



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Canadian Association for Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) Update

From: Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Date: June 19, 2025

Report Number: CDO-2025-016

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Bruce County is a member of the Canadian Association for Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), a not-for-profit organization that represents communities hosting nuclear-related operations. The report summarizes CANHC's activities through 2024 and into 2025. It also outlines Bruce County's involvement with the association - and outlines the role of CANHC in supporting Bruce County's participation in the Bruce C Impact Assessment process.

Background/Analysis:

CANHC OVERVIEW

Canadian Association for Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) is a not-for-profit organization that represents communities hosting nuclear-related operations. CANHC aims to support its membership by sharing best practices, coordinating advocacy efforts with Canadian nuclear industry and regulators, and enhancing community and capacity building.

Bruce County is a member of CANHC, as are the Municipality of Kincardine, and the Municipality of South Bruce. Membership includes elected officials and senior staff from local and upper-tier/regional municipalities across Canada that host nuclear generating and licensed facilities. Membership is growing as new nuclear generating facilities are being proposed in Ontario and Alberta.

As an upper-tier municipality participating in CANHC, Bruce County represents both the interests of the corporation, as well as the interests of lower-tier municipalities impacted by hosting a nuclear-related operation who are not formally recognized by CANHC as a host community. Bruce County includes several nuclear-related operations including the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, the Western Waste Management Facility, and industrial facilities licensed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The Warden represents Bruce County on CANHC, and is supported by the Commissioner of Community Development, Director of Government Relations, and the CAO.

CANHC ACTIVITIES - 2024 & EARLY 2025

Over the past year, CANHC has continued to build their network by strengthening partnerships (see Attachment 1: 2024 Highlights CANHC Annual Report). Key partnerships include:

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
 - Continuing to build a proactive relationship to ensure host communities' best interests in regulatory processes.
 - Securing funding to create a dedicated CANHC staff position to work with CNSC to support engagement and collaboration with host communities.
 - Support with CNSC proceedings and preparing comments on regulatory documents, coordinating Participant Funding Program (PFP) applications, and facilitating CNSC participation.
- Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI)
 - Enhancing further relationships between the nuclear industry, suppliers, and nuclear host communities (see Attachment 2).
- University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE)
 - Establishing a framework for collaboration to advance interests in nuclear research, education, training, and community engagement (see Attachment 3).
- Global Partnership of Nuclear Communities
 - Developed principles that highlights the role of local governments, and their host communities, in nuclear development as partners of the industry and government (see June 6, 2024 [Council Report](#) - Resolution # C-2024-086).

Key advocacy and capacity-building efforts through 2024 & 2025 by CANHC have included:

- 24th Annual General Meeting - Ottawa, April 2025
- Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) Conference - Ottawa, April 2025
- CANHC Winter 2025 Meeting - hosted by Coburg, February 2025
- CANHC Fall 2024 Meeting - hosted by Kincardine and Bruce County, September 2024
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference - August 2024
- Met with Ontario's Ministry of Energy to discuss global nuclear sector expansion.
- Developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a relationship with CNSC to formalize collaboration.
- Calling for recognition of nuclear host communities at a federal ministerial level
- Administering funding programs to support host community participation in regulatory hearings and reviews.

CANHC SUPPORT FOR HOST COMMUNITIES

Through its relationship with the CNSC, CANHC has secured funding opportunities to support host municipalities' participation in the federal Impact Assessment (IA) process. As a non-profit organization, CANHC is eligible to apply for funding that municipalities cannot access directly through the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Funding of \$8,000 was allocated for Kincardine and Bruce County to participate in the Initial Project Description. The Municipality of Kincardine and Bruce County, used these funds to

undertake the development of two documents to assist with participation in the Impact Assessment process:

1. RESEARCH ON IMPACT OF NON-MARKET ASSESSMENT IN THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

In 2024, the Municipality of Kincardine partnered with Municipal Tax Equity (MTE) Consulting, to better understand the share of municipal tax levies from electrical infrastructure, and how that share compares to tax burden of other local property taxpayers. Acknowledging the local taxpayers contribute to both local and County level taxes, Bruce County undertook a similar assessment to understand the impact on the County taxation. Undertaking a review at both a local and County level helps provide a full picture of the overall taxpayer impact.

With funding secured through CANHC, MTE Consulting developed a case study, ‘Decline of Local Revenues from Ontario’s Electricity Infrastructure’. Using the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station as a case example, the study demonstrated how the provincial electricity property tax assessment model shifts the tax burden away from electricity sector properties onto the broader tax base.

This case study has prompted interest from other CANHC members, as this issue affects local and upper-tier/regional municipalities across Ontario that host nuclear operations. See the full case study on the June 19, 2025, County Council agenda (CDO-2025-014).

2. FEDERAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT ROADMAP

The federal Impact Assessment (IA) process involves several participants including the proponent, IAAC, CNSC, Indigenous groups, and the public, who contribute insights on the effects of major projects. However, host municipalities are not formally recognized as participants outside of ‘the public’.

The Municipality of Kincardine and Bruce County utilized funding from CANHC to engage a GHD Canada to outline steps and opportunities available for host municipalities to understand the IA process and opportunities for engagement through the process. The document defines roles and responsibilities throughout the IA process, opportunities to engagement, and considerations for Community Benefit Agreements.

The roadmap is intended as a practical tool for all CANHC host municipalities, lower-tier, upper-tier, or single-tier, to ensure they are engaged effectively in the IA process. While developed for CANHC members, the framework is broadly applicable to any municipality impacted by new or expanding nuclear operations.

Bruce County recognizes that many local municipalities are impacted through the operation of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, while not being formally recognized as local host communities by CANHC.

In its role as an upper-tier host community, Bruce County will engage with local municipalities to ensure they are informed and engaged in the IA process for the Bruce C Project.

As the IA advances, Bruce County will facilitate the engagement of local municipalities in the study process, either directly with the proponent or through County-led participation in the IA process for the Bruce C project.

See Attachment 4 for the Federal Integrated Assessment Roadmap.

NEXT STEPS

- Bruce County will participate in the Fall 2025 CANHC Meeting, hosted by the Municipality of Clarington in October 2025.
- County staff will participate in a CANHC subcommittee with host communities in Ontario focused on strengthening relationships with the CNSC.
- As the Bruce C IA process progresses, Bruce County will explore additional funding opportunities through CANHC and IAAC's Participant Funding Program.
- As an upper-tier host community, Bruce County will continue to look for ways to support lower-tier municipalities through regular updates about CANHC, the Bruce C IA process, and planning related to electrical infrastructure.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no direct financial impacts related to this report. County Membership in CANHC is an annual budgeted expense. Studies referenced in this report were undertaken with funding secured by CANHC from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada participation funding program.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Consultation has occurred with the Office of the CAO, Corporate Services, and Government Relations.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Growth and Innovation - Promote responsible growth

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

N/A

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - 2024 Highlights CANHC Annual Report

Attachment 2 - CANHC Press Release May 6, 2025: CANHC and OCNI partnership

Attachment 3 - CANHC Press Release May 16, 2025: CANHC and UNENE sign MOU

Attachment 4 - Federal Integrated Assessment Roadmap: Impact Assessment Act and Nuclear Safety and Control Act