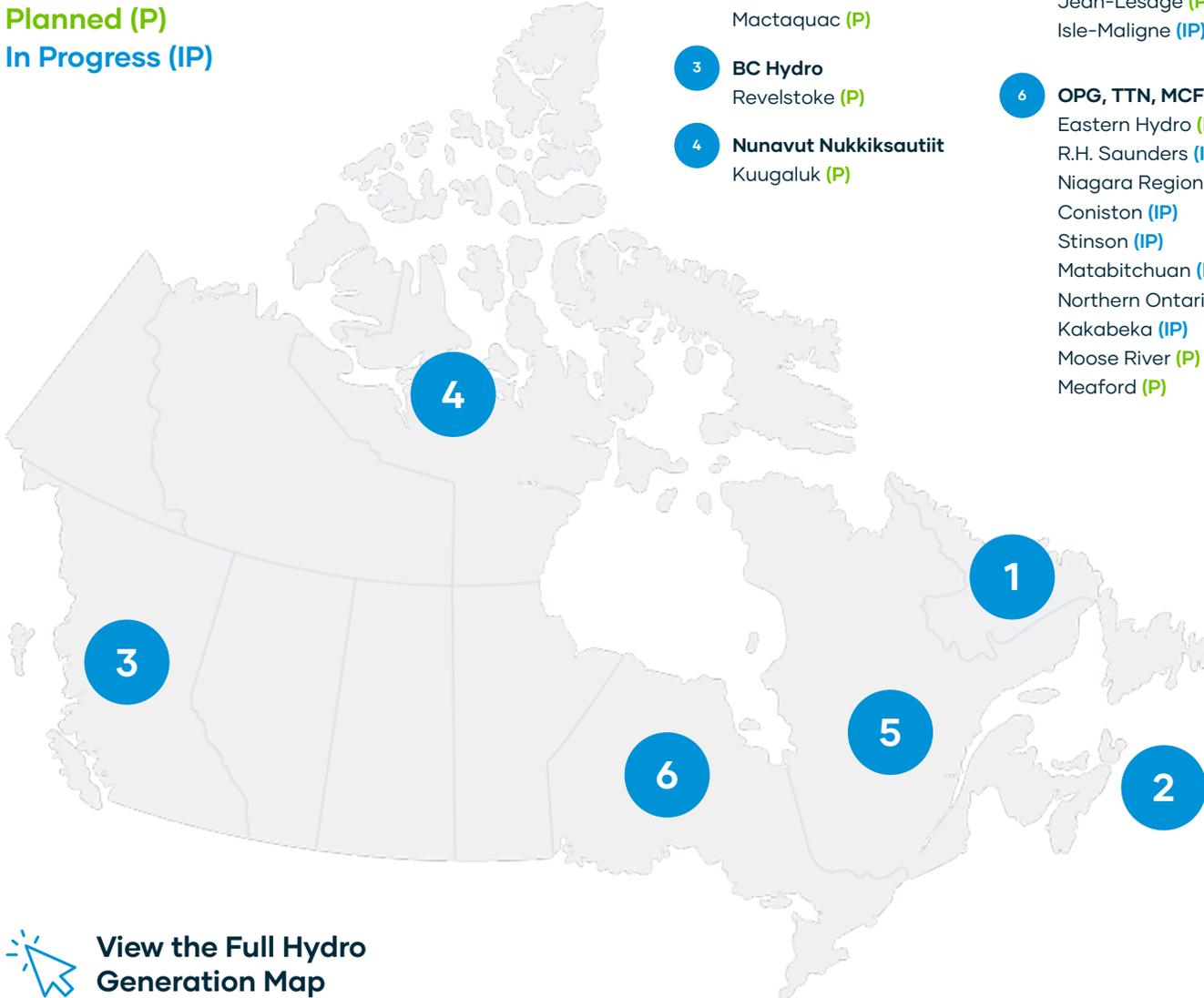
**"To be recognized by an organization that champions the very resource that has powered my career—and my province—is profoundly meaningful."**



**Chris O'Riley**  
Former President & CEO  
BC Hydro

# NEW INVESTMENTS AND GROWTH IN REFURBISHMENT AND MODERNIZATION

Planned (P)  
In Progress (IP)

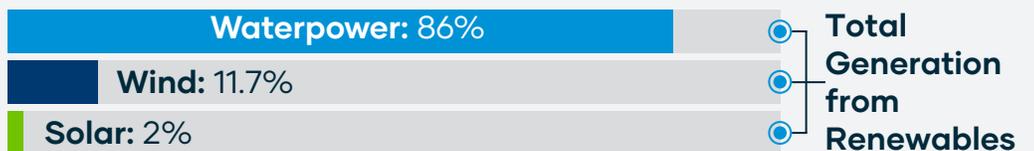


- 1 NL Hydro**  
 Bay d’Espoir, Unit 7 (P)  
 Bay d’Espoir, Unit 8 (P)  
 Churchill Falls, Refurbish (P)  
 Churchill Falls, Expansion (P)  
 Gull Island\_(P)
- 2 NS Power, NB Power**  
 Wreck Cove (IP)  
 Mactaquac (P)
- 3 BC Hydro**  
 Revelstoke (P)
- 4 Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit**  
 Kuugaluk (P)
- 5 Hydro-Québec, Rio Tinto**  
 La Grande (P)  
 Pumped Storage (P)  
 Carillon (IP)  
 Trenche (IP)  
 Rapide-Blanc (IP)  
 Outardes-2 (IP)  
 René-Lévesque (P)  
 Jean-Lesage (P)  
 Isle-Maligne (IP)
- 6 OPG, TTN, MCFN, TC**  
 Eastern Hydro (P)  
 R.H. Saunders (IP)  
 Niagara Region (IP)  
 Coniston (IP)  
 Stinson (IP)  
 Matabitchuan (IP)  
 Northern Ontario (IP)  
 Kakabeka (IP)  
 Moose River (P)  
 Meaford (P)

 [View the Full Hydro Generation Map](#)

## OUR ROLE IN CANADA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Hydropower is the largest source of non-combustible renewable electricity in Canada.



# POWERING THE FUTURE



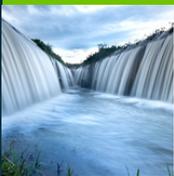
**Advancing Regulatory Reform**



**Expanding Public Education and Engagement**



**Advocating for Smart Federal Investment in Hydropower**



**Strengthening Sector Collaboration**



**Building Pathways for the Next Generation of Hydropower Professionals**

**“The opportunity is clear: Canada’s clean, reliable waterpower can lead the way.”**



**Serge Abergel**

WaterPower Canada Board Chair

COO of Hydro-Quebec Energy Services (U.S.) Inc.

# 2025 IN PHOTOS



# THANK YOU & STAY CONNECTED

## Our Team

WaterPower Canada's work is carried out by a dedicated staff team who manage policy advocacy, member services, strategic communications, and events throughout the year.

## Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors provides strategic oversight and governance, ensuring WaterPower Canada effectively represents the interests of Canada's hydropower sector. Thank you for your time, expertise, and leadership.

## Working Group Chairs

Our Working Group Chairs lead critical conversations on regulatory reform, environmental stewardship, workforce development, and innovation. Your expertise and guidance strengthen our advocacy and ensure our work reflects real-world industry experience. Thank you for your contributions.

## To Our Members

You are the reason this work matters. Your projects power communities, your innovations advance the sector, and your commitment to doing hydropower right sets the standard. Thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your shared belief in what Canadian hydropower can deliver.

## Contact Information and Social Handles



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