

COG's newest arrivals strengthen value for members



In recent months, CANDU Owners Group has added bench strength to its talented workforce, who together serve as a diverse and expert asset to COG's members and the industry

Every day, the people working at the CANDU Owners Group (COG) use their collective expertise and experience to leverage excellence through collaboration to the benefit of COG's members and the nuclear industry across Canada and internationally.

That begins with the diverse and talented pool of people who work at COG and the hundreds of participants in peer groups and forums from our member, participant and partner community.

Through the expertise and efforts of about 70 employees and contractors, COG is responsible for leading research, development and joint projects worth more than \$70 million per year.

Ultimately, the achievements of these collective efforts results in innovation and continuous improvement for the millions of people who rely on our members for safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As part of its commitment to excellence in leading collaboration, COG continues to strengthen the team that makes these results possible.



A communicator joins COG's management team

On March 22, Sarah Charuk joined COG as Senior Manager, Communications, reporting to COG President & CEO Stephanie Smith. In this role, Charuk will work as part of the leadership team to effectively

position COG and its mandate; support communications to COG employees, members and stakeholder communities and continue to advance the COG communications program, with a focus on driving awareness of the important contributions of COG members in the nuclear industry.

Charuk brings over 15 years of senior communications leadership experience, including her role as Director of Communications for Northland Power, a global sustainable power producer. She also previously worked with GS1 Canada, a global standards organization, Element Fleet Management and the Ontario government.

Charuk holds a master's degree in communications management from McMaster University and a bachelor's degree in political studies from Queen's University.

This is a new role within COG as it brings its strategic communication function in house.

Strategic Research and Development

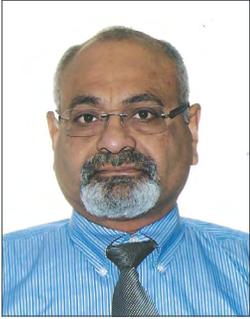
In January, Virgini Donaldson joined COG as program manager for the Strategic Research and Development (SRD) program.

With approximately 70 on-going projects, COG's SRD program focuses on meeting long-term goals such as industry sustainability and improved plant life expectancy, over the next 25 years and beyond.

Donaldson brings 30 years of experience across multiple sectors to COG. Ten of those years were spent in the nuclear industry with leadership roles in the areas of applications engineering, quality, design as well as project and risk management.

Prior to joining COG, Donaldson worked with two nuclear valve manufacturing companies (CCI and Curtiss-Wright, a COG supplier participant) in the design, manufacture and supply of both commercial and nuclear valves to CANDU and non-CANDU plants worldwide.





CANDU joint audit service

Hari Nayar joined COG as the new program manager for the CANDU Industry Assessment Committee (CANIAC) program in November 2020.

Nayar assumed CANIAC oversight and supports the growth of the program which enables its members to share quality assurance audits of suppliers to CANDU nuclear plants. Membership to CANIAC is open to all suppliers who satisfy the requirements of the CSA N299, N286 or N286.7 series of standards. Nayar supervises a team of auditors specializing in these nuclear supplier audits.

Previously, Nayar worked at Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for 14 years in various roles including as section manager in the supplier audit, quality engineering and performance area as well as supply inspection services. He recently returned to Canada from the United Arab Emirates, where for six years, he worked for a subsidiary of Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC).

CANIAC has seen extensive growth over the past year. This growth was the result of the efforts and dedication of COG's Nidhi Gaudani, who helped build the program from its inception.



OPEX and Newsgroups

Andre Dixon joined the COG team as a software solutions engineer, Nov. 24, 2020, focusing on improvements to COGonline.org's OPEX and Newsgroups applications. These tools, respectively, contain more than 35-years of operating experience (totalling more than 45,000 entries) and 50+ topical newsgroups in which subscribers get the latest information on specific areas of CANDU and industry activity.

Dixon's work will ultimately make these tools easier for COG members to search, retrieve and share information.

Dixon holds a bachelor of science from University College of the Caribbean (Jamaica) and brings expertise in many IT areas including programming languages, web-based frameworks and databases.



Nuclear safety leader joins COG's management team

In October 2020, COG welcomed a well-respected industry leader in nuclear safety to its management team.

Carlos Lorencez joined COG as its director of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Affairs (NSEA). In the months since he arrived, Lorencez has already participated in several meetings with COG partners and represented COG at virtual industry events.

In addition to nuclear safety and environmental affairs, COG's NSEA line of business has accountability for managing collaborative regulatory efforts amongst its members. It facilitates several COG leadership forums, including the Chief Nuclear Officer Forum (CNOF).

Lorencez previously served as Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Director, Nuclear Safety Division. He has more than 30 years experience in the nuclear industry and was already a familiar face at COG, having served as chair of COG's Nuclear Safety Peer Group and Industry Standard Toolset Steering Committees.

Through NSEA, COG members work together in several disciplines including safety culture, human and organizational factors; decommissioning and waste management; and emergency preparedness and response. As well, NSEA manages COG's small modular reactor (SMR) development program.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Lorencez and his role at COG.