

September 1, 2026

Executive Director's Message

It has been a busy summer at SIMSA. We used to see things slow-down between mid-June and mid-August, but not anymore.

In addition to the political/advocacy conversations (see the Advocacy section herein), we have been planning some significant events.

We have scheduled a members-only Roundtable event with Mosaic in Regina on October 20th! We have not had a session with them for several years, so this will be exciting. Learn more [HERE](#). Sponsorships are available and anonymous questions need to be submitted in advance to eric.anderson@simsa.ca by September 18th.

And, not only do we have a members-only Roundtable event with BHP on November 5th in Saskatoon (see [HERE](#)), we are also hosting a series of nine webinars for them that will be open to the public. The “BHP Potash Supply Chain Ready Program” (SCR) is delivered in partnership with SIMSA and open to Indigenous and local suppliers across Saskatchewan, the SCR program aims to strengthen supplier capability and readiness through targeted webinars covering BHP Potash standards, ways of working, and key supplier requirements.

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Session dates and topics include:

- **September 17** – Working with BHP
- **October 15** – Supplier Onboarding & Minimum Requirements
- **November 26** – Indigenous Engagement Approach
- **January 7** – Strategic Procurement: Tendering Processes
- **February 4** – Health, Safety & Security (HSS) Framework
- **March 4** – Transactional Procurement (Demand-to-Pay Cycle)
- **April 22** – Contract Management
- **May 6** – Contractor Management Framework
- **June 3** – Risk Management Framework

You must register for each session individually that you'd like to attend. All sessions are free of cost.

SIMSA has had several conversations with BDC on our members building items for defence. *BDC has up to \$6 billion for this initiative.* The Canadian government's Defence Industrial Strategy has committed \$81.8 billion to support the nation's domestic defence capacity over the next decade. Look for some exciting items in the near future.

The planning for the Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum is in full gear. The agenda is coming together with several oil companies participating, including a keynote by Cenovus Energy's – Jeff Lawson, Executive Vice-President, Corporate Development & Chief Sustainability Officer. Learn more [HERE](#).

Plans for the 2027 Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum are almost done – the tradeshow will be vastly expanded in 2027, with more 10x10 booths and several 30x20 and 30x30 booths being added. In short, we added another hall at Prairieland Park. Look for more information soon!

Finally, SIMSA held its annual Strategic Planning session on Aug 27th. We will be working to develop the conversation into a working document. But, for now we can say that SIMSA's strategic plan should be built around three related but distinct questions:

1. What are our members' core issues and how we can address those?
2. Where is the greatest potential business, market and sector growth for members?
3. Where is the greatest opportunity for SIMSA itself to expand relevance and viability – to the benefit of its members?



SIMSA Board at Strategic Planning Session

Member's News

[Black & McDonald's ACC Success at Aspen](#)

[Test Before You Invest: The Strategic Importance of Piloting with SRC](#)

Advocacy

In July, SIMSA's Nuclear Specialist, Grant Cherkas and Executive Director, Eric Anderson met with Premier Moe to discuss a project that would see SIMSA members and many others attain the experience needed to successfully engage in nuclear power projects, as well as other nuclear issues.



This initial conversation led to a mid-August meeting with 4 Cabinet Ministers:

- Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
- Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade & Export Development
- Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Advanced Education

- Hon. Eric Schmalz, Minister of Government Relations



It would seem they are very receptive to the idea.

SIMSA was invited to attend the small federal Northern Liberal Caucus event and had fruitful conversations with key industry persons and several MPs. I think you'll recognise some of the persons in these two images.



Prime Minister Carney is hosting a massive capital raising event in Toronto on Sept 14-15, "The Canada Investment Summit." He has invited major wealth funds, etc. to come look at a set of "deal books" from the various provinces. As part of this, Saskatchewan has put together a deal book of junior resource projects as well as major ones.

The Summit's exact guest list for the invitation-only event is not yet final, but the summit is on track to welcome executives from nearly 100 global investment organizations from 28 countries – including Canada – that collectively manage almost \$120-trillion (BlackRock, Berkshire Hathaway, JP Morgan, sovereign wealth funds, etc.).

SIMSA will be co-hosting a small reception on Sunday September 13 evening for the Saskatchewan Deal Book companies in Toronto, and was invited to speak at the Government of Saskatchewan's nuclear forum the next day – which includes Premier Moe, former Prime Minister Steven Harper, and Cameco CEO Tim Gitzel. There is also a reception on Monday evening with all of our resource companies (the juniors plus Cameco, BHP, Nutrien, etc.) and Moe that I will attend. The logic for SIMSA is, "If we can help support these project's getting funded, then our members get work."

Nuclear

The Case for a Saskatchewan Training Reactor: The Missing Rung in Our Nuclear Supply Chain

Saskatchewan supplies nearly a quarter of the world's uranium, yet no company or worker in the province can gain hands-on experience at a licensed nuclear reactor without leaving the province. SIMSA is asking the Government of Saskatchewan to change that.

What We Have Learned

Successful deployment of nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan requires two time-critical enablers, drawn from SIMSA's nuclear supply chain development work with industry consultants: a competent, qualified and experienced local supply chain able to support the full lifecycle of nuclear power generation, and a competent, qualified and experienced operating organization — the future licensee, such as SaskPower or SaskNuclear — in nuclear procurement, construction, maintenance and operations.

Neither can be conjured on short notice. Supplier development typically takes multiple years, and new entrants face real economic barriers to participation. Nuclear operating organizations take longer years or longer to grow and mature. Put simply: experience cannot be trained, and experience takes time to develop.

The Ask

SIMSA is asking the Government of Saskatchewan to approve construction of a small training and research reactor, hosted in Saskatchewan and operated — potentially with a partner — by SaskPower, soon. A training reactor gives local suppliers a project of lower risk and lower complexity than an SMR or large power plant on which to earn their first nuclear-grade credentials. It gives SaskPower direct experience in planning, procurement, construction and

supplier oversight. And it develops the engineers and technicians who will design, build, operate and maintain the province's future reactor fleet.

Early, clear signalling of Saskatchewan's eventual power-reactor technology choice — with that vendor invited to co-fund or participate in the training reactor — would also address vendor reluctance to invest ahead of a final decision.

Why This Matters for SIMSA Members

Government estimates put the workforce needed to build and operate Saskatchewan's nuclear plants at 2,500 to 3,500 jobs by the mid-2030s. Right now, every operator and technician in that pipeline has to leave the province — often the country — for reactor experience, if they can get it at all.

Saskatchewan is building the classroom layer: Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Western Canadian Nuclear Training Centre and the University of Regina's new SMR test loops. But those test loops are electrically heated and non-nuclear by design, and no amount of classroom or simulator time substitutes for supervised hours at a licensed reactor when it comes to operator qualification and nuclear safety culture. A training reactor is the missing rung: it would give SIMSA members their first CNSC-licensed, nuclear-grade contracts in fabrication, instrumentation and civil work, years before the major power-reactor packages are awarded.

The Precedent

Saskatchewan has done this before. The province supplies nearly a quarter of the world's uranium, hosts national science infrastructure at the University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Research Council operated a SLOWPOKE-2 research reactor in Saskatoon safely for more than three decades.

Canada has licensed and operated small reactors at academic institutions for more than 60 years. McMaster University's reactor has run since 1959, training generations of nuclear workers and becoming one of the world's leading suppliers of iodine-125 for cancer treatment. SLOWPOKE units operated safely at institutions across the country, including Saskatoon. The predecessors to OPG and Bruce Power gained their operational experience on small reactors like these before being licensed to operate grid-scale units. The CNSC regulatory pathway is well travelled — Saskatchewan would not be asking the regulator for anything it has not licensed many times before. Because CNSC licensing takes years, a facility that needs to be ready in time has to start now.

What It Delivers

- A homegrown pipeline of licensed operators, technicians and nuclear-qualified trades who train, live and stay in Saskatchewan
- First nuclear-grade contract experience for local suppliers at a manageable, buildable scale — de-risking the province's supply chain content ambitions for the power program
- A research platform for Saskatchewan's universities, with medical isotope revenue potential depending on the design selected
- A visible, operating anchor for Saskatchewan's nuclear ambitions through the long decade between a final investment decision and first power

The Risk of Inaction

Without a reactor to train on, Saskatchewan rents its nuclear expertise from elsewhere. Operators qualify in Ontario and many stay there; employers backfill with out-of-province hires; local suppliers wait for a megaproject with no smaller rung on which to earn their first nuclear credentials. The province that supplies a quarter of the world's uranium would run its own reactors on imported experience.

Getting Involved

SIMSA continues to bring this case to the Government of Saskatchewan, SaskPower and federal partners, and presented it directly at the Western Canada Research Reactor Workshop in Saskatoon in August. Members who want to weigh in, learn more, or position their business for early nuclear-grade contract opportunities should reach out. Contact SIMSA's nuclear specialist, Grant Cherkas, P.Eng., at grant.cherkas@simsa.ca, for more information on the training reactor initiative and upcoming nuclear supply chain sessions.

New Members

New members to SIMSA from the months of July and August were:

- [Barr Engineering & Environmental Science Canada, Ltd.](#)
- [Pro-Tec Industries Ltd.](#)
- [Broadhead Construction](#)
- North Force Industrial Ltd.
- [Bernard Industrial Services Inc.](#)
- [Uniglobe Carefree Travel Group](#)
- [Safelift Crane Aid](#)
- [Preferred Energy Inc.](#)

Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **Protecture: Better Benefits for SIMSA Member Companies – September 10, 2026**
Discover how SIMSA's Member Benefit Plan is helping member companies strengthen their benefits programs, support recruitment and retention, and access advantages - and learn about the new "Diamond" level for companies with over 100 employees!
- **BHP Potash Supply Chain Ready Program (SCR) Session #1 – September 17, 2026**
The topic of this virtual session is “Working with BHP”.
Future planned session dates and topics include:
 - October 15 – Supplier Onboarding & Minimum Requirements
 - November 26 – Indigenous Engagement Approach
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 - April 22 – Contract Management
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- **Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) – September 29, 2026**
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 presented by SIMSA and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development. And, we are proud to have CAPP as our Presenting Sponsor.
- **SIMSA & Mosaic Roundtable – October 20, 2026**
Save the Date! The SIMSA & Mosaic Roundtable will be on Tuesday, October 20th at Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina. Tickets on sale September 10th.
- **SIMSA & BHP Roundtable – November 5, 2026**
Save the Date! The SIMSA & BHP Roundtable will be on Thursday, November 5th at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 14 & 15, 2027**
Save the Date! Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 19th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 14 and 15, 2027 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

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