

February 2, 2026

Executive Director's Message

Our member survey on the impact of extended payment terms started with very slow member participation – only 12 members had replied at the initial cut-off date. But, after some very persistent nudging (almost harassing), the response rate increased dramatically to levels BDO said will provide credible and accurate estimates. As such, the study will now move into the “what are the impacts given feedback” stage.

On another front, member feedback has become clear that we are at the “show me the money” stage of nuclear, defence, and major projects spending conversations. Yes, we love the great spending forecasts, but we need to start seeing some buyer presentations rather than investor relations ones. And, we cannot afford for a lot of excitement to be built and preparations begin, and then see things cancelled. So, we have begun stitching this thought into our conversations with Governments and the like – especially next week while we are in Ottawa talking with Government.

Last week, the Government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower announced plans to formally evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies for use in Saskatchewan. The technology selection process will take place in parallel with SaskPower’s existing nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) project.

They further added that, “Together with expanded intertie capacity, nuclear power will make Saskatchewan an export powerhouse and safeguard Saskatchewan’s energy security far into the future.”

They stated that “potentially bringing a large reactor online will take at least 15 to 20 years, which is why we need to start this process now.”

Significant additional regulatory, siting and engagement work are needed before any construction can begin on a new nuclear project. SaskPower’s current SMR project continues to progress and a site for the province’s first SMR build near Estevan is anticipated later this year.

By installing large nuclear in Saskatchewan and with better interties to Manitoba and Alberta, Saskatchewan could provide power to Manitoba – which is facing a rapidly growing power deficiency – and Alberta which has a fragmented multi-utility system in need of a single regulator and who is also facing a major oil and gas buildout.

And, as stated at the opening of this note, we would like to see a shift to business/buyer presentations in the near future.

The process/timeline for SIMSA's 2026 AGM will be as follows:

1. March 9, 8:00 am - Call for nominations begins
2. March 23, 9:00 am - Nominations cease
3. April 1, 8:00 am - Notice of AGM with ballot sent (with nominees' bios)
4. May 8, 9:00 am - Completed ballot submission ends
5. Wednesday, May 13, at noon – AGM

SIMSA has seen two mid-term changes to its Board.

1. Brook Davis of Team Power Solutions stepped down. Brook was Chair of our Audit Committee, so we nominated Adam Logue of JNE Welding to temporarily replace Brook until our AGM in May of this year. This provided continuity as Adam was previously on SIMSA's Board for 6-years and was the Chair of the Audit Committee before Brook.
2. Bryan MacFadden was elected to SIMSA's Board as an employee of Engcomp. Since that time Bryan switched to employment with another SIMSA member company - Horizon Engineering and Project Management. As such, he will retain his Board position until our AGM in May, at which point he will stand for re-election, a year earlier than the term originally dictated.

Member's News

[Beyond the Darkroom: Why Knight Vision Inspections is Leading Saskatchewan into Computed Radiography for Industrial Inspections](#)

[QA/QC in Action: SRC's Commitment to Strengthening Data Integrity in Mineral and Environmental Laboratories](#)

[Multicrete Systems News: Proud Sponsor and Participant in the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association 2026 Curling Classic at Heather Curling Club](#)

Advocacy

From February 8 through 11 inclusive, select SIMSA Board members and staff will be in Ottawa to have several meetings with Federal Government and Canadian Chamber of Commerce persons. Over the past year, we have had several in person meetings in Saskatchewan and virtual meetings with Ottawa.

There will be a full report on this trip in next month's newsletter.

I am a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's "Natural Resources & Environment Committee." Recently, I was able to participate in session with David Coletto, Founder, Chair, and CEO of Abacus Data. He shared very recent data on the intersection of energy policy, climate change, and economic opportunity, offering important perspectives as Canada navigates the evolving landscape of natural resources and environmental policy.

The full deck and other valuable items are included at [David Coletto's Substack](#) for those who wish to subscribe.

During the presentation, there were several items of broad interest to SIMSA's membership. We will be sharing this kind of information on a regular basis – by social media and my radio commentaries - as it does not seem to percolate to the surface that often in the legacy media.

His report revealed that climate change and the environment have dropped considerably as a "top issue" for Canadians. A year ago it was a top issue for 30% of Canadians, now it is only at 15% and dropping. Economy issue are the reverse – they are climbing and are at the top of the list. And, both of these are for both young and old Canadians alike.

And of even greater interest is that about half of Canadians think we should support climate initiatives, but not if they damage the economy – and this is similar across all age groups and provinces. See below items from his deck:



Which statement is closer to your own view?

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES AND THE ECONOMY

We should support policies to combat climate change even if they damage Canada's economy



33%

We should not support climate policies if they damage Canada's economy

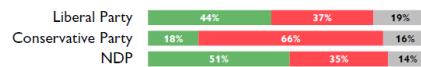
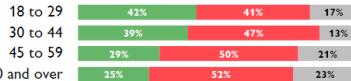


48%

Don't know



19%

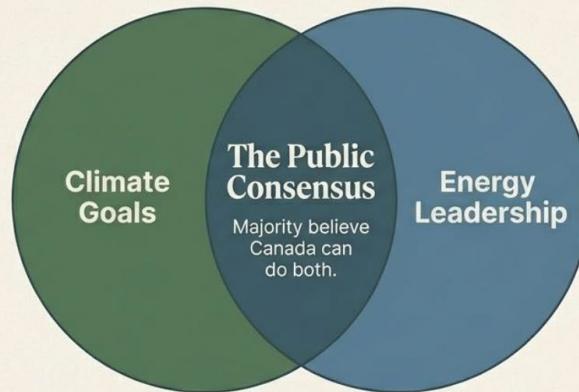


ABACUS DATA – DEC 1, 2025 - CANADIAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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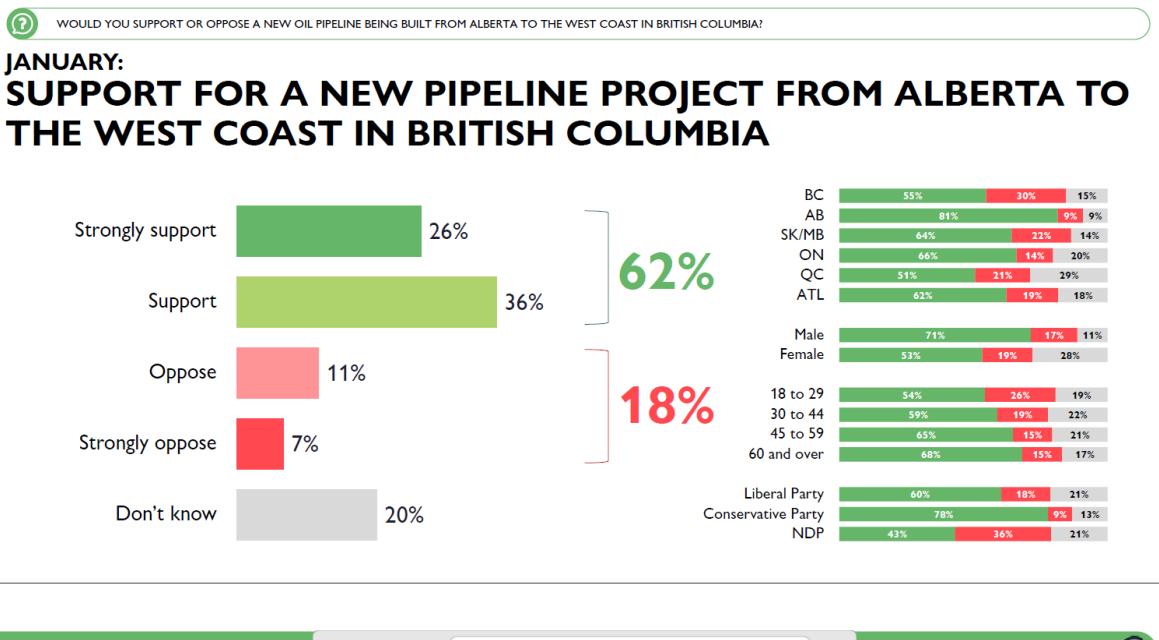
And then he went on to say, that “Only 1 in 3 believe climate policies should move ahead if they harm the economy.”

Rejecting the False Dilemma



The Hard Reality: Only 1 in 3 believe climate policies should move ahead if they harm the economy.

And this is reflected in support for a new pipeline from Alberta to the west coast – even in BC per his report:



After the presentation, I was able to ask David Coletto, “I’m wondering, what have you seen the legacy media reporting on this kind of thing? I get a perspective from the news, that maybe doesn’t align with what you’re reporting.”

He replied, “. . . I think your instincts are right in that” and that they “love the conflict story.”

He went on to say, “. . . even in the questions I’m asked . . . when we did some of this research for the [newspaper name], for example, and they were inclined to want to know . . . where is there opposition? As opposed to why is there so much consensus?”

Member Services

Cultivating Innovation: SIMSA, IMII, and USask’s SIGMA program Host 3rd Annual Mining Hackathon

The culture of innovation in Saskatchewan’s mining sector continues to thrive as the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII), SIMSA, and the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Engineering SIGMA program successfully co-hosted the third annual Mining Hackathon.

Held on January 17, 2026, the event brought together the next generation of problem solvers and industry veterans to tackle real-world challenges facing the minerals sector.

Bridging Education and Industry

The Hackathon serves as a unique platform where students brainstorm, develop, and present solutions to pressing industry needs. For this year's event, the IMII issued specific problem sets on behalf of its major mineral member companies, including **BHP, Cameco, Mosaic, Nutrien, and Uranium Energy Corporation**.

This direct connection to industry giants provided students with invaluable exposure to actual operational challenges, moving beyond theoretical coursework into practical application.



A Diverse Talent Pool

The event saw an impressive turnout of **41 students** organized into **10 teams**. The diversity of the participants highlighted the growing interest in mining innovation across different educational levels:

- **7 teams** from the University of Saskatchewan (USask)
- **2 teams** from Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- **1 team** from a local high school

For over eight hours, these students worked intensively in groups of 3-5 to "hack" the problem sets released by IMII. They were supported throughout the day by mentors and judges drawn from the mining industry, SIMSA, and academic faculty.

Why It Matters

The Hackathon reinforces the strong collaborative ecosystem in Saskatchewan, where industry associations, educational institutions, and major producers work together to drive the sector forward.

Nuclear

SIMSA Nuclear Update

Our focus so far in 2026 has been on contributing to the execution of the NRCan funded project, Enabling SMRs, and coordinating with CIC to enable the development of the nuclear supply chain in Saskatchewan. The project is currently completing industry interviews and data gathering and starting to draft our preliminary report.

Based on feedback from our members, SIMSA is planning to deliver a 3-day short course on how to enter the nuclear industry and nuclear procurement in Regina this fall. We expect to offer additional sessions of the 3-day course in 2026, based upon demand. If your organization is interested in attending a future course, please email me at Grant.Cherkas@simsa.ca

Quality and Nuclear

An important aspect of working in the nuclear industry is understanding the quality expectations and how implementing a nuclear quality program and its impact the business plan. A few points to consider when evaluating entering the nuclear industry are:

- i) The nuclear industry expects suppliers have an implemented quality program and deliver high quality items and services. This applies to both “nuclear” and “non-nuclear” items and services. A quality program therefore becomes a baseline requirement and needs to be implemented prior to the bid.
- ii) Developing and implementing a quality program prior to a purchase order or sale requires investment and time to develop. The cost of the investment and timeline to develop a quality program is highly variable, depending on nature of the items and services offered as well as the quality level required by your customer.
- iii) Customers qualify their suppliers prior to, or as a condition of contracting. The qualification process includes evaluating the quality program. The audit and qualification process takes time.

As a result of the above, the sales cycle time in nuclear tends to be substantially longer than in non-nuclear. The sales cycle can be equated to the defence or aerospace industries. Among other resources, a well thought out business plan is needed to be successful.

Two resources to look at when evaluating entering the nuclear industry are:

- 1) OCNI's pamphlets which provide an overview of how to become a qualified supplier,
<https://www.ocni.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/OCNI-Roadmap-to-Nuclear-Supplier-Qualification-2Nov2021.pdf>

and,

- 2) Hatch's report which provides some high-level information regarding nuclear opportunities.

<https://albertainnovates.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SMR-Supply-Chain-Study-Executive-Summary-Final-Report-2022-05.pdf>

Please reach out if you have any questions or are looking for information related to the nuclear industry. I can be reached at Grant.Cherkas@simsa.ca or (306) 291-4423.

New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of January were:

- [Muscowpetung Saulteaux Business Developments](#)
- [Tag Solutions Inc.](#)
- [New Feathers Industrial Group of Companies](#)
- [Badger Infrastructure Solutions Ltd.](#)
- [West End Radiators](#)
- [Hundseth Power Line Construction](#)
- [TAM International LP](#)

Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **Contract Negotiation and Administration – Liability, Indemnity and Other Contract Issues Not To Be Overlooked – February 24, 2026**
This event will include presentation and discussion of negotiation and administration matters regarding some key contract issues applicable in the majority of mining and industrial contracts. As former legal counsel to global mining companies who now advise contractors and other supply chain companies, Derek Hoffman and Josh Lommer will provide an informed perspective regarding negotiation and administration of mining and industrial contracts.
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 15 & 16, 2026**
Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 18th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 15 and 16, 2026 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **SIMSA AGM – May 13, 2026**
Save the date! Our 2026 AGM will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) – September 29, 2026**
Save the Date! The 12th Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) will be on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at Delta Hotel in downtown Regina, SK. This event is co-hosted by SIMSA and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development.

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