

January 6, 2025

## Executive Director's Message

Welcome to 2025!

This year SIMSA will continue on our journey to “help our members sell stuff.” We do this by bringing the buyers face-to-face with members at events, operating a supplier database, providing information, and developing a labour force for the future. It's not complicated.

With this singular focus, SIMSA has grown steadily to 363 members. At some point we will likely begin to taper-off as we hit some sort of a saturation point?

We will continue to look for ways to add value to your membership. Our membership fees have not increased since SIMSA's inception. By using the Bank of Canada's [Inflation Calculator](#), a \$500 basket of goods in 2013 - our lowest membership fee and the year SIMSA began - would now cost \$657.72. This is an increase of 31.54%. No, we don't intend to increase our membership fees this year and we will continue to add value to them.

SIMSA has engaged [Crestview Strategies](#) to assist us in communications with Canada's Federal Government. In addition to key linkages with all leading Federal parties, Julian Ovens is SIMSA's main point of contact. There is more information on this within the “Advocacy” section of this newsletter.

SIMSA will be adding an AI feature to its database in 2025. Launching from the Procurement login of our existing database - the [Saskatchewan Supplier Database](#) - the feature would search members' websites for additional information for procurement searches, but be limited to SIMSA member companies' websites, and allow for free-form searches, not just by specific predefined categories. The key to all of this is, that it would scrape and index every word on members' websites – on the actual pages and all of the downloads on them – to create a massive index. The tool would enable companies to better source goods and services from member companies.

The need becomes apparent when scenarios such as the following occur. As an example, Fission Uranium called SIMSA looking for a specific item that they could not find on our database. We knew certain members supplied the item and discussed how Fission was conducting their search with them. We found out that they were searching one possible broad category but not another. Members had selected the “other” category and thus were not found. Had an AI tool been in place, the item would

have been located. It will also be a powerful procurement tool for long established companies and for new sectors of work such as nuclear.

## Member's News

[Celebrating 15 Incredible Years – Thank You from Team Power Solutions!](#)

[STC Industrial Group Building Prosperity Through Indigenous Leadership](#)

[SRC Delivers \\$887M in Value Impacts to Provincial Economy in 2023-2024](#)

[Falcon Equipment has partnered with RELAM Inc. as our new strategic equity partner](#)

[Leveraging Technology to Share Project Expertise at Peter Lucas](#)

## Advocacy

As we wrote in earlier, SIMSA has engaged [Crestview Strategies](#) to assist us in communications with Canada's Federal Government. In addition to key linkages with all leading Federal parties, Julian Ovens is SIMSA's main point of contact.

From [here](#), you will note that:

Julian brings extensive experience as an international corporate development leader, a natural resources executive, and a senior political advisor. Julian sits on the Boards of Directors of the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) and the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum (AusCan).

Julian was Chief of Staff to two of Canada's International Trade Ministers in the Trudeau government, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2018 The Hill Times named Julian among the Top 40 Influencing Canadian Foreign Policy. He was Head of Strategy and Development, Potash (formerly Diamonds) at BHP in Saskatoon and Project Director, Iron Ore Africa, BHP Minerals Exploration, based in Singapore. He previously led commercial efforts for development projects and engaged in global mergers & acquisitions for BHP Billiton Aluminium in London. Julian led or contributed to buy, sell-side and spin-off international transactions across the globe in the corporate Mergers & Acquisitions team of (Rio Tinto) Alcan, based in Paris and Montreal.

He began his finance career in investment banking at Credit Suisse First Boston (now UBS) in Toronto. His career in federal politics started when he worked at the House of Commons as an assistant to two Parliamentary Secretaries.

Julian received his ESG Global Competent Board Certificate (GCB.D) in 2021. He holds an Honours Business Administration degree from the Ivey Business School at Western University and studied Economics and Political Science at the University of Ottawa. Julian is fluent in French.

Crestview Strategy develops and delivers clients integrated public affairs plans to influence public opinion, shape government policy, and effectively represent our client's interests with in-depth research, compelling policy proposals, and authentic grassroots campaigns. They operate in 3 countries, have 110+ team members, and have won numerous awards.

SIMSA's goal is to build a strong working relationship with the Government of Canada.

# Nuclear

## Materials for Nuclear Power Applications

### Materials Selection

When selecting materials for nuclear applications, it is necessary to consider the service requirements and the long-term operating conditions that the materials will be subjected to. Some considerations for materials selection can include, but are not limited to:

- Physical Properties
  - Time, temperature transformation characteristics

- Thermal conductivity
- Coefficient of thermal expansion
- Mechanical Properties
  - Strength, ductility, and toughness
  - Resistance to creep, fatigue and bending
- Corrosion Resistance
  - Resistance to general, galvanic, pitting and crevice corrosion, corrosion fatigue, stress corrosion cracking and hydrogen embrittlement
- Radiation Resistance
  - Resistance to radiation-induced creep and embrittlement
  - Activation (level of neutron capture)
- Maintainability
  - Long-term durability with predictable performance
  - Ease of inspection and maintenance
- Manufacturability
  - Suitable characteristics for cutting, forming, welding, machining, coating, inspection
  - Availability of material at acceptable costs
- Regulatory and Safety Requirements
  - Compliance with nuclear codes and standards

### **Material Characterization and Testing**

Prior to use in manufacturing of components the materials need to go through a process of characterization to verify that the materials will perform as required over the full service life of the components in all expected service environments. As some of the service environments will expose the materials to radiation it is required that these materials are tested after exposure to radiation.

Canada has some facilities for the characterization and testing of materials that have been subjected to radiation. Some of these facilities include those at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (Chalk River, ON) [Facilities - Canadian Nuclear Laboratories](#), and at McMaster University [Nuclear Operations & Facilities - Nuclear @ McMaster](#)

A YouTube video showing what state of the art nuclear materials research and testing facility looks like (in this case in Finland) can be found here [New hot cell laboratories at VTT](#). Information on VTT can be found here [Technology infrastructures | VTT](#).

### **Materials Research**

Significant research and development for nuclear materials is being conducted globally. Some examples include:

- Characterization and Testing of Materials for Nuclear Reactors, Proceedings of a technical meeting held in Vienna, May 29–June 2, 2006 [IAEA-TECDOC-1545](#)
- EPRI Advanced Nuclear Technology Product Catalog 2022 [ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY - EPRI](#)

- Queens University Nuclear Materials Group [The Nuclear Materials Group | Reactor Materials Testing Laboratory](#)

## Member Services

The new year is here and there a few projects in the works that we can't talk about, but hopefully will be able to announce soon. Some public projects we're able to talk about:

- **Advocacy** - Our work on revisions to ISN and Ariba has led to the development of Preliminary Member Feedback reports for these revisions. These reports have been sent out to buyers.
- **DEMOfay** – January 16
  - The IMII will release a list of innovation needs on behalf of its minerals member companies – BHP, Cameco, Mosaic and Nutrien, sometime before the event. Representatives of these companies will be at the event and available to speak to the industry's problems and needs.
  - The IMII will speak about the DEMOfay 2025 application process and give an update on past Innovation Award winners that came out of earlier DEMOfays.
- **Mining Hackathon** – January 25
  - Meet the next generation of employees and foster innovation at the Mining Hackathon event on Saturday, January 25th from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
  - To provide a catalyst to increase innovation in Saskatchewan's mining sector, we will be hosting a hackathon for the students of the University of Saskatchewan in response the needs outlined in the IMII's DEMOfay (pre-released to SIMSA members).
  - A Hackathon is an event where students come together to brainstorm solutions to the industry's needs and present their solutions to a panel of judges from industry.
  - Prizes will be awarded to the best ideas. Admission is free for the event.
- **Education Ecosystem Enhancement Event** – February 11
  - This is part of our ongoing efforts to promote STEM and trades in the K–12 sphere.
  - Key outcomes include:
    - Creating a resource hub for educators to access industry resources and promote STEM and trades.
    - Presenting our findings to the government.
    - Developing actionable items to address common challenges faced by all stakeholders.
- **Sustainability Workshop** – Date TBD
  - This workshop will suppliers address buyer questions on sustainability topics such as ESG, EDI, and more.

# Sector News

## Ottawa softens Clean Electricity Regulations as new rules set to take effect

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-ottawa-releases-final-version-of-clean-electricity-rules/>

Ottawa is pressing ahead with its contentious new rules to limit greenhouse-gas emissions from provinces' electricity grids, although they have been softened from its original proposal.

The final version of the federal Clean Electricity Regulations – which are effectively aimed at restricting the use of natural gas for power generation starting in 2035, unless accompanied by carbon-capture technology – were released by Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault on Tuesday.

The regulations have been billed by the federal government as a key component of Canada's path to net-zero emissions by 2050, as the electrification of transportation, buildings and industry is projected to at least double power consumption.

First put forward in 2023, the rules prompted strong pushback from the governments of provinces that currently rely significantly on fossil fuels for power generation – particularly Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, which warned of potential power shortages and escalating costs.

Ottawa sought to address those concerns with a series of changes to the draft regulations aimed at greater compliance flexibility. That includes increasing the maximum level of pollution for large generation facilities to remain operational past 2035, to 65 tonnes of emissions per gigawatt hour from 30 t/GWh.

The government has shifted away from an initial plan to require the closure of any facilities that exceed that threshold, now allowing them to operate each year until they reach a cumulative emissions limit. It will also allow the purchase of carbon offsets by utilities that continue to operate above that limit. And it will enable utilities with multiple generating facilities to pool emissions from those sites, effectively meaning that limits will apply across fleets, somewhat reducing the chances of individual ones being forced to close.

Another tweak is to the regulations' grandfathering provisions. Existing power plants will now be exempt from the rules for 25 years from the date they were first commissioned, up from 20 years initially. And new plants will be eligible for grandfathering if operational by 2028, rather than 2025.

As well, cogeneration – in which industrial sites use gas to produce both heat and electricity – will now be exempted from the regulations, although that will apply only to power those sites consume themselves, not any they sell into the electricity grid.

Mr. Guilbeault said in an interview Tuesday that, after “probably some of the most extensive consultations we’ve ever done on any regulations,” he believes the government has landed on a sweet spot in which “those who absolutely need natural gas will be able to use it,” while others are disincentivized from doing so.

Along the way, Ottawa has scaled back its expectations for the regulations’ impact. It’s now projecting they will prevent 181 megatonnes of cumulative emissions by 2050, down from an initial forecast of 342 megatonnes.

Scott MacDougall, director of the electricity program at the Pembina Institute, an environmental think tank, said Tuesday the flexibility will allow provinces and electricity operators to tailor power systems to their individual needs.

The regulations also signal that Canada is serious about attracting investment in the low-carbon electricity sector, as global markets shift in that direction, he said.

Nevertheless, the added flexibility did not go as far as industry and some provinces demanded.

For instance, Electricity Canada – the association representing power utilities across the country – had sought a performance standard above 120 tonnes of emissions per GWh, roughly double where the government landed. It also wanted the grandfathering provision to be 30 years.

“A ‘Canadian’ electricity regulation must be achievable in all provinces,” Electricity Canada president Francis Bradley said in a statement responding to Tuesday’s release. “The final Clean Electricity Regulations announced today do not meet this test.”

Meanwhile, Alberta’s government expressed opposition to the rules in principle. Premier Danielle Smith, in a joint statement with Utilities Minister Nathan Neudorf and Environment Minister Rebecca Schulz, called the regulations unconstitutional and vowed to launch a court challenge.

Ontario Energy Minister Stephen Lecce also struck a sharp tone, saying the regulations “will drive up costs on families and harm grid reliability.”

Hanging over the announcement, made one day after the federal government was rocked by Chrystia Freeland’s resignation as finance minister, is uncertainty about whether the regulations will even remain in place after the next election, which is scheduled to take place by October, 2025.

That uncertainty is also affecting some of Ottawa’s incentives for provinces to build non-emitting power, which are supposed to work in tandem with the new rules to shift investment decisions. While several federal clean-technology investment tax credits have recently entered law, Parliament has not yet passed a 15-per-cent refundable credit geared toward public utilities investing in energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity, nuclear and energy storage.

Mr. Guilbeault expressed optimism that some opposition parties, particularly the New Democrats and Bloc Quebecois, will co-operate to get that measure in place before the election.

“We will do everything we can do ensure that those last tax credits that need to be adopted will be adopted as rapidly as possible,” he said.

## New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of December were:

- [Forged Drilling](#)
- [PBN Construction](#)
- [Advanced Municipal Solutions Inc.](#)

## Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **DEMOfday 2025 Launch Event – January 16, 2025**  
Co-hosted by SIMSA and the IMII, representatives from BHP, Cameco, Mosaic and Nutrien, will present about the industry’s problems and needs.
- **2025 Mining Hackathon Kickoff Event – January 25, 2025**  
To provide a catalyst to increase innovation in Saskatchewan’s mining sector, we will be hosting a hackathon for the students of the University of Saskatchewan in response the needs outlined in the IMII’s DEMOfday.
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 9 & 10, 2025**  
Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 9 and 10, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Tradeshow now sold out!



- **SIMSA AGM – May 14, 2025**  
Save the date! Our 2025 AGM will be on May 14, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **Saskatchewan Supplier Energy Forum (SSEF) – October 8, 2025**  
Save the date! The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) will be on October 8, 2025 at Delta Hotel in downtown Regina.

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