

Nuclear Innovation Institute is  
a campus style community hub.  
encouraging active industry and research.  
fostering creative and economic ideas.



*Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) founding President, Frank Saunders (above right), helped establish NII as an Ontario centre of excellence. In May 2019, Saunders, along with Professor Graham Wren (above left) of the University of Strathclyde and Mitch Twolan, Bruce County Warden signed NII's first international partnership agreement.*

# Remembering Frank Saunders

***A respected leader in the Canadian nuclear industry, Frank Saunders passed away, unexpectedly, on July 4***

Over more than 35 years in the nuclear industry, Bruce Power executive and founding Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) President Frank Saunders earned a strong reputation for professionalism and integrity. Known as someone who advocated for nuclear technologies and safety, Frank was also committed to the industry's continuous improvement. At the time of his passing, Frank had been serving as Chair of the Canadian Nuclear Association's Board of Directors.

Frank had a strong working relationship with CANDU Owners Group (COG).

"Frank played a leading role in our industry," says COG President and CEO Fred Dermarkar. "Through his insights and influence, he helped to shape the strong framework of regulatory requirements and CSA nuclear standards that we have in place today. We will miss him not only for his contributions to the nuclear industry, but also for his wry wit and his warm smile."

Frank worked mainly with COG's Nuclear Safety & Environmental Affairs (NSEA) line of business and contributed to the Regulatory Affairs Vice Presidents Forum, Chief Nuclear Officer Forum and sponsored the Nuclear Environmental Affairs and Emergency Preparedness & Response Peer Groups. Frank, most recently, had been part of the core team leading the SMR effort.

"Frank's understanding of the technical aspects of reactor design and also what needed to be changed from a policy perspective made him an asset for the work COG coordinated in NSEA and SMRs," says Deputy CEO and NSEA Director Rachna Clavero, who worked closely with Frank on the regulatory files. "He was never afraid to challenge our industry norms to help us move ahead."

Since 2001, Frank had been serving as Bruce Power's Vice President Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Affairs. In 2018, he was named the first NII president, where he worked to establish it as an international centre of excellence for applied research and training.

Last year, Frank was recognized by the CSA Group with their highest honour, the John Jenkins Award for outstanding lifetime achievement. The award recognized Frank's work advocating for the development and use of CSA nuclear standards and improving overall value of CSA's nuclear standards program.

A link to Frank's obituary can be found [here](#).

Read the statement from NII President Bruce Wallace on Frank's passing [here](#).

The CNA is curating a memorial for Frank for its members and his family. If you have stories or photos to share, please send them to Ashley Anstey: [ansteya@cna.ca](mailto:ansteya@cna.ca).