
CANADIAN ELECTRICITY ASSOCIATION

PM SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE CEA KEYNOTE

- NOVEMBER 7, 2018 -



Canadian
Electricity
Association

Association
canadienne
de l'électricité

PM speaking notes for the Canadian Electricity Association keynote

7 November 2018

Bonsoir tout le monde.

Merci pour cette belle introduction, Ray, et pour votre leadership en tant que président du conseil d'administration de l'Association canadienne de l'électricité et président directeur général de Saint John Energy.

It's great to be here with so many outstanding members of the Canadian Electricity Association.

I know that people travelled from all across Canada to be here tonight, so welcome. I bet a few of you even took a long flight.

I'm sure I'm not the only one here who's done this, but when I fly at night, I often look down when we're going over a city or town, to see the dots of light from streets and houses and soccer pitches, all connected into these neat little grids.

It's funny, but until you're up in the air, you might not realize how these lines of light link us to our friends and neighbours. How electricity connects us as communities, and runs through our daily lives.

As the Canadian Electricity Association, that's what you do – you power our lives every day.

And ever since CEA became the national voice for the electricity sector almost 130 years ago, you've been building a brighter Canada. It's not just because you made nearly \$70 billion in capital investments this year alone.

It's because Canadians can count on the people in this room to deliver safe, reliable power.

Now that we're more and more reliant on plugging things into sockets, electricity is the lifeblood of our day-to-day lives.

And because the people here do such a good job, sometimes we take electricity for granted, only to notice how much we need it when the power goes out – the Great Ice Storm of 1998, the B.C. South Coast blackout three years ago, the tornadoes here in Ottawa and Gatineau this past September.

While the rest of us hunker down with candles and blankets, line workers and technicians get to work. Since extreme weather is becoming increasingly familiar to us all, instead of a rare exception, that work is more important than ever.

But that's not the only way that you're making a difference.

You're also making sure that Canadians can afford to turn on the lights in the evening as their kids do homework, to turn up the heat when their grandparents feel cold.

Because the reality is that many families are facing rising living costs, and wages that aren't always keeping pace.

Right from day one, our government has been focused on how we can make life better for the middle class and people working hard to join it, no matter whether it's putting money back into the pockets of families with the Canada Child Benefit, or creating new job opportunities for people by negotiating trade deals that are good for Canadians.

Chers amis, notre gouvernement travaille avec vous pour faire en sorte que l'électricité demeure abordable pour les familles canadiennes. Je parlerai plus en détail de l'innovation dans quelques instants, mais une partie importante de ce travail est de trouver des nouvelles façons de gérer nos ressources naturelles.

Nous avons commencé le travail. Nous travaillons avec les intervenants du secteur pour aider les gens à conserver l'électricité. Quand les gens utilisent l'énergie d'une manière plus efficace, ils peuvent non seulement économiser de l'argent, mais aider à protéger l'environnement. Tout le monde est gagnant.

And let's remember that there's still work to be done.

Because there are families, especially in remote, Northern, and Indigenous communities, that don't have access to affordable or reliable electricity. That holds people back. But the good news is that by working together, we can do something about it.

In fact, we've already gotten started.

Our government invested in Wataynikaneyap [Wah-tay-ni-gi-neyup] Power's project to connect the Pikangikum [Pi-can-ji-come] First Nation community and 16 others to Ontario's power grid. For other rural and remote communities, we're investing \$220 million to reduce reliance on diesel fuel, and help people use more sustainable, renewable power.

Together, we can ensure that everyone sees the benefits of clean, safe electricity – healthier air and less money spent on expensive fuel. Not to mention the prosperity that electricity sector jobs can bring to a community.

Because affordable, reliable power isn't the only way that this industry helps families day-to-day.

The Canadian electricity industry employs over 80,000 people. These are well-paying, middle class jobs that people can rely on. And thanks to the dedication of today's Occupational Health and Safety Award winners, they're safe jobs, too.

So our government is making smart, targeted investments in CEA members to create even more good jobs.

Take, for example, our recent investment in Halagonia Tidal Energy's project to harness marine renewable energy. It's not only a first-of-its-kind project, it will also create 120 jobs for people in Nova Scotia.

Dans une économie qui évolue rapidement, les gens comptent sur les emplois sûrs et bien rémunérés dans le secteur. Nous devons donc penser à ce que nous pouvons faire pour protéger leur avenir. Par exemple, accroître le commerce de l'électricité canadienne – qui, soit dit en passant, génère déjà des profits de 2,6 milliards de dollars – aidera à assurer la force de l'industrie pour des années à venir.

Et lorsqu'il est question du commerce de l'électricité, nous devons aussi parler de la collaboration entre les provinces.

Je sais que le ministre Sohi et le ministre Champagne suivent déjà ce dossier de près et qu'il y a énormément de potentiel dans ce domaine.

Parce que c'est en travaillant d'un bout à l'autre du pays que nous pourrions aider tout le monde à profiter de l'énergie propre et de qualité produite ici, au Canada.

Notre gouvernement est là pour vous aider à trouver de bonnes idées – comme celle de créer un corridor pour l'énergie propre allant d'un océan à l'autre.

Nous sommes prêts à appuyer vos projets ambitieux. Des projets qui vont produire des résultats non seulement aujourd'hui, mais à l'avenir.

[Pause]

I know that everyone here is well equipped to handle a changing future. It's in the very nature of your work.

Ever since inventors first harnessed the power of electricity, people have known that it's the way of the future. In the 1800s, they were thinking about electric lightbulbs. In 2018, we're thinking about electric cars.

You're powering our tomorrow, a future where Canada is a leader in clean tech and innovation.

And you're already well on your way.

The Canadian electricity sector – with low carbon emission nuclear generation and huge hydroelectric producers like HydroQuebec and B.C. Hydro – is one of the cleanest in the world. That's something you should be very proud of.

[Pause]

But better is always possible, and this industry is in a strong position to continue to lead – look no further than tonight's winners of the Sustainable Electricity Awards and Nalcor Energy, awarded the Sustainable Electricity Designation.

Our government is in your corner as you keep Canada ahead of the curve with your million-watt ideas. We're investing \$2.3 billion to support clean technology and drive innovation in everything from wind and tidal power, to solar panels.

Chers amis, le secteur des technologies propres a un immense potentiel.

Notre gouvernement appuie une économie axée sur la croissance propre en prenant des mesures pour veiller à ce que la pollution ne soit plus gratuite au Canada.

Encore une fois, vous êtes des leaders dans ce domaine. Plus de 80 % du secteur de l'électricité du Canada ne produit aucune émission de carbone. Vous êtes sur la bonne voie lorsqu'on parle de réduction des émissions. C'est un excellent exemple à suivre pour les autres secteurs qui veulent, comme vous, prendre des mesures concrètes et innovatrices pour contrer les changements climatiques.

Of course, there's not much point investing in world class clean energy generation if we don't have the transmission and distribution infrastructure to match. It's something that leaders here at CEA talk about a lot.

That's why we're supporting CEA members directly – last month we announced almost \$5 million in funding for SaskPower to support their Distribution Modernization Program.

In August, we also announced an investment of \$1.4 million in a smart grid project by ENMAX Power, to send extra renewable electricity back into Calgary's grid for other people to use.

These are just two examples of the projects that we're proud to support, projects that ensure that reliable, affordable power comes along with the promise of a healthy environment for our kids and grandkids.

So thank you for your commitment to energizing our communities for today, and propelling us into a bright future.

By working together, we can keep powering Canada, and keep fueling those bright lights seen from your red-eye flight.

Together, we can make sure that future generations of astronauts will look down at Earth from space and see our world still tied together by lines of light. My friends, we have the power to make that happen.

Thank you. Merci beaucoup tout le monde.