

March 2, 2026

## Executive Director's Message

In January 2025, SIMSA began developing a strategic partnership with the Government of Canada.

As part of this ongoing initiative, in early February, a SIMSA group travelled to Ottawa and had several meetings with MPs, Ministers, and key ministry persons. We had 22 meetings with over 40 key persons. Prior to this, we made a pre-budget submission asking for funding in critical areas – such as supports towards defence accreditations and hosted the Saskatchewan Conservative a Caucus.

Note, elected officials enjoy photos with groups like ours, while the Deputy Ministers and alike prefer to stay off camera.



*SIMSA with Saskatchewan's only Liberal MP Buckey Belanger*

The direct results are becoming apparent – things we are asking for are appearing in policies. See the advocacy portion of this newsletter and continue this item.



*SIMSA group with various Saskatchewan Conservative MPs*



*Making a presentation*

SIMSA made a written submission to the CNSC hearings in support of NexGen's project in Saskatchewan. SIMSA will be presenting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at PDAC this year, during the Saskatchewan Day event.

The preliminary results of SIMSA's report on "Payment Terms" are in from BDO. We are now reviewing them, and will share them publicly, once this review and any updates/revisions are completed. This release will likely occur in April.

## Member's News

[Innovative Manufacturing at Multicrete Driving Results for Customers Across Canada](#)

## Advocacy

Results are now evident!

Federal funding towards defence accreditations was announced and SIMSA was involved. In our pre-budget submission to the Federal Government in July 2025, we asked for funding for our members to help off-set the costs of the accreditations required for defence and nuclear work. Funding was announced this past fall and we are now organising a disbursement system.

The results of our work are also clearly defined by an example from SIMSA's January 2026 newsletter, when compared to an announcement last week.

In our newsletter, we reported that on December 19, SIMSA hosted a roundtable with Diane Gray, President of Prairies Economic Development Canada to pursue new opportunities in the province's nuclear energy and defence manufacturing sectors. The roundtable brought together a dozen CEO's and business leaders who are creating jobs and economic opportunity in Saskatchewan in these critical, growing and strategically important industries.



SIMSA group meets with Diane Gray.

With billions of dollars in government investment planned in these critical industries, SIMSA was ensuring policy makers and economic development leaders like Ms. Gray learnt first-hand how to support and sustain these efforts. The roundtable included key discussions about loan and financial programs and other regulatory and policy measures that could be adjusted to unlock Saskatchewan's economic potential. She took notes and reported back to us on what she heard.

To boil the conversation down to the “what to do” type of items . . . the “ask” from SIMSA – given or member comments – were that we need:

- Work, not conversations – need to connect to real opportunities with decision makers and buyers very soon
- Assurances before making investments into nuclear and/or defence – they don't want things to go the way of EV batteries (announced then gone)
- A procurement officer in Saskatchewan
- Projects here – nuclear and defense – to exercise competencies
- To know
  - geography of defense spends – where will the money be spent
  - indigenous incentives
  - the actual/specific defence, major infrastructure, and nuclear needs
- More program auditors as it takes 12 months to get an audit done

Two months later – on February 17, 2026 - the Government of Canada launched its Defence Industrial Strategy. The first pillar in it, was listed as, “Renewing Our Relationship with Industry” (pages 11 -12) and it reads a lot like our input to Ms. Gray above:

#### **Pillar I: Renewing Our Relationship with Industry**

The first pillar of the Government's strategy to strengthen Canada's defence industrial base is as simple as it is essential to our collective success: to renew the relationship with Canada's defence industry. Canadian industry needs to be a full partner in the national task of building up the Canadian Armed Forces. This has several dimensions.

### **Providing a Long-Term Demand Signal**

First, the Government needs to provide a clear, long-term demand signal to Canadian industry for defence and dual-use goods so it can be better prepared to meet the requirements of the Canadian Armed Forces. One of the fundamental challenges facing Canadian industry has been the lack of clear and predictable demand signals and commitments from government, making it difficult for Canadian companies to forecast demand and make informed investment decisions. Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy will provide that clear demand signal.

### **Ensuring Regular Industry Engagement**

Second, Canadian industry needs clear mechanisms to engage with the Government early and regularly. To be effective, this engagement must have multiple dimensions:

- **Early understanding of capability needs:** Canadian industry requires clarity on the key priorities of the Canadian Armed Forces, including its assessment of threats and capability gaps.
- **Opportunities for joint innovation and co-development of solutions:** The Canadian defence sector needs to be a partner in joint research and development activities, prototyping, and the development of novel solutions to meet Canada's defence needs. This will require consideration of Canadian industrial benefits at the onset of the procurement process.
- **Structured engagement on defence procurement:** Industry partners need to have regular and structured touchpoints with key government partners and engage more consistently as part of procurement processes.
- **Strategic planning and roadmaps:** Finally, the Canadian defence sector needs greater opportunities to align over the long term with the Government's defence priorities and investment plans.

Once fully operational, the Defence Investment Agency will provide a coordinating function across government to facilitate these industry interactions.

### **Facilitating Rapid Accreditation of Industry Personnel and Facilities**

Third, the Government needs to greatly accelerate its processes for security clearances and the accreditation of industry-operated secure facilities. Industry also needs support to expand security infrastructure to take advantage of emerging defence opportunities.

### **Assisting Industry to Navigate Government**

Finally, the Government must do more to assist Canadian firms-particularly small and mid-sized businesses (SMB)-in navigating complex administrative processes in government. Even with more efficient defence procurement, Canadian companies will still need to engage with multiple agencies. While the largest contractors may have the capacity to manage this complexity, more can be done to make it easier for industry to work with government. This is a key element of the mandate of the Defence Investment Agency.

## Key Actions

To renew its relationship with Canada's defence industry:

The Defence Investment Agency will lead the establishment of a permanent Defence Advisory Forum, co-chaired by the Ministers of National Defence, and Industry, and Secretary of State (Defence Procurement), to provide a regular, scheduled venue to engage with the Canadian defence industry. Under the leadership of these Ministers, industry will be given new opportunities for direct engagement including on procurement, participation where feasible in wargames and operational exercises, and industry-government-military staff exchanges.

# Nuclear

You may have seen an e-mail that went out on January 14<sup>th</sup> surrounding a Saskatchewan Delegation to CNA 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario. **There's still time to join us if you're interested in coming, although we have run out of subsidy.**

As part of our work in nuclear supply chain development, SIMSA is actively looking to promote Saskatchewan companies to the existing nuclear supply chain. As such, we've partnered with the [OCNI](#) to provide **subsidized travel** to Ontario to take part in nuclear networking opportunities, such as **CNA2026**.

**About [CNA2026: Power and Purpose](#)** (April 27–30 in Ottawa) is Canada's premier nuclear event, hosting over 1500 people, bringing together utility decision-makers, policymakers, and Tier 1 buyers who are actively seeking robust supply chain partners. To ensure our province is well-represented, **SIMSA offered an exclusive subsidy to eligible members**, significantly reducing the cost of attendance.

Currently, we're sitting at 14 members joining us at CNA this year.

	27 <sup>th</sup> (Monday) - <b>Optional</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
Morning	French Trade mission	<b>Optional</b> SK-UK B2B	CNA	CNA
Afternoon	French Trade mission	3:00 PM Trade show opens	CNA	CNA Ends at 1:30; <b>Optional</b> B2B begins (I'm on the 19:30 AC Flight that evening)

### **Eligibility for Subsidized Travel Funding (now full):**

- SME (Less than 500 employees)
- Saskatchewan company (i.e. SIMSA member)
- You are still able to attend if you're not an SME, will not be eligible for travel reimbursement.
- First come, first served. 10 spots available. 1 per company. Up to \$2,500 in reimbursements. Reimbursed up to 50%. i.e. \$5,000 in travel expenses.

### **Future Opportunities**

There will be future opportunities to participate in tours, with SIMSA looking to host at least 1 more before the end of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027. Likely in September in conjunction with OCNI Supplier Days with Bruce Power/OPG.

To get involved, please let me know if you would be interested in a future tour, and look out for future e-mails from me (James).

# New Members

**New members to SIMSA from the month of February were:**

- [ThunderClaw Industrial Services Limited](#)
- [Nucor Rebar Fabrication](#)
- [R&R Tank & Equipment Rentals LTD.](#)
- [Border Insulators Inc.](#)
- [INDOC Cranes Canada Ltd.](#)
- [FLFN Ventures Ltd.](#)
- [Bryden Construction & Transport Co. Inc.](#)
- [Squires Industrial Services Ltd.](#)
- [Chamney Crushing Ltd. o/a Chamney Construction](#)

# Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **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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