

2025 Highlights

Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC)

The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities

CANHC is a not-for-profit association that serves local governments by supporting nuclear host communities and fostering proactive relationships with the Canadian nuclear industry and regulators, always prioritizing community interests.

**Visit our new CANHC website –
Canada's Municipal Nuclear Hub!**

 www.canhc.info



CANHC
Canadian Association of
Nuclear Host Communities

CANHC in Action: 2025 Highlights

Engagements across Canada, the United States, and Internationally.

JANUARY	●	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licensing hearing intervention – OPG BWRX-300, Darlington – Ajax, Ontario
FEBRUARY	●	CANHC Member Meeting – Cobourg, Ontario
MARCH	●	Waste Management (WM) 2025 Conference – Phoenix, Arizona <i>Panelist: International Partnership on Nuclear Energy</i>
		Exploring Canada's Nuclear Potential – Strathcona County, Alberta <i>Session: Engaging municipalities in nuclear dialogue</i>
APRIL	●	CANHC Annual General Meeting – Ottawa, Ontario
		Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) – advancing economic development
		MOU signed with University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) – strengthening education and collaboration
MAY	●	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Conference on Stakeholder Engagement – Vienna, Austria CANHC mayors presenting alongside 70+ global leaders
JUNE	●	Nuclear Energy Leadership Table – CANHC participation
SEPTEMBER	●	Canadian Nuclear Society Conference – Toronto, ON CANHC keynote presentation
OCTOBER	●	CANHC Mayoral Meeting and Darlington Site Tour – Clarington, ON
NOVEMBER	●	Appointment of Executive Director (part-time) Strengthening policy, communications, and national engagement
		IAEA Technical Meeting – Vienna, Austria Strengthening partnerships among nuclear municipalities
DECEMBER	●	Exploring Alberta's Nuclear Energy Future <i>Keynote: Municipal information session</i>



Have you met CANHC's new Executive Director?

Bringing experience, clarity, and a strong municipal voice to Canada's nuclear future.

Clare Churchill joined CANHC as Executive Director in fall 2025, bringing over 35 years of experience in the nuclear and energy sector in Canada and internationally. Her career spans nuclear policy, regulation, community engagement, Indigenous consultation, and environmental assessment – including nearly two decades as an Executive at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

At a time of renewed momentum for nuclear energy in Canada, Clare is positioning CANHC as a trusted national voice for host communities – ensuring municipalities are informed, supported, and meaningfully included in decision-making.

Her current priorities focus on strengthening CANHC's policy, communications, and capacity-building role through:

- strengthening CANHC's role in **policy and regulatory discussions**, ensuring municipal realities are reflected in federal and provincial decisions;
- developing practical **tools and coordinated approaches** to support both current and emerging host communities;
- building strong **partnerships** with governments, regulators, industry, and international organizations;
- launching **Canada's Municipal Nuclear Hub** – a first-of-its-kind online resource providing municipalities with accessible, credible, and fact-based nuclear information;
- expanding CANHC's **communications and social media presence** to amplify host community perspectives and actively address misinformation; and,
- supporting Canada's new nuclear program through broader national and international engagement supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency's Global Partnership Initiative with international nuclear host communities.

Clare is already making headway in developing the tools, addressing the policy and capacity gaps, and in strengthening CANHC's ability to support members effectively during a period of rapid national nuclear growth.



Get in touch by emailing Clare!
ExecutiveDirector@canhc.info



Engaging with Ontario's Minister of Energy and Mines

The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) has had multiple meetings with the Honourable Stephen Lecce, MPP, Minister of Energy and Mines to advance key priorities for nuclear host communities in Ontario.

Discussions focused on three core areas:

1. Sharing CANHC's Activities and Perspective

- CANHC provided updates on its growing role and activities at the provincial, national, and international levels.
- Ontario's plans to expand its nuclear fleet and strengthen the nuclear supply chain present significant opportunities for economic growth and job creation.
- Host communities are central to this transformation—providing the foundation for powering Ontario's future while supporting local economic development.

2. Strengthening Engagement with Host Communities

- Ontario's clean energy expansion depends on willing and informed host communities—there is no nuclear industry without them.
- CANHC emphasized the importance of meaningful, ongoing engagement with municipalities.
- Host communities bring practical experience, local knowledge, and strong support that are essential to the long-term success of nuclear projects.

3. Securing Sustainable Funding for CANHC

- CANHC highlighted the need for stable, long-term funding to continue supporting host communities and advancing best practices.
- As a not-for-profit organization operating at provincial, national, and international levels, CANHC currently lacks sustainable core funding despite its expanding role.

CANHC will continue to engage with Ontario and provincial governments across Canada, advancing the interests of nuclear host communities and ensuring their perspectives are reflected as the sector evolves.





CANHC: A Voice for Nuclear Host Communities

At its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, CANHC reaffirmed its role as a national voice for municipalities that host—or are considering hosting—nuclear facilities.

As Canada’s nuclear sector continues to evolve—with refurbishments, innovation, and new technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) - CANHC emphasizes that there is no nuclear industry without willing and informed host communities. Ensuring municipalities have a meaningful seat at the table, along with the tools and information needed to participate effectively, is essential.

Achieving a low-carbon future will require collaboration across governments, regulators, industry, Indigenous Nations, and host communities. A strong and supported municipal voice is key to building public confidence and enabling the responsible growth of Canada’s nuclear sector.

“Global Partnership” of Nuclear Communities Officially Launched

The Global Partnership of Nuclear Communities formally announced its incorporation as a legal entity at meetings in the United States, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation among communities that host, or are considering hosting, nuclear facilities. The Partnership represents dozens of nuclear host communities across Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Established to foster international collaboration, the Global Partnership brings together municipalities to share information, provide educational resources, advocate collectively, and advance best practices. Its goal is to support and empower communities across all stages of the nuclear lifecycle.

The Partnership was founded through the collaboration of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), the Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe (GMF Europe), and the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) in the United States.

With its formal incorporation, nuclear host communities now have a unified global platform to strengthen their voice, influence nuclear policy discussions, and champion the interests of communities most directly connected to the sector.

Partnering to Reform Economic Development in Nuclear Energy

The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) and the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) announced in May the launch of an innovative economic development partnership designed to bolster the nuclear energy community.

CANHC and OCNI signed their first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), setting the stage for an impactful collaboration in several pivotal areas, including connecting OCNI Member Companies with local host community leaders, facilitating economic development connections, and exploring further mutual benefits.

This breakthrough agreement is about looking to the future and embracing a dynamic approach to economic development in the nuclear energy sector. It's set to drive sustainable growth, boost community involvement, and forge stronger ties between the industry and our host communities.

Advancing Collaboration and Education for Nuclear Communities

The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) and the University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) announced in May the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance collaboration and educational support for nuclear host and potential host communities across Canada.

This agreement marks an important step in strengthening the resources, expertise, and networks available to municipalities engaged in Canada's nuclear sector. By leveraging UNENE's research and education capabilities alongside CANHC's community engagement expertise, both organizations aim to ensure that host and potential host communities are well-informed, well-supported, and well-positioned to realize the economic and social benefits associated with nuclear energy and technology.

Through this MOU, CANHC and UNENE will work together to:

- expand educational and research opportunities for host and potential host communities;
- facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives; and
- strengthen connections between municipalities, industry experts, and academic institutions.





A Selection of Host Community Milestones

Kincardine

- Kincardine and Bruce County reviewed and submitted feedback on key documents as the Bruce C Nuclear Project advances through the federal Impact Assessment.
- Mayor Kenneth Craig represented Kincardine in Vienna at the inaugural International Conference on Stakeholder Engagement for Nuclear Programmes hosted by the IAEA.
- Kincardine established a Nuclear Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee to provide guidance on nuclear projects underway in the community.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) President and staff visited Kincardine to meet with Mayor Craig and the advisory committee to discuss the responsibilities of hosting the world's largest nuclear facility.
- Kincardine Council members participated in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program, increasing awareness of regulatory oversight and ongoing environmental sampling.
- Council members toured the Douglas Point Decommissioning Project, the first full-scale nuclear power plant decommissioning in Canada, setting a precedent for safe retirement and land remediation of large nuclear sites.

Port Hope

- In January 2025, the Ontario government asked OPG to explore new nuclear generation at Wesleyville, Port Hope, following interest from the Municipality and Williams Treaties First Nations. Since then, the Municipality has actively collaborated in the process.
- In October, OPG opened the Nuclear Discovery Centre in Port Hope to engage the community and Indigenous Nations. The Centre provides up-to-date information and opportunities for feedback.
- In December, OPG submitted the Initial Project Description for Wesleyville to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). The IAAC and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission invited Indigenous Peoples and the public to review and provide feedback; the process is ongoing.

Ignace

- The Township of Ignace issued its first Negotiated Request for Proposals for municipal land development to support growth associated with the Deep Geological Repository project; awarded to Bruno's Contracting (Thunder Bay).
- The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced the location of the new Ignace Centre of Expertise, with construction expected to be completed by 2028.
- The Township and NWMO hosted public engagement sessions to present conceptual designs and gather feedback on the Centre of Expertise.
- The Township hosted the inaugural Nuclear Youth Symposium in Ignace, engaging 100 youth across Northwestern Ontario on nuclear career opportunities in nuclear science and technology.





Pickering

- The City of Pickering proudly celebrated the Ontario Government's decision to greenlight the \$26 billion refurbishment of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, marking one of the most significant clean energy investments in Canadian history.
- The project will create nearly 37,000 good-paying jobs in Pickering and across Ontario, boosting economic activity throughout Durham Region, with 90 per cent of project spending remaining in Canada. Once completed, the station will supply clean, reliable power to 2.2 million homes.
- This milestone directly aligns with Pickering's Corporate Strategic Plan to champion economic leadership and innovation, fueling local business growth, attracting skilled talent, and bolstering a competitive labour market, ensuring long-term economic prosperity.
- Pickering has consistently advocated for a strong partnership with OPG, recognizing the station's vital role in regional prosperity, stable employment, and major infrastructure investment that benefits residents and businesses alike.

Bruce County

- Over the past year, the Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Saugeen Shores, and Bruce County have been working alongside Bruce Power to support the federal regulatory review process for the Bruce C Nuclear Project.
- This collaboration across municipal boundaries and with the project proponent has helped advance knowledge about the Bruce C Project and the federal integrated Impact Assessment process.
- The partnership has created a channel for regular information sharing and early identification of municipal service and infrastructure concerns and interests. For the municipal partners, this means a unified approach to planning and stronger economic value as we prepare for long-term community readiness.

Clarington

- OPG received its license to construct the nation's first grid scale Small Modular Reactor in Clarington. The Municipality supported this project by coordinating with OPG, participating in regulatory reviews, and continuing to advocate as a proud nuclear host community.
- Through the Global Partnership of Nuclear Communities, Clarington had a direct voice in shaping international standards, sharing best practices, and advocating for the needs of nuclear host communities. This work helps protect local interests, attract investment, and keep Clarington at the forefront of the clean energy transition.







CANHC

Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities



www.canhc.info