

An electricity system for the future

Recently there has been lot of discussion about the critical importance of decarbonizing and of growing the electricity system in Canada – challenging even for provinces like BC, blessed with significant large-scale hydro.

However, it's far more significant for provinces that currently depend on unabated coal and gas-fired power generation – perhaps why, recently, Saskatchewan's Premier Scott Moe spoke of achieving a clean grid by 2035 as being "unaffordable and impossible."

Electricity is fundamental to reducing carbon emissions and achieving Canada's science-aligned climate goals. Beyond that, the electricity grid is central to our seizing economic opportunities available as we move to a low-carbon future.

There is no disagreement that Canada's electricity systems – in every province and territory – will need to continue to be reliable and affordable for ratepayers. These systems must also aim to produce electricity with net-zero carbon emissions. Decarbonization of the electricity grid is an environmental imperative. **If we don't find reasonable pathways to decarbonize our economy, we will leave a world for our children that is challenged indeed.**

Increasingly, this is also an economic matter. Being able to provide clean power to industry is now the 'the price of entry' in marketing products internationally. **Having a grid with abundant clean power is – and will be – a significant comparative advantage in the global economy.**

This is true in all provinces and territories, very much including provinces like Saskatchewan. Take the example of BHP, which is building the \$7.5B Jansen potash mine just east of Saskatoon. With a project this size, there is plenty to brag about: **good jobs, increased output, state-of-the-art equipment, and of course, ultra-low-carbon emissions.**



BHP's recent announcement regarding the Jansen mine underlined the importance of GHG emissions. In fact, the company's press release states their "world-leading low-emissions potash mine" will ensure they are globally competitive, providing the "lowest direct emissions of any potash mine in the world."



BHP is eager for the world to know that lowering emissions is a top priority. Why? Because it's what their customers want. And they aren't alone. In another part of Saskatchewan, Foran Mining is looking to develop a net-zero critical minerals mine. And, in Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Research Council is developing a critical mineral processing facility that will need to account for the carbon embedded in its products, including the carbon content of the electricity it takes from the grid.

Rather than being "impossible and unaffordable," I think it is important to highlight that every G7 country has committed to achieving a decarbonized electric grid by 2035. With regard to our American friends in particular, earlier this year, the US EPA released its draft regulatory approach to cutting emissions from power plants as part of its efforts to achieve a net-zero grid by 2035. The US is doing this for environmental and economic reasons – and the Americans well understand the economic advantage they can create through grid decarbonization.

Low-emission supply chains are gaining competitive advantage for businesses, and a clean grid is increasingly critical for jurisdictions competing for investment dollars. **My job is to work with every province and territory to develop the grid and associated resource industries that will drive prosperity for the future. It's about accelerating growth, not slowing it down. It's about being sensitive to regional realities as well as being aware of changes happening around the world.**

Budget 2023 committed \$40B to supporting provinces and territories in developing a clean, reliable, and affordable grid.

At the end of the day, a vast majority of Canadians in all provinces and territories accept the scientific reality of climate change. It is an issue we need to address. I am interested in a forward-looking, fact-based conversation about how we can do so in a manner which ensures affordability, while creating good jobs and economic opportunity in every region of the country.

Swim the Strait goes to the dogs

I've just met a remarkable civil engineer living in this riding. **Scott Rees** has been an avid outdoorsman and a competitive athlete most of his life – until recently. Scott has a recessive



genetic eye condition that has resulted in him losing his sight over the last number of years. His resilience and conditioning meant that he powered through this immense challenge.

But it was acquiring his canine partner, **Kaleb**, that was **life-changing for him**. Obtained through the non-profit Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind (CGDB), Kaleb joined Scott two years ago, and has given him back his mobility.

And giving back is what Scott's project is all about. He intends to put his long-time training in open water swimming to use, **tackling a crossing of Georgia Strait from Davis Bay near Sechelt to Pipers Lagoon Park on Vancouver Island, aiming to achieve the 30km crossing in one day on July 22 – all in a fundraiser for CGDB.**

"30km crossing in one day"

He's gotten lots of great feedback – already far surpassing his first modest fundraising goal and now aiming for \$100K. And he's gotten the attention of



Canadian Olympic swimmer Brent Hayden, who hopes to do part of the swim with Scott.

Scott is inspiring and determined, and Kaleb is a terrific part of his team aiming to achieve this remarkable feat! Good luck for the swim, Scott, and thanks for helping others have access to guide dogs.

JONATHAN WILKINSON

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, NORTH VANCOUVER

SUMMER 2023

North Vancouver Constituent Update



Why I'm packing my suitcase more often

Reflecting on and looking forward to summer, I am reminded that as a Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament, my schedule is often committed months in advance, and my personal time is often pretty limited.

Simply put – international collaboration is the only way forward on climate change. Averting the worst impacts of climate change means successfully attaining clean energy security on a global scale.

It requires a transformation of how we power our individual lives and the world economy.

Here is a partial to-do list:

- **accelerate** the shift to non-emitting sources of energy such as wind, solar, geothermal and nuclear;
- **expand** the use of clean hydrogen and other low-emission fuels;
- **electrify** transport, industry and buildings;
- **invest** in emission-abating technologies.

No nation can do this on its own. Well-targeted international collaboration – spiced with competition – can make the shift to a low-carbon future faster, less difficult and at lower cost. And it's happening.

CANADA SEEN AS A LEADER

Partner countries and international agencies see Canada as a leader. Says Fatih Birol, CEO of the International Energy Agency:

"Canada continues to be a bright spot in advancing the clean energy transition while supporting international energy security."

In The Community



Visiting Mr. O'Flynn's Gr 10s at St Thomas Aquinas

Meeting with CapU Student Union on campus



Our Constituency Youth Council at CityFest 2023

Have a great and safe Summer.
Hope to see you at some of the festivals around town.



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As constituents, you, the people of North Vancouver are my boss. You first hired me in the election of 2015, and then again in 2019 and 2021. I am accountable to you for how I spend my time on the job – both as your MP and as Canada's Minister of Natural Resources.

Lately, the job has involved an increasing amount of time overseas. It's entirely reasonable that you might wonder why – particularly as the extent of my international commitments continues to escalate.

In Japan leading a trade mission to position Canada as a key partner in energy security, January 2023

CONT ▶

I'm now chairing the International Energy Agency's Working Group on Fuels Security and spent the first part of April in Germany. Our current task is to work out how to stabilize Europe's energy security in the face of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Canada is assisting its friends and allies while laying the groundwork for economic opportunity at home.

We're actively working to see initial shipments of Canadian hydrogen delivered to Germany as early as 2025 – and we have seen major announcements in the critical minerals area recently, including



Volkswagen's first overseas EV battery plant in Ontario. These are the kinds of things that strengthen energy security and decarbonization while creating jobs and economic prosperity in Canada.

More recently, I packed a suitcase for Japan for the G7 Ministers Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo. And so, the work continues both across this country and around the world.

ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES

Canada has the expertise, the resources, and the will to help move the international agenda forward while simultaneously advancing Canada's economic interests. But we need to get out of our own backyard, tell our story, roll up our sleeves and work with our international partners on developing mutually beneficial solutions.

A plethora of multilateral cooperation on clean energy transition is rapidly gaining impactful momentum. However, it is not the stuff of headlines. By sharing what I am seeing, I hope Canadians feel reassured that the international community is not shirking its commitments in the face of climate change – and that Canada is at the very forefront of this work.

And I hope, tongue in cheek, that my bosses in North Vancouver will understand and support this nomadic dimension of their MP's work on their behalf.

A North Van centenarian's "naval weekend"

People often call my North Vancouver constituency office looking for a helping hand, usually because they've run out of options. My staff describe solving these problems as challenging yet rewarding work. Such was the case when a family friend of 100-year-old Kathy Morrison called in to see if we might help solve a predicament.

During World War II, Kathy was a WREN – shorthand for those who served in the Women's Royal Naval Service. The WRENS performed a wide variety of non-combat roles ashore – Kathy served as an assistant to the chief mechanic in the Royal Navy between 1942 and 1945. Her father, brother and husband were all in the navy, so that institution has held a precious place in her heart through the years.

When Kathy heard that several Canadian naval vessels were going to make North Vancouver a port of call on the weekend of May 5th, she mentioned to her friend how thrilled she would be to visit – but that the lengthy line-ups could pose a challenge. So, her friend called my constituency office.

REACHING OUT

Constituency Director Cynthia Bunbury determined a personal tour prior to the start of public access might be the solution. She reached out to the Department of National Defence via a colleague in the Defence Minister's office. She then contacted Sgt. Kevin Bracewell, president of the North Vancouver Veterans' Association – a military veteran currently with the RCMP. He was also eager to help and contacted Ottawa colleagues.

Through many years' experience advocating for constituents, Cynthia knew you can never have too many irons in the fire. So, she reached out to C.O. Sam Patchell, the captain of HMCS Ottawa. He was quick to assure a private tour was being organized and said he'd be delighted to take care of everything.

Kathy was unaware of the arrangements until she approached the gangplank of one of the ships and was greeted by the captain. "I didn't know whether I should salute or what I should do," she said. "It was the biggest surprise I've ever had."



VIP TOUR

What followed was a VIP tour of HMCS Nanaimo and HMCS Ottawa, where Kathy shared several 80-year-old photos of her time in uniform with members of the present crew. She was invited to an official ceremony the next day and was surprised a second time to learn she was a guest of honour.

Kathy now refers to the experience as

"her naval weekend."

Stories like this are an uplifting reminder to me and my staff of what a day-to-day privilege it is to serve constituents like Kathy Morrison, solving dilemmas – many of which have happy endings.

From Parliamentary hyper-partisanship to political maturity

Political partisanship and political parties are an accepted and important part of any democracy. I believe political pluralism leads to better outcomes. It ensures a range of voices and perspectives are heard, policy approaches are tested and validated, and policy makers can be held to account. The development of political maturity and thoughtful approaches requires engagement with people who have different perspectives.

However, I believe that in recent years, a kind of hyper-partisanship has taken hold in the culture of Canada's Parliament – fueling an unprecedented, unhealthy level of social and political polarization, and posing a real danger to our democracy.

Canadians need look no further than the House of Commons' daily Question Period. The level of acrimony and animosity from all sides is more than political theatre. It manifests an increasing level of parliamentary disfunction at a time when our country is facing decisions of utmost and lasting consequence.

A succession of minority governments may have something to do with this – with members of all parties constantly aware they might be thrown into a partisan campaign on a moment's notice. But we shouldn't lose sight of the real and tangible consequences: hyper-partisanship contributes to public distrust, and cynicism in Parliament's ability to serve the common good, with Canadians more likely to say their democracy is becoming weaker rather than stronger.

DYSTOPIAN OUTCOME

Harvard political scientist James Hankins describes hyper-partisanship, underlining its likely dystopian outcome:

"Hyper-partisans live in bubbles, cut off from rival claimants to public authority by mutual incomprehension and mutual revulsion. They are dogmatic, intolerant, unable to sympathize with alien points of view."

Under such circumstances, politics turns into a battle between non-negotiable demands where compromise and democratic deliberation are nearly impossible. Research suggests that when politicians are hostile to one another, they model and normalize behaviour that can affect public discourse, contributing to growing incivility – online and in person.

Former MPs tell me there used to be more willingness to find compromise. But as parties have become increasingly polarized, there's been a decline in collegiality and civility in Parliament – with the increased polarization spreading to the public realm.



MODELLING A BETTER OPTION

As Members of Parliament, I believe we must ask ourselves how any of this serves our constituents? Does it have to be this way? And where might this lead? No one wants the discord and deadlock that has afflicted our counterparts in the U.S. Congress for the past two decades.

Hyper-partisanship can't be reversed without involving politicians themselves. I believe MPs can effect meaningful change working from within our parties and caucuses. But we need the courage and conviction to take that path – and accept the risks that may come with swimming against the tide.

Systemic change begins with little things – small, non-partisan gestures can have a lasting impact. 'Leaving it in the Chamber' is something I would truly encourage of all MPs. Dropping the partisan shield opens us to engagement as individuals and, honestly, as Canadians.

I encourage MPs to find common ground with Members opposite us in the House – personally and on policy matters. Politics is the art of compromise and conciliation. Let's create space for empathy and deep listening. Let's work to find opportunities away from the bright lights and official stance to build informal relationships. Let's treat our political adversaries as colleagues.

Canadians think seriously about the health of our democracy – it is a moment not to be wasted.

"By confronting hyper-partisanship, MPs have an opportunity to leave our democracy – and our country – better than we inherited it."

Community connection through art and story

When someone says, 'North Vancouver,' what springs to mind? The Grouse Grind? Lynn Canyon? It's true that our proximity to nature is unparalleled, but we also have a richness of arts and culture that's worth boasting about.

And while I may not have much time to enjoy my home turf, I encourage you to be tourists in your own town. It's easy when our own Shipyards District is one of the most desirable civic cultural draws in North America. North Vancouver offers plenty of opportunity to soak in the local arts scene.

CITYSCAPE COMMUNITY ARTSPACE

You may know CityScape from its art rental shows, the North Shore Art Crawl and the Anonymous Art Show. Established in 2001 and located just up from my old office at Lonsdale and 3rd Street, CityScape is a huge contributor to arts and culture on the North Shore. The gallery is free to the public, as are many of their opportunities to engage with culture at a local level. Try out their terrific 'Culture Compass' – a free, online guide to explore the best cultural experiences in our North Shore communities.

MONOVA – NORTH VANCOUVER MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

When MONOVA opened to the public in 2021, it was long anticipated. It has pulled together our shared history in a central location accessible to all. Not only does it house remarkable stories told by artefacts and memorabilia – including the rich history of traditional and modern Squamish and Tsleil Waututh nations, waterfront industries, cultural activities, and community innovation and connection – it also serves as a gathering place. MONOVA offers regular programming, special guest speakers, hands-on workshops and welcoming meeting spaces.

POLYGON GALLERY

Located at the foot of Lonsdale in Shipyards, the gallery created an architectural splash when it opened in 2017. It's iconic, interesting and – with entry fees by donation – very affordable. Beyond thought-provoking photographic exhibits, it also offers programs such as Meet Me at The Gallery – a guided tour followed by coffee and tea to encourage community connection for seniors. The Polygon is a brilliant focal point on our downtown waterfront.

PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE

Presentation House, built in 1902, has a rich history that has touched the lives of many North Shore residents, from the preservation of the building's history to memories created in the theatre space. The pandemic presented serious challenges for Presentation House with programming dependent on live audiences. Thanks to federal funding during the pandemic, they continue to promote local artists, striving to be a theatrical hub for North Vancouver.

ART AND THE POWER OF CONNECTION

These North Vancouver cultural pillars act not only as hubs for the arts, but for community connection as well. Such spaces are critical as we heal community connection that fell by the wayside at the height of the pandemic. North Vancouver is so much more than mountains and trails...it is a place to further human connection and strengthen our community through art.

