Speaking Notes

Allotted 10-15 min. aiming for 8-10 min.

Intro.

QUEST is a non-profit collaborative that conducts research, advocacy, and engagement to advance smart energy communities in Canada.

We achieve this with the help of 8 provincial and regional caucuses across Canada, each made up of a diverse group of stakeholders advancing smart energy communities *on the ground*.

What is a Smart Energy Community? It is a unique approach of providing energy in our communities that is based on innovation.

1. Integrates conventional energy networks – so that energy needs are met with the most efficient energy source
2. Makes smart land use decisions – recognizing that poor land use decisions can lead to a whole lot of energy waste
3. Harnesses local energy opportunities

This is desirable because:

1. Improves energy efficiency
2. Cuts costs
3. Enhances reliability
4. Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

What we're doing to advance innovation and where it fits in our agenda

How is QUEST helping advance the technical, policy, program, and regulatory innovations? Here are just 3 examples:

1. Working groups
   - In ON we're coordinating a working group made up a diverse group of industry and utility stakeholders to advance policy and market uptake for Combined Heat & Power in the province.

2. Roundtables
   - Our special Roundtables bring together utilities, local governments and other community stakeholders. And they act as incubators for collaboration and implementation of smart energy communities.
   - We have four more Roundtables happening across Canada before the year is out.

3. Research
   - We're also focused on addressing the key research needs for making Smart Energy Communities. Two research activities of note include:
   - Resilient Pipes & Wires which is working with the CGA, CEA, IDEA, ICLEI and others to document the policies and regulatory issues for utilities responding to changing climates. The outcome of the work will help inform how utilities innovate and become Smart Energy Utilities.
   - Another national research initiative is Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada! – This multi-year, $1.1 million research initiative involves building capacity by working with

three pilot communities to develop a framework to support Community Energy Plan implementation. The outcome of the work will support municipalities, utilities and the real-estate sector to understand how their respective business models can effectively engage with new technologies, customer needs and financing opportunities and to successfully partner for implementation of Community Energy Plans.

What more needs to done (NOTE: this could be much more tailored to support our 2015 Budget Submission)

1. Policy Innovation: Recognize the role of local

   - Canadians acknowledge the economic value and importance of responsible resource development and energy planning.
   - But their remains low confidence that it will be done responsibly and sustainably, and the bar for public consultation has been set high.
   - Today, working with the public requires going beyond the formality of consultation, the "Duty to Consult", or managing the "message", and involves building real relationships, creating long-lasting trust, developing strong communications, and earning full community buy-in.
   - A well-recognized option for getting to that level of support is through regional and community energy plans that establish a common reference point for energy knowledge and vocabulary that everyone can use.
   - Many don't think of a Community Energy Plan as an economic plan or innovation road map, but it is.
   - *There are over 170 plans in Canada representing 4% of communities or just over 50% of Canada's population.*
   - They're guiding investment in efficiency, investment in technologies and fuels, and leading to new programs.
   - Community Energy Plans establish a framework for innovation and are essential for allowing all the players to see where/how they fit with each other.
   - For instance, the Community Energy Plan in Guelph (investment in wind, solar & CHP) led to the establishment of a whole new (innovative) business model for integrated energy service delivery.
   - This is one example of how Policy Innovation enables technical innovations in energy

2. Regulatory Innovation: Create the conditions for innovative regulatory frameworks
   - Smart Energy Networks are a great example of this.
   - Smart Energy Networks, a research direction of interest in NRCan, use advanced information, communication, and storage technologies to monitor, manage, and integrate the delivery of energy from multiple fuel sources.
   - Smart Energy Networks embody the rapidly changing advancements in energy delivery to end users.
   - CHP is one technology that is more easily integrated through Smart Energy Networks. At the moment it is representative of how new types of fuels/technologies are NOT fitting neatly within current approvals/regulatory regimes. And it's only the pointy end of the spear.
   - We need Regulatory Innovation to enable Technical Innovation!

3. Program Innovation: Support and invest in collaboration
   - The greatest lesson we've learned from our Caucuses across Canada is that collaboration is the key to successfully implementing technical innovations.
   - So we need Program Innovations that support this kind of collaboration
   - Such as in:
     i. Nova Scotia, where the Province supported the QUEST Nova Scotia Caucus to…
     ii. Ontario, where the Province introduced the Municipal Energy Planning program and the QUEST Ontario Caucus has been actively promoting the program to municipalities, utilities and the real-estate sector with regards to the opportunities. With the support of the OPA, the QUEST ON Caucus will be developing a province wide Energy Community of Practice, which will not only facilitate capacity building and the sharing of best practices of policy and approaches, but also lessons learned from initiatives that didn't work.

    iii. British Columbia, where the QUEST BC Caucus worked with the support of the Government of British Columbia to document 500 examples of smart energy solutions, including policy & regulatory barriers to smart energy communities.

Conclusion:

1. We are increasingly seeing the technical innovations that can help us get smart on energy in this country and help us get smart on energy in our communities.
2. For those technical innovations to be effectively integrated they need to be accompanied by the appropriate Policy, Regulatory, and Program Innovations.
3. These innovations are out there!
4. They are well documented on QUEST's Smart Energy Atlas. Go to our website and get to know the Top 75 project, policy, and program innovations driving smart energy communities in Canada.