

NETWORK

The newsletter of

**THE UNIVERSITY NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE
IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING (UNENE)**

Innovating for a brighter future



UNENE Universities partner in Kinectrics' innovation centre

University of New Brunswick and partners receive OPG funding for fuel research

UNENE-NSERC chair amongst the CNS-CNA 2021 award recipients

ALSO INSIDE...

CANDU expert chairs UNENE Research Advisory Committee



Paul Spekkens
New RAC Chair

UNENE gets ready for the future in its business plan



UNENE researchers recognized for corrosion paper



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The times they are a-changing and so is UNENE



Jerry Hopwood
UNENE President

UNENE is evolving to support Canada's nuclear innovation agenda and its members' efforts to do the same.

As I write this, we are experiencing a summer of extreme heat and damaging forest fires, a reality reflected in the recent IPCC report – a reminder of the seriousness of climate change for us all. This further highlights the need for major change in our energy and related sectors. Our nuclear community is responding and building opportunities to contribute to climate solutions, to enhance global health and energy security. And UNENE is changing too.

Scanning our environment, we see developments in university research and teaching (not least in adapting to COVID-19); developments in Canadian society, as we face the seriousness of past and present injustices to marginalized groups; and the increasing prominence of collaboration to enable both ambition and effectiveness.

Each week, my inbox receives a wealth of inputs seeking UNENE involvement in initiatives in education, research and outreach. This is real encouragement that UNENE's role is recognized and valued. It provides the incentive to fulfil that role as fully as possible.

All of this is reflected in the work we have done to put together UNENE's business plan, as outlined starting on Page 3. This is a roadmap, overviewing priorities and principles for UNENE's activities, and describing where we want to go and how to get there. The last two years of changes have shown that UNENE has a unique part to play.

UNENE's role in strengthening the nuclear university sector

UNENE has continued to evolve its role over the past several years. Most recently, the Board approved our business plan, which seeks to help better unite the strengths of the university network, especially where there is a role in meeting Canada's sustainability goals and innovation agenda. A few of UNENE's roles include serving:

- As a voice for the nuclear university sector – telling the sector's collective story and demonstrating the contribution it provides;
- As a bridge/connector between nuclear academia and industry to fund and strengthen research relevant to industry's progress in further developing excellence in nuclear technology;
- As a secretariat for the university community to develop frameworks and foundations for best practices in nuclear research, education and contributions to furthering collective knowledge management; and
- In education delivery and coordination through collective programming by the network members such as in the MEng and other programs, primarily geared to employees of industry members.

Our business plan identifies key activities to build this role. Among the initiatives, over the next year, we will conduct a needs assessment and mapping of the network's nuclear education programming. The feedback from our members and the nuclear community will help identify priorities, and in parallel, we will study the

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Network is the quarterly newsletter of the University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering.

Publisher: Jerry Hopwood
Editor: Jacquie Hoornweg
Produced by: Querencia Partners Canada Ltd.

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UNENE BUSINESS PLAN

President's Message, Continued from Page 2

best delivery methods to reach our wide-spaced nuclear community.

Recognizing the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion as fundamental ingredients, UNENE is looking at our role in supporting this key focus area. UNENE can serve as a secretariat to help its members identify best practices, set guidance available across the network, respond to social and government expectations, and address members' workforce planning needs.

UNENE will enhance research collaboration between universities and industry, and will provide a common voice for the university network with like-minded collaborative organizations in Canada and globally.

This newsletter itself is an example of change and growth at UNENE, and contains a view of the tremendous range of activities within our nuclear community, and UNENE's presence. We are excited about the work ahead to put our business plan into practice, and to be part of the growing role for this sector.

— Jerry

UNENE plans for the future

UNENE's 2021-2024 business plan is focused on strengthening UNENE's effectiveness as a hub for excellence in nuclear research and education, as a connector between academia, industry and government.

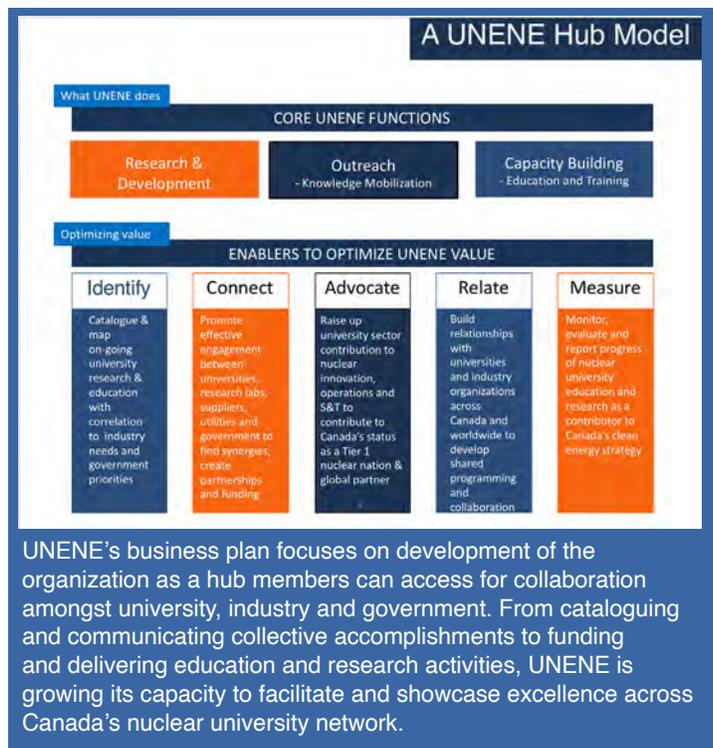
In 2022, when UNENE turns 20, there will be lots to celebrate.

The organization has contributed much over the past two decades. It's connected Canada's nuclear university researchers with funding and knowledge to help shape the direction of the country's nuclear research. The research has strengthened nuclear safety, reliability, improved environmental protection and cost effectiveness.

UNENE has also shaped and delivered nuclear education and training, especially for industry working professionals looking to strengthen their knowledge and skills, contributing to the human capacity within the industry.

Now, as the nuclear and education sectors undergo major transformation, so too, UNENE is responding with a transformative business plan in response to a rapidly changing landscape.

The current business plan, approved by UNENE's Board of Directors in May 2021, was developed following consultation and input from more than a dozen stakeholders and board members across



UNENE's business plan focuses on development of the organization as a hub members can access for collaboration amongst university, industry and government. From cataloguing and communicating collective accomplishments to funding and delivering education and research activities, UNENE is growing its capacity to facilitate and showcase excellence across Canada's nuclear university network.

universities, industry and government. They provided insights that will help shape UNENE and Canada's nuclear sector's future. And, they've helped inform the role UNENE will play in that future.

UNENE contributes to Canada's strength as a global partner in nuclear science & technology, with a focus on three areas:

1. Maintain core CANDU capability by enabling world-class nuclear research

- UNENE facilitates industry research chairs and projects that support core capability in CANDU operation and performance throughout the CANDU plant life cycle, including decommissioning and nuclear waste management.

UNENE BUSINESS PLAN

Continued from Page 3

2. Work with the network to identify and execute new areas of research to build capability in new areas of nuclear innovation

- The UNENE network research supports Canadian nuclear innovation in areas like advanced and small modular reactors to expand the use of nuclear energy to meet global climate change goals, and
- Research that contributes to development of nuclear medicine and other products that help meet global sustainability goals.

3. Create a workforce for the future

- UNENE and its university members are creating a workforce with the knowledge and skills to ensure Canada's nuclear sector is ready to meet the need for highly-qualified candidates. Through UNENE-led collaboration, UNENE member universities develop best practices and share experience in nuclear education, and
- In this business plan period, UNENE and its members in academia and industry are working to develop a common understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion best practices as they apply to nuclear research and education that can help the industry gain the benefits EDI brings and meet new goals on how EDI is applied in STEM education and training.

UNENE'S ROLE

As the landscape undergoes some of its most rapid change, UNENE is working to ensure it is well-equipped to adapt to new expectations.

In the business plan, it has identified specific actions to update its own governance, infrastructure and programming. The organization is evolving to ensure it can help its members meet the opportunities and challenges they'll face in the coming decades.

UNENE has in place, and will continue to develop

mechanisms to achieve this, including:

- Working through the advisory forums/committees already existing in its Board, Education Advisory Committee and Research Advisory committee that help shape decision-making and direction;
- Through partnership agreements with organizations including CANDU Owners Group, the IAEA and other global nuclear university networks;
- Through mapping of university capability and industry trends, including development of databases to provide matchmaking between the two;
- Serving as a secretariat for common industry positions or to develop common approaches amongst its university members on industry, education and research issues and trends;
- Strengthening UNENE's own digital infrastructure and communications: Create repositories, channels and content to improve accessibility to information across the network and visibility with communities and stakeholders; and
- UNENE is investigating evolving education methodologies and delivery mechanisms to provide the highest quality education experience for a diversity of student needs.

Working with its members, UNENE is strengthening its effectiveness as a bridge and a voice that can help the Canadian and global nuclear sector strengthen innovation and operations. Together, we achieve more on behalf of the citizens who rely on it for clean, affordable and reliable energy and health solutions.

UNENE can contribute to government and society's understanding of the value Canada's universities contribute to nuclear science, and through it, quality of life. And it can bring greater awareness and support for nuclear's contribution to Canada and the world's sustainability goals.

Do you need to freshen up your skills?

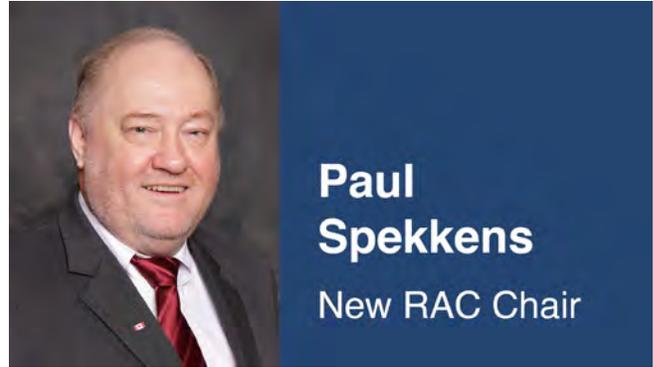
UNENE offers refresher courses in a variety of subjects, often **free of charge** to employees of UNENE member organizations including industry members Bruce Power, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, CANDU Owners Group, Kinectrics, OPG and SNC-Lavalin.

Two upcoming courses include a Safety Refresher course, Aug. 28-29, and a Thermal Hydraulics course, Dec. 4-5.

Learn more at [UNENE Fundamentals](#)

CANDU industry leader and long-time UNENE board member to chair Research Advisory Committee

Paul Spekkens, who has spent nearly 45 years in leadership, research and consulting roles in the Canadian nuclear industry and helped establish UNENE, will help steer the UNENE research agenda.



CANDU industry leader, Paul Spekkens, who was one of the founders of the University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) is once again working with UNENE universities to advance nuclear research in Canada.

Spekkens, who served on both the UNENE and CANDU Owners Group (COG) boards, including as chair, brings a unique and well-experienced perspective from both the university and industry worlds.

Spekkens spent most of his career with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), and its predecessor, Ontario Hydro (OH), including two decades in senior management. His career with OH began in the research division, and he worked for 16 years in R&D areas such as chemistry, corrosion and chemical cleaning. Currently Spekkens is an independent consultant working mainly with Kinectrics and COG.

Spekkens chaired his first UNENE Research Advisory Committee (RAC) May 5.

"Paul's long-time experience working with both UNENE and COG is a tremendous asset for the Canadian

nuclear sector," says Jerry Hopwood, UNENE president and CEO. "He has a strong grasp on both university capabilities and industry needs. To have someone with his knowledge leading the RAC is a tremendous asset for Canada's nuclear sector."

The RAC reports to the UNENE board and oversees UNENE's university research priorities and activities. The committee is comprised of representatives from each of the member organizations and provides a forum to prioritize and strategically assess programs and activities. As well, the RAC provides independent review of proposals for UNENE Research Cooperation Projects (RCPs).

"I find it satisfying to contribute to organizations like UNENE, which play a critical role in the Canadian nuclear industry," says Spekkens, of taking on the volunteer position.

"Nuclear is a vital component of the solution to controlling climate change. Giving something back to the industry where I worked my entire career is a fitting way to spend my retirement years."

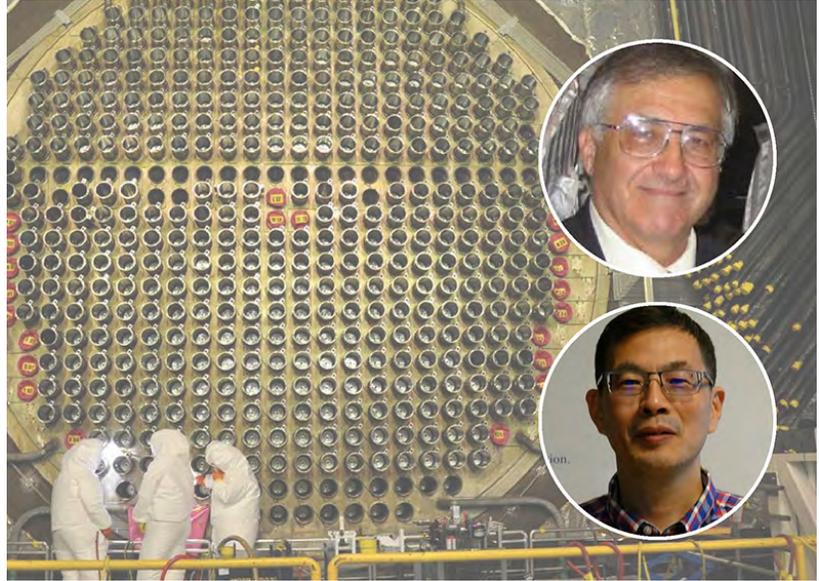
Learn about scholarships, fellowships and bursaries

Are you a graduate student or a young professional looking to expand your knowledge and further your career opportunities in nuclear engineering, science and technology?

Follow the UNENE Digital News page on the UNENE website for the latest in scholarships, fellowships, bursaries and internships in Canada and worldwide.

Learn more at [UNENE Digital News](#)

UNENE's Ben Rouben and CANDU Owners Group's Wei Shen give a refresh to reactor physics fundamentals



Long-time CANDU experts and professors Ben Rouben (top) and Wei Shen break down the fundamentals for students and practitioners alike in their new book that updates key aspects of CANDU operations.

UNENE's own Dr. Benjamin Rouben, a long-time nuclear expert and professor, has co-authored a textbook geared to working professionals and students looking for a practical guide to CANDU reactor fundamentals.

Rouben authored the book with Dr. Wei Shen, well known in the Canadian and international nuclear industry for his extensive experience in reactor physics. Shen works as CANDU Owners Group's (COG) R&D safety and licensing program manager and prior, served many years at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), and with international organizations. Like Rouben, he is an extensively published adjunct professor.

Their book, *Fundamentals of CANDU Reactor Physics*, reflects the CANDU reactor concepts and engineering requirements of today.

Rouben and Shen say they wanted to develop a book that incorporated the most current basic knowledge about CANDU reactor physics.

"The purpose of this new book was to be a practical book on CANDU reactor physics, particularly for the safe operation of aged and aging CANDU reactors, with almost no mathematics or equations," says Rouben.

Shen adds, "This book is ideal as a reference for CANDU physicists, operators, regulatory staff, and for those who need to interact with reactor physicists at CANDU sites, nuclear laboratories, institutes, universities, or engineering companies, as it assumes prior knowledge of nuclear physics offered at the high-school level and/or at universities only."

Fundamentals of CANDU Reactor Physics was published by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). ASME members will receive a 20 per cent discount on book purchases. You can purchase the book [here](#).

About the Authors

Dr. Benjamin Rouben has been working in the nuclear field for almost five decades. Rouben worked for more than 30 years at AECL, where he was head of the reactor physics branch in the decade before retiring. He is an Adjunct Professor at McMaster University and Ontario Tech University, teaching courses on reactor physics, nuclear fuel management, and nuclear plant operation. He served as president of the Canadian Nuclear Society (CNS) in 1997- 1998, and remains active in the organization, today. He currently serves as the secretary treasurer for UNENE, where he also teaches courses. Rouben is also the president of 12 & 1 Consulting.

Dr. Wei Shen works with CANDU Owners Group as the R&D safety and licensing program manager. He also serves as the member relationship manager for China Nuclear Power Operations Management (CNNO). Shen is an adjunct professor at the Royal Military College of Canada. With almost three decades experience, he has worked for AECL, the CNSC, and international nuclear organizations. Shen's experience and career diversity gives him a unique perspective in the ever-evolving nuclear field and his work in R&D.

UNENE profs recognized for corrosion research

Jared Smith, Roger Newman and Suraj Persaud, who lead the UNENE-NSERC Corrosion Joint Chair Alliance Program were recognized by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International.

An article published in CORROSION: The Journal of Science and Engineering and jointly written by three University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) member researchers, has won the 2021 Best Corrosion Paper Award.

Roger Newman of the University of Toronto, Suraj Persaud of Queen's University and Jared Smith of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, were recognized by the CORROSION editorial board with the award for most outstanding manuscript published in the journal in the calendar year. The journal is published by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International.

The three researchers lead the UNENE-Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Corrosion Joint Chair Alliance Program. Newman and Persaud

co-run the program while Smith serves as the program's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair. The program's research focuses on examining the corrosion of materials in Canadian nuclear power plants with particular emphasis on nanoscale mechanisms and the combined effect of stress and corrosion.

The article, "Nanoscale Precursor Sites and their Importance in the Prediction of Stress Corrosion Cracking Failure," reviews recent studies that have applied state-of-the-art microscopy techniques to characterize stress corrosion cracking (SCC). The ability to identify such sites would be instrumental in predicting SCC failure and developing proactive mitigation strategies.

The paper builds on research of modern capabilities in microscopy and computational science for modeling and performing physical characterization of atomic and nanoscale processes related to SCC, specifically, the quantitative micro-nano (QMN) approach.

Newman also recently co-authored "A percolation theory for designing corrosion-resistant alloys," published in the February issue of Nature. This research was done, in part, through the UNENE-NSERC chair program, funded by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and other industry partners. It provides insights into the role of de-alloying in the degradation of alloys such as those used in nuclear steam generators.



The authors of the corrosion research paper who lead the UNENE-NSERC Corrosion Joint Chair Alliance Program, left to right: Jared Smith, Roger Newman and Suraj Persaud.

Preserving Canada's Nuclear Heritage

Since 2017, a charitable organization in Deep River, Ontario has been meticulously collecting artefacts from Canada's 75-year nuclear history.

The Society for the Preservation of Canada's Nuclear Heritage (SPCNH) has the goal to preserve and communicate Canada's nuclear heritage through the collection, safeguarding and promotion of documents, artefacts, memorabilia and knowledge from the history of the Canadian nuclear industry. The organization has both a physical and virtual museum.

Currently, interested members of the public can visit the museum's Deep River physical site by appointment. The virtual museum contains historic articles and images accessible through the SPCNH website.

UNENE and SPCNH are planning a series of webinars to celebrate Canada's nuclear heritage.

Learn more about SPCNH and its historical collection: [click here](#). Register for SPCNH membership (\$20 annually). Complete the form, [here](#).

UNENE PEOPLE

UNENE-NSERC research chair Dr. Mahesh Pandey is amongst the CNS-CNA 2021 award recipients

CNS-CNA Annual Awards recognize technical, regulatory and social contributions to Canadian Nuclear Excellence

Six people, including UNENE-NSERC research chair Dr. Mahesh Pandey, were recognized for their contributions to Canada's nuclear industry at the 40th Annual Nuclear Society (CNS) conference held virtually, June 6-9.

The event's plenaries and technical workshops covered current CANDU performance, the rapid development of small modular reactors and continued investment in nuclear medicine.

In addition to nuclear scientists, innovators, regulatory leaders, and operators, the plenaries included communicators, and members of Indigenous and host communities exploring the social aspects of nuclear development and operation.

Seamus O'Regan, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, confirmed the federal government's inclusion of nuclear in its clean energy plan, stating, "We need an all-energy sources approach and that includes nuclear."

This year's award recipients reflected the holistic conference agenda. Recipients included Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's Executive Vice President and Chief Reg-

ulatory Operations Officer Ramzi Jamal, awarded the Ian McCrae Leadership Award.

Dr. Pandey was co-recipient of the Howard A. Smith Award for Outstanding Achievement. Pandey's co-recipient, Jacquie Hoorweg, an industry communications executive, writer and consultant, was recognized for her strategy and communication work.

Bruce Power fuel handling nuclear operator, Steve Beninger and his

daughter Trystan, long-time area residents, were recognized for their first-person video explaining how the environment is protected during fuel and waste management activities.

Mohinder Grover was named a CNS Fellow. The expert in Quality Assurance in the design and operation of nuclear power plants is also a long-time volunteer committed to strengthening excellence in nuclear engineering.

Read the full story online, [here](#).

UNENE-NSERC chair Mahesh Pandey receives Howard A. Smith Award for Outstanding Achievement

Dr. Mahesh Pandey is a Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Waterloo, as well as a UNENE-NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Risk and Life Cycle Management.



Dr. Pandey has made significant contributions to the area of reliability analysis and probabilistic modelling of engineering systems. The internationally-recognized researcher has received the Governor General of Canada's Gold Medal and Ontario's Premiere Research Excellence Award. His research accomplishments include stochastic models for time-dependent reliability analysis and life cycle assessment, the Life-Quality Index framework for societal risk management of

technological systems, and the probabilistic assessment of nuclear plant systems, structures and components. Dr. Pandey has led countless exceptional research projects and industrial applications of risk/reliability analysis methods. He has mentored many nuclear professionals who have gone on to make their own substantial contributions in the Canadian nuclear industry.



Ramzi Jamal
Ian McCrae
Leadership Award



Jacquie Hoorweg
Howard A. Smith Outstanding
Contribution Award



Steve and Trystan Beninger
Education and
Communication Award



Mohinder Grover
Canadian Nuclear Society
Fellow



Universities partner with Kinectrics for innovation

Kinectrics has announced it will design, build and operate a new collaborative research (R&D) campus to support clean energy advancement, including commercialization of small modular reactor (SMR) technology.

In an announcement, June 7, Kinectrics President and CEO David Harris said its new facility, **Helius**, would speed up the deployment of SMR technology around the world.

“Kinectrics is excited to be leading the way in supporting the development, testing and commercialization of SMRs, providing the critical infrastructure required to accelerate their introduction around the world,” said Harris.

Through Helius, Kinectrics intends to bring together, under one roof, Canadian academic institutions, industry organizations, SMR developers and utilities.

Kinectrics is partnering with UNENE network universities including McMaster University, Ontario Tech University and Queen’s University on the innovation hub. Natural Resources Canada, a UNENE government partner will also collaborate with Kinectrics on this initiative.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Ontario Tech named IAEA Collaboration Centre

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has named UNENE-member Ontario Tech University as an official “collaborating centre” within its worldwide network.

The designation means Ontario Tech will support IAEA activities in the areas of integrated energy systems, advanced nuclear power reactors, including small modular reactors (SMRs), and initiatives such as non-electric applications of nuclear energy.

The recognition by IAEA continues a long history of collaboration between Canadian universities and the international organization. This includes an ongoing partnership agreement between UNENE and IAEA as well as UNENE’s participation in the IAEA’s Nuclear Education Networks initiative.

Read the full announcement from Ontario Tech University, [here](#).



University of New Brunswick receives SMR research funding

Ontario Power Generation’s Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS) has invested \$1 million to assist University of New Brunswick, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Moltex and New Brunswick Power in turning used CANDU fuel into next generation nuclear power.

The pan-Canadian partners have joined forces to advance innovation in recycling used nuclear fuel.

CCNS, launched in 2020 with a focus on nuclear collaboration and research, will provide the funding to assist New Brunswick-based Moltex in demonstrating the technical viability of a new process to recycle used fuel from CANDU reactors. UNB is providing research and testing capacity for the project.

Read the full story [here](#).

Dr. George Bereznai retires after a lifetime of leadership in nuclear education



George Bereznai retired in June following a half century dedicated to training and education in industry and academia. After creating and leading training and education programs in Ontario and internationally, he found a calling teaching the next generation at Ontario Tech University, as founding dean of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science.

Read the full story [here](#).



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report finds limiting global warming will not be possible without strong and deliberate action

A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says urgent action is required to attain the sustained reduction in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions needed to limit climate change. A 2020 IAEA report says nuclear can be an important contributor to the fight against climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that immediate and strong reductions in greenhouse gasses (GHG) will limit climate change.

The IPCC's new report, ***Climate Change 2021, The Physical Science Basis***, released Aug. 9, is the concluding results of the Working Group 1 contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment. It finds that limiting global warming will not be possible without rapid and large-scale reductions in CO₂ and other GHGs, leading to global environmental changes. The report projects there will be longer warm seasons, shorter cold seasons, an increase in heatwaves and flooding, and rising sea levels if there are insufficient emission reductions.

Scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the report.

"Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years," it says.

While benefits for air quality would come quickly with strong and sustained reductions in CO₂ and other GHGs, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize, according to the report.

The Working Group I report is the first instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022.

Nuclear's role in mitigating climate change

Another report, ***Climate Change and Nuclear Power***, released in 2020 by the International Atomic Energy

Agency, highlights the role nuclear energy can play in reducing GHG emissions.

Nuclear power is a large-scale, concentrated energy source that provides electricity and has potential to address other energy needs, as well. Many nuclear plants are designed to optimally provide 24-7 electricity generation. And, increasingly, nuclear is flexible enough to contribute effectively to energy systems with large shares of variable renewable sources like wind and solar.

According to the IAEA report, nuclear's GHG emissions per kilowatt-hour are 40 times less than those of an efficient gas-fired power plant. The IAEA report identified that without nuclear in the electricity mix, annual CO₂ emissions of the global electricity sector would have been around 2 gigatonnes higher over the past decade, if the electricity had instead been supplied using the average global fossil fuel generation mix.

Another key finding of the report is that despite the frequency of extreme weather events in some regions, these events have resulted in limited nuclear plant forced outages or production loss, demonstrating the climate resilience of nuclear power plants.

In a world where extreme weather is becoming increasingly the norm, the resilience of nuclear power plants could become an important advantage to countries looking to ensure reliability while addressing the underlying contributors to climate change.

Read more

[Click here](#) to read the IPCC summary and the full report.

[Click here](#) to read the IAEA 2020 report.

COGnizant MAGAZINE



UNENE partner CANDU Owners Group highlights innovation in CANDU and beyond in COGNizant Magazine

CANDU Owners Group's (COG's) most recent issue of COGNizant Magazine hit the streets in June with a lineup highlighting innovation achieved through COG and across COG's membership. One story highlights the partnership between UNENE and COG. The partnership was recently expanded in a 2021 agreement. The two organizations are working to further leverage the university and industry networks capabilities to strengthen funding and execution of research and development to meet climate change mitigation goals as well as other sustainability and prosperity goals. [Read more here.](#)

AECL PRESIDENT ON SMRs



SMR development needs collaborative approach, says AECL President Fred Dermarkar

In an opinion piece for The Hill Times, June 7, Fred Dermarkar, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) President and CEO wrote that nuclear and renewables must work together for Canada to meet its emission targets.

In the piece, Dermarkar says that the fight against climate change necessitates looking at all available energy options. He also highlighted the important role of nuclear energy in Canada's clean energy mix.

[Read Dermarkar's full opinion piece, here.](#)

INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



UNENE member universities recognized Indigenous Month with remembrances and celebration

University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) institutions began June, National Indigenous History Month in Canada, with their flags at half mast.

This followed the news in late May from Kamloops, BC that the bodies of 215 Indigenous children had been discovered on the grounds of a former residential school in the area, soon to be followed by other discoveries.

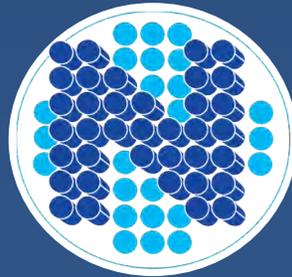
UNENE universities responded to the news with messages of reflection and support for their Indigenous students, localized resources and the symbolic lowering of their campus flags.

Month-long programming and events previously planned in recognition of National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) proceeded with several events across the campuses.

The nuclear industry and nuclear engineering faculties recognize the importance of building meaningful relationships and working with the country's First Nation and other Indigenous peoples. There are many active initiatives and partnerships in addition to meaningful engagement and consultation taking place across the country.

The university community can play an important role as the industry continues on a path to reconciliation and a meaningful and positive relationship with Canada's Indigenous peoples.

For more UNENE news, visit the [Digital Network News page](#).



UNENE

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