

Reimagining Canada's Energy Landscape

Future-Proofing the Energy Sector for Decades to Come

Date	Location	Host
March 10–11, 2026	Omni King Edward Hotel, Toronto	Balsillie School of International Affairs

In March 2026, the Balsillie School of International Affairs convened a senior executive roundtable in Toronto focused on the future of Canada's energy system and the role of clean energy and electrification in strengthening national prosperity, resilience and competitiveness.

The event, titled "Reimagining Canada's Energy Landscape: Future-Proofing the Energy Sector for Decades to Come," was held at the Omni King Edward Hotel in Toronto, with an opening dinner on March 10 and a full-day executive roundtable on March 11. The gathering brought together senior leaders from industry, government, utilities, investment, technology, academia and policy communities, as well as senior energy experts and thought leaders from China, Europe and the United States. The event was chaired by Dr. Ann Fitz-Gerald, Director of BSIA, together with BSIA Fellows Kam Mofid and Professor Jatin Nathwani.

The purpose of the roundtable was to advance practical dialogue on the development of a modern energy system for Canada's future. At the centre of the discussion was the proposition that Canada's long-term prosperity, energy security and climate objectives will require a broad-based electrification strategy supported by expanded clean electricity generation, large-scale transmission, smarter grids, storage, investment mobilization and stronger national coordination.

Purpose and Context

Canada is entering a period of major electricity system transformation. Demand for clean and reliable electricity is expected to grow significantly as transportation, buildings, industry, data infrastructure and manufacturing become increasingly electrified. At the same time, Canada must modernize aging electricity infrastructure, improve grid resilience, expand clean generation, accelerate storage deployment and address the policy, regulatory and investment barriers that slow large-scale infrastructure development.

The discussion was notable for both the seniority and diversity of its participants. The roundtable brought together senior executives and decision-makers from across the electricity, clean energy, infrastructure, investment, technology, policy, regulatory and academic communities. Participants included leaders from major utilities, grid operators, infrastructure firms, clean energy companies, financial institutions, government agencies, universities and international organizations. This cross-functional and international composition allowed the discussion to move beyond sector-specific viewpoints and examine Canada's electrification challenge as a national systems, investment and implementation priority.

A central theme of the event was that Canada's energy transformation cannot be treated as a narrow technology issue. While clean power generation, storage, transmission, smart grids and digital technologies are essential, successful implementation will also require effective governance, capital deployment, intergovernmental coordination, regulatory alignment, public-private partnerships, skilled talent and disciplined project execution.

Program and Themes

The program included keynote remarks from senior government leaders, including Member of Parliament Ryan Turnbull, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State. Roundtable discussions were organized around five themes:

- **Strategic shifts and technologies required for broad-based electrification:** Technology, structural and policy challenges associated with broad-based electrification, including clean power generation, EV infrastructure, grid readiness, resilience, storage and partnerships.

- **Clean energy generation and efficient large-scale transmission:** How Canada can dramatically increase clean electricity generation, particularly solar and wind, while enabling storage and high-voltage transmission infrastructure.
- **Smart grid and consumer-centric technologies:** The role of smart grid technologies, digital systems, demand-side solutions and consumer-facing electrification in homes, buildings, transportation and industry.
- **Innovation, talent and change management:** The need to balance innovation with execution discipline, including digital expertise, specialized skills, regulatory adaptation and coordinated national leadership.
- **Investment and cross-sector partnerships for capital deployment:** The scale of capital required, the role of public-private collaboration, and the importance of national and international partnerships and investment structures.

Intended Outcomes

The event was designed to move beyond general discussion and identify practical areas for further work, including:

- Clear identification of key success factors for large-scale energy transformation initiatives;
- Exploration of an industry consortium or similar collaborative mechanism to support transformation of Canada's energy landscape;
- Identification of areas requiring further feasibility studies, analysis and collaboration; and
- Establishment of a venue for ongoing thought leadership events.

The roundtable demonstrated the value of an expert, senior-level forum where leaders from across sectors can engage in candid discussion about Canada's electricity future. It also reinforced the need for an ongoing platform capable of connecting policy, technology, finance, industry, research and implementation.

Link to the Centre for Clean Energy & Electrification

The March 2026 roundtable helped catalyze the creation of the BSIA Centre for Clean Energy & Electrification. The Centre builds on the central premise of the event: Canada's clean energy transition will not be achieved through technology alone. It will require an integrated approach that combines clean electricity generation, transmission expansion, storage, smart grids, regulatory modernization, investment mobilization, Indigenous partnership, skilled talent and effective national coordination.

As a national industry and policy leadership platform, the Centre will continue the work initiated through the Toronto roundtable by convening senior leaders, developing applied policy and research outputs, and supporting practical pathways to accelerate Canada's clean energy and electrification future.

Through its future forums, research, executive briefings and applied policy labs, the Centre will help advance the dialogue from ambition to execution — supporting a reliable, affordable, resilient and low-carbon electricity system that strengthens Canada's national competitiveness and long-term prosperity.