

Celebrating nuclear community success

CNS-CNA annual list of award winners includes familiar faces at the CANDU Owners Group



Clockwise from top left: Award winners: Former COG board member, New Brunswick Power's Paul Thompson shares a laugh with COG President Fred Dermakar at the Darlington Energy Centre; New Brunswick Power's Kathleen Duguay (centre) at a community event and Ontario Government's Wilson Lam hosts a session at the CNS Conference in 2019.

From leadership to education, technical excellence and incredible teamwork, the annual CNS-CNA awards once again highlighted the powerhouse talent that drives Canada's nuclear industry.

The Canadian Nuclear Society and Canadian Nuclear Association jointly recognized the outstanding work of those within nuclear industry and academia, many, if not all of whom, have been CANDU Owners Group (COG) collaborators at some point. The list of winners includes COG staff, members, participants, partners and stakeholders; all part of Canada's vibrant and diverse nuclear community.

Among the winners was Gaëtan Thomas, New Brunswick (NB) Power's recently-retired CEO and a driving force in the Canadian nuclear industry. Thomas's leadership was felt throughout the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau CANDU-6 reactor. A known innovator, Thomas was a champion of small modular reactor development and is also well-known for his commitment to the communities served by the New Brunswick utility.



NB Power is a COG voting member, with a seat on the COG Board of Directors. The director's role was filled by NB Power's Paul Thompson for several years. Thompson was recognized with the Harold A. Smith Outstanding Contribution Award for his significant contributions to the nuclear field, including his role in nuclear power plant safety, plant life extension and the development and deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs), work done in part through COG collaborative initiatives.

Women in Nuclear Canada (WiN Canada) received an award in the education and communication category for its mentorship, training and leadership initiatives for female industry professionals including its 2019 "Presenting with Confidence" webinar series. COG Director of Joint Projects and Services Sonia Qureshi is a member of the WiN leadership team and serves as chapter lead of WiN Golden Horseshoe West. As well, COG Information Exchange Project Manager Laurie Fraser serves as a member at large on the WiN Canada board.

Several people and teams were recognized for the Communications and Education award, this year, reflecting the strong emphasis and commitment to all forms of communication and engagement by the industry.

For the full list of award winners, [click here](#).



Sonia Qureshi (third from right) is the WiN Canada Golden Horseshoe West Chapter Lead, serving on the WiN Canada Board with Laurie Fraser (second on left), a member at large. WiN Canada was a recipient of the CNS-CNA 2020 Achievement Award for Communication and Education.

With Qureshi and Fraser, **from left to right** during the 2019 WiN Canada conference are OPG's Carla Carmichael who serves on the COG board of directors along with COG staff members Nicole Kost, Fenia Ignat, Natalie Alderson, Nancy Boraso and Esther Sun-Lee.



Top left: The team who produced the documentary *Of Great Service: The Story of National Research Universal* was recognized as one of five communications and education award recipients. **Directly above:** Recently-retired New Brunswick Power CEO and long-time COG collaborator Gaëtan Thomas received the Ian McRae award for leadership excellence.

To see all the CNS-SNC 2020 winners, click on the link in the story above.