



We're all in this together

Over a 41-year career, COG's Holly Anderson has been instrumental in advancing significant research benefiting COG members and the nuclear industry while showing the power of collaboration.

"If we help one utility, we help all," says Holly Anderson of the unique role of COG's collaborative R&D program in the nuclear industry.

Holly joined COG in 2008, after 20 years with Ontario Hydro's (later OPG's) research division and 10 years in OPG Nuclear Engineering Services. For a decade, Holly managed COG R&D's Safety and Licensing program playing an integral role in advancing the 37-element (37M) fuel bundle research project. The research helped to improve heat removal in fuel under accident conditions, thereby increasing safety margin in CANDU plants.

"The COG model is a good one in that it ensures members come together and think beyond themselves."

"37M was very important for the utilities," says Holly. "Experimental work is always fraught with uncertainties and that project was no different. But it did demonstrate to our members the benefits of a collaborative research program and served as a reminder in the nuclear community that we're all in this together."

In 2018, Holly began a new role at COG, focusing on Strategic R&D (SRD). This area of research will help the CANDU industry remain sustainable and strong for future operations over the next several decades. Holly says what's unique about SRD is how it tries to proactively address the issues that will impact the industry over the next 20-50 years.

"The SRD program looks at entirely new fields of research and creating forums where our members can discuss emerging issues. From societal acceptance of low

dose radiation to public acceptance of where you put waste, COG is trying more and more to anticipate the needs of its members."

Holly believes that similar to the way individual COG members pulled together on the 37M project to address the needs of the industry, the same collaborative approach can benefit them in finding solutions to future challenges.

"The COG model is a good one in that it ensures members come together and think beyond themselves. We work very hard to support members, give them what they ask for and achieve consensus. The model works so well because in serving our members in the way that we do, they all benefit."

In 2019, Holly retired from full-time work at COG. She currently supports the R&D program working on new project management tools and processes.



Holly Anderson (front row, second from right) celebrated International Women's Day, 2015 by sharing her own career memories as a woman entering a then-predominantly male field, as well as the rewarding work that followed.

This story is one of an on-going series about COG employees; a diverse group in expertise, gender, age and nationality. Our team reflects the diversity and strengths of our Members and the COG community. Their skills help create the best in collaboration for nuclear innovation. Through COG, our Members and the nuclear community worldwide achieve results that contribute to the highest standard of safety, efficiency and environmental performance. Together we create Excellence Through Collaboration.