



#RECLEAGUE

# SCALING UP THE IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CO-OPERATIVES IN CANADA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MAY 25 - 27, 2023  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, MAY 25

6:00 - 8:00 PM Optional Kickoff Reception

Location: The Albion Rooms (33 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, and located within the Novotel Ottawa Hotel)

## FRIDAY, MAY 26

**LOCATION: SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY (223 MAIN STREET)**

7:45AM Breakfast

8:45AM Welcome

9:00AM Presentation by Marie-Louise Perron, Saint Paul University Indigenous Cultural Centre

10:00AM Brain Food Digestion Break

10:30AM **Panel #1 - The REC Story**

Moderator: Julie MacArthur

Panelists:

- Don Pettit (Executive Director) and Greg Dueck (Solar Consultant), Peace Energy Co-operative
- Dick Bakker, Director, Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative
- Rod Johnson, President of the Board, SES Solar Co-operative Ltd.
- Natalie Affolter, Founding Board Member, Xaayda Gwaay Renewable Energy Cooperative

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM **Panel #2 - The Policymaker Perspective**

Moderator: Marc-André Pigeon

Panelists:

- Jonah Bernstein, Director, Clean Transportation, Natural Resources and Renewable, Government of Nova Scotia
- Janice Ashworth, Project Manager, City of Ottawa
- Thomas Levy, Deputy Portfolio Director of Smart Grid and Renewable Energy, Natural Resources Canada
- Sarah Jane Fraser, Policy Manager, Environment and Climate Change Canada

2:30 PM Brain Food Digestion Break

3:00 PM **Panel #3 - The REC Ecosystem**

Moderator: Martin Boucher

Panelists:

- Tara Molloy, Senior Membership Engagement Advisor, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada
- Dan Schwartz, Senior Associate, Clean Energy Finance, Vancity Community Investment Bank
- Mario Cimet Datillo, Alberta Community and Cooperative Association
- Seth Leon, Manager, Programs and Projects, Quest Canada

5:30 PM Optional Dinner and Casual Networking

Location: **the Lieutenant's Pump** (361 Elgin Street)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 27

LOCATION: SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY (223 MAIN STREET)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM | Networking Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:30 AM           | <div><div>Interactive Workshop - <b>Exploring Our Purpose</b></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In this session, we will explore and discuss the various options for including diverse actors in a potential Canadian league. We will use examples from local and international second tier organizations that range from specific renewable energy cooperatives to more broadly defined community energy organizations.</li></ul></div><div>To review:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>What is community energy?</u></li></ul></div></div>                                                                           |
| 10:00 AM          | <div><div>Collaborative Workshop - Envisioning Our League</div><div>This interactive session invites participants to build upon the earlier discussions and agree on the core principles that will shape our league. The topics we will cover include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Crafting a purpose-driven Charter</li><li>Establishing a Governance Model</li><li>Outlining a sustainable Funding Model</li><li>Creating a framework for effective Data Collection Practices</li></ul></div><div>To review and provide feedback:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>The DRAFT REC League Charter</u></li></ul></div></div> |
| 12:00 PM          | <div><div>Lunch Break</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enjoy lunch and continue collaboration with fellow REC leaders</li></ul></div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1:00 PM           | <div><div>Unfacilitated Open Forum</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The afternoon will be dedicated to an open forum for continued discussions and exchange of ideas. This unstructured time will allow REC leaders to continue to work and discuss next steps as a group. The afternoon will be unfacilitated.</li></ul></div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

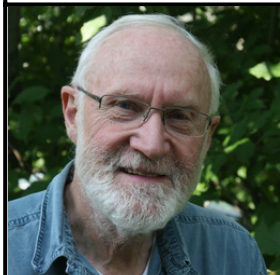
# SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

## PANEL #1: THE REC STORY



### Julie MacArthur (Moderator)

Dr. Julie MacArthur is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Reimagining Capitalism at Royal Roads University. She is the author of *Empowering Electricity: Co-operatives, Sustainability and Power Sector Reform in Canada* (UBC 2016), co-editor of *Environmental Politics and Policy in Aotearoa New Zealand* (with Maria Bargh, 2022) and author of numerous articles and book chapters on energy democracy, inclusive low carbon transitions, participatory environmental governance, and comparative energy policy.



### Don Pettit

Don Pettit is the executive director of Peace Energy Renewable Energy Cooperative based in Dawson Creek. Don and Peace Energy Co-op were deeply involved in the creation of Bear Mountain Wind Park, BC's first commercial wind facility. Peace Energy Co-op has designed and installed more than one million watts of roof top solar in northern BC and northwest Alberta, including BC's largest municipal solar installation in Hudson's Hope. They are now pioneering one of north western Canada's first cooperatively financed, owned and operated solar farm (5 MW).



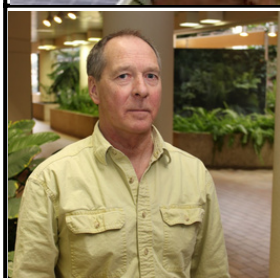
### Greg Dueck

Greg has enjoyed the last 7 years as Solar Consultant for Peace Energy Co-op (PEC) where he says "I believe my job isn't about selling solar – it's about educating people so they can make an informed decision". His work also included working with a team to assess, design and install 500 kW of solar on nine locations as part of the Hudson's Hope Solar Initiative project. Along with the day-to-day design of solar systems, Greg has been assisting with the Co-op goal of developing another community investment based, utility scale, renewable energy power project.



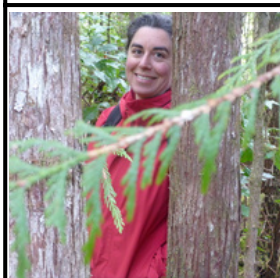
### Dick Bakker

Dick Bakker has been actively involved in the Renewable Energy Industry since 2002, and a vocal advocate of all renewable energy options for many years. He has been operating a Micro-Fit solar system since June 2010 at his property in Manotick Station. Dick has 20 years of sales and management experience in the telecommunications industry with companies such as Telesat Canada, Cisco and a number of smaller firms. He now operates a seasonal event retail store. Dick has a BA (Politics) and MBA from Queen's University.



### Rod Johnson

As an active proponent of resource conservation and the environmental awareness movement, Rod Johnson has been a longtime member of Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES), and serves as Secretary on the board of the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) and recently the president of the SES Solar Cooperative Ltd. Rod is now also a retired lecturer after 40 plus years at the University of Saskatchewan for the Department of Geography and Planning in Arts and Science College.



### Natalie Affolter

Natalie is a mother, community advocate and volunteer, who also runs a small business in her unique community of Masset, Haida Gwaii, the un-ceded traditional and territorial Land, Air and Waters of the Haida People. She is one of four founding board members of the Xaadaa Gwaay Renewable Energy Cooperative, creating an affordable and equitable renewable energy system for Haida Gwaii, and increasing Island independence and resilience in the face of climate change.

# SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

## PANEL #2: THE POLICYMAKER PERSPECTIVE



### Marc-André Pigeon (Moderator)

Marc-André Pigeon is the director of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and an Assistant Professor at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. He has worked in a number of economics and policy-related positions, most recently as assistant vice-president of public policy at the Canadian Credit Union Association. His research interests include the study of co-operatives, behavioural economics/psychology, income distribution, money and banking, and fiscal and monetary policy.



### Jonah Bernstein

Jonah Bernstein is the Director of Clean Transportation at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Jonah's work focuses on the electric and zero emission transportation solutions, active transportation, and large-scale clean energy infrastructure projects. Jonah has been working for the Government of Nova Scotia for over 10 years, and has an MBA from Dalhousie University and a Geography/Environmental Studies undergraduate degree from McGill University.



### Janice Ashworth

Janice Ashworth is a Section Manager on the City of Ottawa's climate change team where she focuses on reducing emissions from existing buildings and financing solutions. Prior to joining the City, she was the founding General Manager of the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op where she developed solar and energy efficiency projects. She has previous work experience in wind energy and community organizing. Janice has a Master's in Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. She is an enthusiastic gardener and director of Beetbox Organic Farm Co-op.



### Tom Levy

Tom Levy is the Deputy Portfolio Director, Smart Grid & Renewables with the Office of Research and Development, the energy innovation arm of Natural Resources Canada. The SG&RE team tackles issues at the grid edge, including customer and utility adoption of distributed energy resources, regulatory and market challenges, equity, diversity and inclusion in the electricity system, and pathways to achieving ambitious net zero targets. Prior to this, Tom worked in the wind industry from 2003 - 2020, first as a consultant, where he led the wind energy consultancy work for a Waterloo-based engineering firm.



### Sarah Jane Fraser

Sarah Fraser works at Environment and Climate Change Canada where she designs Grants and Contributions programs for climate change mitigation. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

# SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

## PANEL #3: THE REC ECOSYSTEM



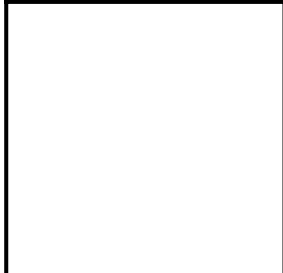
### Martin Boucher (Moderator)

Dr. Martin Boucher is a Faculty Lecturer and the academic lead for the online Master of Public Administration (online MPA) at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Dr Boucher plays a key role in the Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (GENI) program. His research is dedicated to advancing the energy transition with focus on northern energy futures, governance, decentralized energy transitions, entrepreneurship, and skills development.



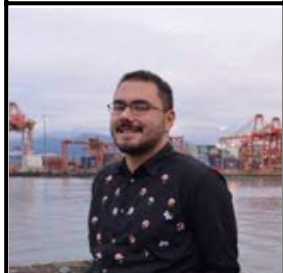
### Tara Molloy

As Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC)'s Senior Membership Engagement Advisor, Tara Molloy is responsible for the execution of CMC's membership retention and engagement plan, serving as the critical communication link for CMC's current and potential members and ensuring member satisfaction through the development and management of member-oriented services, networks, and programs.



### Dan Schwartz

Dan Schwartz is the Senior Associate in the climate finance team at VCIB (Vancity Community Investment Bank). Prior to joining VCIB, Dan was the Lending Advisor for the Green municipal Fund, responsible for assessing and evaluating project viability, and crafting innovative financial structures to optimize returns and achieve long-term sustainability. Dan holds a master's in public accountancy from McGill University and a BComm from Concordia University.



### Mario Cimet Dattilo

Mario Cimet Dattoli is a cooperative developer and entrepreneur. His experience with co-operatives began in 2018 as co-founder and technical lead at Brave Technology Co-op, a tech startup co-op building overdose detection tools in Vancouver, BC. For the past year and a half he's been supporting co-operatives in BC and Alberta with raising capital as part of the Co-operative Investment Solutions project, and he has advised several renewable energy coops in this capacity.



### Seth Leon

Seth Leon is the Manager of Programs and Projects at QUEST Canada, focusing on the [Net-Zero Communities Accelerator](#). He brings over a decade of experience planning and initiating local economic development projects across Alberta, with expertise in renewable energy, local financing, and business succession. Since 2017 he has worked to advance community energy development by leading workshops and project incubators that have connected municipalities, industry, Indigenous communities, and co-operatives to advance local energy goals.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Montreal, featuring a wide river, a suspension bridge, and a large Gothic cathedral in the foreground. The city is surrounded by green hills under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

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