It is with much excitement that QUEST – Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow – brings you the 2015 Impact Report – a snapshot of the research, engagement and advocacy work that is advancing Smart Energy Communities in Canada.

2015 was a remarkable year for Smart Energy Communities with a renewed focus by federal, provincial, territorial and local governments on climate change and green infrastructure development in communities.

Communities, the places where we live, work, move and play, account for 60 percent of energy use in Canada, as well as over half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. That makes our communities essential for achieving federal, provincial and territorial government GHG and energy objectives and Smart Energy Communities offer the solution for how they get there.

QUEST is committed to supporting all levels of government to achieve their GHG and energy objectives through the advancement of Smart Energy Communities. Smart Energy Communities improve energy efficiency, enhance reliability, cut costs and reduce GHGs. By conducting research, engagement and advocacy, QUEST is helping governments, utilities & energy service providers, the real-estate sector, the product and professional service sector, among others, to grow and service the Smart Energy Communities marketplace.
With a powerful network, QUEST has successfully offered market intelligence, critical connections and policy support for Smart Energy Communities, including:

**Timely and relevant market intelligence for Smart Energy Communities.**

In 2015 QUEST advanced two national initiatives: Resilient Pipes and Wires (RPW) and Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada! (GTI). RPW documented how 30 electricity, natural gas and thermal energy distributors in Canada were responding to climate change and outlined critical actions for policymakers and economic regulators to improve the resilience of Canada’s energy distribution systems. GTI identified how 180 communities, representing more than 50 percent of the Canadian population, are improving efficiency, cutting GHGs and driving economic development with Community Energy Plans (CEPs).

**Critical connections, networks and relationships for Smart Energy Communities**

The inaugural Smart Energy Communities Catalogue, a comprehensive guide to the who’s who of key players for delivering Smart Energy Communities in Canada, was launched in 2015 with the support of QUEST’s 8 provincial and regional Caucuses. QUEST Caucuses expanded their impact with the launch of industry working groups, like the Combined Heat and Power Consortium and Municipal Working Groups – both tackling regulatory and policy challenges and identifying opportunities for advancing Smart Energy Communities.

Throughout the year, QUEST hosted a series of networking and market awareness events across Canada, including Marketing Energy Efficient Homes and Condos in Toronto, Fuels & Technologies for Smart Energy Communities in the North, QUEST2015 – Getting Smart About Energy in Our Communities, among many others.

**Evidence based policy support for provincial and territorial decision-makers for Smart Energy Communities.**

QUEST was invited by the Province of Nova Scotia and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to develop and deliver the inaugural National Policy Symposium on Energy Delivery and Management. The Symposium was a forerunner session to the 2015 Energy and Mines Ministers’ Conference (EMMC) where QUEST presented 3 key considerations to Ministers on accelerating innovation for energy delivery and management.

I invite you to join the QUEST network as we work together to make Canada a leader in Smart Energy Communities.

Yours truly,

Brent Gilmour MCIP RPP
Executive Director, QUEST
COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING: GETTING TO IMPLEMENTATION IN CANADA

A collaborative initiative spearheaded by leading community energy experts in Canada that is helping communities implement their ideas, plans and priorities around energy.

GETTINGTOIMPLEMENTATION.CA

"The GTI Workshop in St. John, NB in 2015 was incredibly valuable to our municipality. It provided fantastic discussions, resources and an invaluable opportunity to meet knowledgeable people engaged in community energy planning. Thank you QUEST."

GTI Workshop Attendee
Deborah Armitage
Councillor, Town of Sussex
GTI identified that there are 180+ community energy plans (CEPs), representing more than 50 percent of the Canadian population, which are improving efficiency, cutting GHGs and driving economic development.

640 provincial and territorial policies documented that support CEP development and implementation.

Two national research reports published in 2015 that describe the state of CEP implementation across Canada.

10 workshops and webinars hosted across Canada.

13,900+ page views following the launch of www.gettingtoimplementation.ca

500+ stakeholder groups engaged to record best practices and to share lessons learned about CEP implementation.
RPW was an important research initiative because there is limited documentation related to the level of awareness of climate change adaptation and the types of adaptation measures being pursued by the distribution sector. RPW provided key recommendations to policymakers and regulators on how to improve the resilience of the energy distribution systems across Canada.

– Tim Short
Manager Distributed Energy Market Development
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.

RESILIENT PIPES AND WIRES

A national examination of the awareness among electric, natural gas and thermal energy distributors about adapting to climate change, and the policy drivers and barriers to adaptation in the energy delivery sector. The study was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Gas Association, Canadian Electricity Association, International District Energy Association and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

QUESTCANADA.ORG/RPW

30 DISTRIBUTORS ENGAGED

30 electricity, natural gas and thermal energy distributors engaged through surveys and workshops to assess impacts of extreme weather events

28 RECOMMENDATIONS

28 recommendations provided to governments, regulators and industry to adapt to climate change
ENERGY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (ECOP)

An initiative developed in collaboration with the Clean Air Partnership with support from the Independent Electricity System Operator to provide education and capacity building for Ontario local governments, utilities and other local stakeholders to support community energy plans and their alignment with regional and provincial energy planning priorities.

QUESTCANADA.ORG/ECOP

Published a series of training resources for community energy planning and provincial energy planning priority alignment in Ontario.

100+ stakeholders from local governments, utility and other sectors engaged through community energy planning workshops and a half-day symposium.

“Partnering with QUEST on the ECOP project has provided an opportunity to directly support the needs of municipalities across Ontario with the development and implementation of their Community Energy Plans (CEPs). Based on the success of ECOP in Ontario, municipal capacity on CEPs would be greatly enhanced if ECOPs were replicated in other Canadian provinces.”

— Gabriella Kalapos
Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership
ENGAGEMENT: OFFERED A SUITE OF PROGRAMS AND TOOLS THAT GREW THE QUEST NETWORK AND MARKETPLACE FOR SMART ENERGY COMMUNITIES

"The Ontario CHP Consortium has presented practical solutions to interconnection barriers for "behind-the-meter" generation and supportive policy and program recommendations to the Ontario Ministry of Energy. As an active participant of the CHP Consortium, Toromont Energy is pleased with the progress QUEST has made in achieving its key deliverables, specifically in regards to 3rd party eligibility for CDM programs, cap and trade implications for CHP systems, and most recently, OEB gross load billing & standby charge policy review."

– Lou Colangelo, P.Eng.
General Manager,
Toromont Energy

"QUEST is active in every Province that FVB Energy works in – as a result we consider them a strategic partner in advancing our District Energy and CHP business in Canada."

– Richard Damecour
CEO, FVB Energy Inc.

50+ POTENTIAL CHP CUSTOMERS

50+ potential CHP customers such as local governments, property developers and facility managers, engaged to successfully take the next steps in bringing CHP projects to completion.
10,000+ PEOPLE
10,000+ people in the QUEST Network including the QUEST Caucuses, Subscribers, project partners and recipients of the QUEST Newsletter

83,620 PAGE VIEWS
83,620+ page views on the QUEST website in 2015 www.questcanada.org

7,500+ HARD COPIES
7,500+ hard copies of the Smart Energy Communities Catalogue distributed

61 SUBSCRIBERS
Provided advanced tools and services to QUEST’s 61 Subscribers to establish themselves as leaders in Smart Energy Communities

55+ EVENTS
55+ Smart Energy Community Events held including the annual QUEST Conference & Tradeshow, Educational Webinars, QUESTtalks & Roundtables, Caucus Meetings, and more

“QUEST is an instrumental partner for PowerStream as we blaze new trails in the energy service delivery sector”
– Neetika Sathe
Vice President
Corporate Development
PowerStream Inc.

“QUEST events and staff have helped our company make new contacts and gain footholds in new markets.”
– Sean Fleming
General Manager,
Solar Global Solutions

“GE is partnering with QUEST to understand and connect with the emerging market opportunities to drive the transformation of Smart Energy Communities.”
– Catherine Garipoglu
VP Marketing, GE Canada
Communities are the fundamental solution for reducing GHGs and the key partners for enabling the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to achieve their GHG and energy objectives. QUEST has the expertise and the national network that Canada needs to improve energy efficiency, cut emissions and drive economic development in our communities."

– Michael Harcourt
Chair, QUEST Board of Directors
Presented 3 key considerations to Ministers on accelerating innovation for energy delivery and management at the 2015 Energy and Mines Ministers’ Conference

Made submissions to 4 provincial governments with QUEST Caucuses to address climate change through Smart Energy Communities

30+ Presentations delivered on advancing Smart Energy Communities in Canada at events across Canada

One-on-one meetings held with the Ministers of Energy or Environment for NS, NB, ON, MB, AB, BC, NWT, YK and NU

“The time is right for promoting and advancing Smart Energy Communities in Canada. As the provinces make public their climate action plans, the federal government’s ongoing acknowledgement and support of communities and municipalities as key stakeholders will be essential in the achievement of national climate objectives. Eco-West is looking forward to collaborating with QUEST on facilitating the development of Smart Energy Communities across the country.”

– Dany Robidoux
Director, Eco-West

“If we can’t get energy in our communities right we won’t be able to make the carbon transition. Smart Energy Communities not only offer concrete solutions, but they are also communities that are engaged and literate on energy. QUEST plays an instrumental role in engaging communities across Canada which is where renewed public confidence in energy development is going to have to come from.”

– Mike Cleland
Member, QUEST Board of Directors
NATIONAL IMPACT – CAUCUS BREAKDOWN

QUEST Caucuses are a place for key stakeholders from governments, utilities & energy service providers, the real-estate sector, the product and professional service sector, among others, to meet regularly to learn from one another, evaluate solutions and focus on bringing Smart Energy Communities to life.

QUESTCANADA.ORG/CAUCUS

THE NORTH
Co-Chairs:
Gordon Van Tighem
Chairman, NWT Public Utilities Board
Former Mayor, City of Yellowknife

Adam Chamberlain
Partner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Director, NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines

47+ QUEST North Caucus participants engaged
Hosted a pan-territorial engagement session in Whitehorse, Yukon
Provided formal input into the Senate Report: Powering Canada’s Territories and a presentation of the report’s findings was provided to the QUEST North Caucus by the Canadian Senator, the Hon. Richard Neufeld

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Chair
Ben Finkelstein
Manager, Communities and Built Environment

57+ QUEST BC Caucus participants engaged
35+ stakeholders brought together to make a submission to the BC Climate Leadership Discussion Paper
Launched the QUEST BC Solutions Roundtables to advance the conversation on building energy efficiency, district energy systems and retrofits for existing buildings

ALBERTA
Chair
Patrick Bohan
Director, District Energy and Combined Heat and Power, ENMAX

280+ QUEST AB Caucus participants engaged
55+ key stakeholders engaged to develop recommendations for the province on how Smart Energy Communities can help meet Alberta’s climate goals
Initiated the Alberta Combined Heat and Power Working Group

MANITOBA
Chair
Dan McInnis
Executive Director, Sustainable Building Manitoba

Developed support for a QUEST MB Caucus

“QUEST has helped us engage progressive communities to execute innovative energy planning strategies and transition towards a more sustainable future.”

Industry – NRStor
Annette Verschuren
Chair & CED
Ontario
Chair
Karen Farbridge
President, Karen Farbridge Associates
300+ QUEST ON Caucus participants engaged
30+ municipalities engaged in the QUEST ON Municipal Working Group and 96 participants in the QUEST ON Combined Heat and Power Consortium
30+ municipal representatives & stakeholders convened to develop joint recommendations to the Ontario Climate Change Discussion Paper and the Ontario Coordinated Land Use Planning Review
Launched the Energy Community of Practice initiative to support education and capacity building for Ontario local governments, utilities and other stakeholders to develop and implement Community Energy Plans

Québec
Chair
Yves Hennekens
President, YHC Environmental
8+ QUEST QC Caucus participants engaged
Developed partnerships to strengthen knowledge and cooperation between Canadian and Québec QUEST partners and members
Hosted a workshop on Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada in Québec City

New Brunswick
Chair
Eddie Oldfield
Owner / Principal, Spatial Quest Solutions
40+ QUEST NB Caucus participants engaged
Launched the Advancing Smart Energy Communities in New Brunswick initiative to advance the development and implementation of Community Energy Plans in NB

Nova Scotia
Interim Chair
Rochelle Owen
Director, Office of Sustainability, Dalhousie University
90+ QUEST NS Caucus participants engaged
115+ people attended the NS Smart Energy Solutions Forum to discuss the future of energy data
Published Homegrown Success: Nova Scotia’s Smart Energy Solutions Inventory which showcases the fuels and technologies that are advancing Smart Energy Communities in NS
Influenced the Nova Scotia Electricity Plan to harness smart data generated by smart sensors and the tools needed to render that data useful, including making it public to facilitate innovation

“Participating in the QUEST NS Caucus is a valuable investment of time. Representatives from a number of organizations are present including utilities, government, business, academia, and non-profits. These perspectives and collective experience create deeper discussions and space for gathering up-to-date information on a variety of energy issues.”
— Rochelle Owen
Director, Office of Sustainability, Dalhousie University
Interim Chair NS Caucus
By turning our communities into Smart Energy Communities, we can improve energy efficiency and enhance reliability, cut costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Canada. So what is a Smart Energy Community?

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

From building automation to street lights, Smart Energy Communities take advantage of the full potential of energy efficiency and capitalize on lower energy costs, cutting emissions and improving operating performance.

**INTEGRATING CONVENTIONAL ENERGY NETWORKS**

Electricity, natural gas, district energy and transportation fuel networks in a community are better coordinated to match energy needs with the most efficient energy source. When conventional energy networks are integrated, it opens the door to innovations like alternative fuel vehicles, energy storage, waste heat capture and combined heat and power.

**HARNESSING LOCAL ENERGY**

A Smart Energy Communities harnesses local energy opportunities. These can be stock opportunities like solar, wind and geothermal, or they can be opportunities that are tailored to a community like water source cooling, sewage heat capture, biomass for heating and capturing biogas for electricity and transportation fuel.

**LAND USE PLANNING**

Smart Energy Communities integrate land use, recognizing that poor land use decisions can equal a whole lot of energy waste.

Smart Energy Communities can be facilitated through the implementation of a Community Energy Plan (CEP). A CEP is a tool that helps define community priorities around energy with a view to improving efficiency, cutting emissions and driving economic development. Today, over 180 communities in Canada, representing more than 50 percent of the Canadian population, have a CEP.
ADVANCING SMART ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

QUEST is a non-profit organization focused on research, engagement and advocacy to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada.

Communities are responsible for 60 percent of energy use and account for more than half of all GHG emissions in Canada. By turning our communities into Smart Energy Communities, we can improve energy efficiency and enhance reliability, cut costs and reduce GHG emissions.

With the help of 8 provincial and regional Caucuses, QUEST brings together key stakeholders from government, utilities & energy providers, the real estate sector, the product and professional service sector, among others, to transform Canada’s 5400 communities into Smart Energy Communities.

JOIN OUR NETWORK

QUEST Subscriber Services are the key to unlocking the partnerships that cities and communities are looking for to turn investments into successful outcomes. Benefits include access to regional Caucuses and Working Groups.

http://www.questcanada.org/subscriberservices

ACCESS OUR RESEARCH

Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada (GTI)
http://gettingtoimplementation.ca/

Resilient Pipes and Wires
http://questcanada.org/rpw

Ontario Energy Community of Practice (ECOP)
http://questcanada.org/ecop

REGISTER FOR QUEST2016

Register for QUEST2016 October 17-19 in Calgary, AB
www.questcanada.org/quest2016

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