



From left: Carla Carmichael, OPG and COG board member, Laurie Fraser, Nicole Kost, Fenia Ignat, Natalie Alderson, Sonia Qureshi, Nancy Boraso and Esther Sun-Lee of COG at the WiN Canada Annual Conference in September.

With a diverse workforce, everyone's a *WiN*ner

Leaders from across the nuclear industry converged on Port Elgin to share expertise, build skills and gain industry knowledge; And yes, they happen to be women

CANDU Owners Group was well-represented at the Women in Nuclear (WiN) Canada annual conference, which promotes the role of women in the Canadian nuclear and radiation related industries.

The theme of the 16th Annual Conference hosted by the WiN Bruce Chapter in Port Elgin from Sept. 22-28 was "I ♥ Nuclear" and drew participants from across its six chapters, including COG employees: Sonia Qureshi, a member of COG's leadership team, chapter lead of WiN Golden Horseshoe West and member of the WiN Canada board; Laurie Fraser, a member at large on the WiN Canada board; along with Esther Sun-Lee, Natalie Alderson, Nicole Kost, Fenia Ignat and Nancy Boraso. Many COG members, board members, program participants and supplier participants were also represented at the conference.



COG's Sonia Qureshi speaks to diverse industry leaders attending the WiN Canada Annual Conference in Port Elgin.

"COG's support of professional development like WiN's annual conference has created a working environment where professional growth for women is more accessible than ever before," said Qureshi. "COG's strength is its diversity in many aspects, including gender balance, which is evident across all areas of the organization."

Participants heard from plenary speakers and panels, and took part in breakout discussions, networking opportunities and social events. They toured Bruce Power, BWXT/ATS (Cambridge) and Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Western Waste Management Facilities. Also, the WiN board of directors held its board meeting and strategy session.

COG board member Carla Carmichael (OPG), and Cathy Sprague (Bruce Power), Laurie Swami (Nuclear Waste Management Organization) and Rumina Velshi (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) all participated in a team-building panel on gender parity in the nuclear industry.

"The conference promotes learning across the nuclear industry and that, paired with the development of leadership skills, positions women to be effective advocates for the use of nuclear technology to benefit society," said Fraser. "Women advocating on behalf of the nuclear industry to the public, and especially to other women, is the primary mission of WiN Canada."

"Participants of this conference represented the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow," Fraser added.

WiN Global coming to Canada

The 2020 WiN Global Conference hosted by WiN Canada is scheduled for Oct. 4-8, 2020 in Niagara Falls. The 28th annual conference will be themed: Positively Charged for Success. This is the first time in almost 15 years the conference has been held in Canada. Attendees will include current and aspiring industry leaders and will come from all over the global nuclear industry. It is expected to include participants from 30 countries.