The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
Our Mandate

Regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, and security and the environment.

Implements Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Disseminates objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public.

Communicating is enshrined in law.
The CNSC Regulates All Nuclear Facilities And Activities In Canada

- Uranium mines and mills
- Uranium fuel fabrication and processing
- Nuclear power plants
- Nuclear substance processing
- Industrial and medical applications
- Nuclear research and educational activities
- Transportation of nuclear substances
- Nuclear security and safeguards
- Import and export controls
- Waste management facilities

nuclearsafety.gc.ca
What is Public Engagement?
Why should Public Engagement Matter to Regulators?
Why Does Public Engagement Matter to Regulators?

Public engagement ensures that regulators:

- Make informed decisions
- Are ready for change
- Build trust in the regulatory process
How Canadians Feel About Scientific Facts

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that scientific findings...
- are a matter of opinion: 43%
- are objective facts: 81%

Question: Thinking about media coverage you have seen about scientific issues, to what extent do you agree that it is:
- too shallow to be useful: 46%
- reported selectively to support news media objectives: 68%

Question: To what extent are you concerned about each of the following:
- False information presented as fact affects their knowledge of science: 66%
- False information presented as fact affects their knowledge of the world: 68%
- Fake news has a negative impact on public perception of scientific inquiry and discovery: 79%

Source: Leger. LegerWeb online survey of 1,514 Canadians, August 15-16, 2017
Who Canadians Trust To Provide Reliable Scientific Information

Source: Leger. LegerWeb online survey of 1,514 Canadians, August 15-16, 2017

- Celebrities: 9%
- Bloggers/social media influencers: 18%
- Religious leaders: 25%
- Comedians: 29%
- Government: 43%
- Journalists: 57%
- Friends and family: 80%
- Educational institutions: 87%
- Scientists: 88%
- Museums and science centres: 89%
2018 report assessed Canadians’ opinion on the trust and credibility of four institutions: NGOs, business, government and media

- From 2017 to 2018, trust in NGOs and business have decreased, while trust in government and media have increased
- Trust in government officials / regulators increased by 11% to 37% in 2018
- Since 2014, trust in industry sectors is generally declining, except for energy
- 65% in Canada worry about false information or fake news being used as a weapon
- Canadians are returning to figures of authority and experts for truth
- While trust in journalism from general news and information sources has rebounded since last year, trust in social media and search engines has continued to decline

Engagement is necessary now more than ever
Who does CNSC Engage With and When?
CNSC’s Main Engagement Groups

Core:
• Host communities
• Indigenous peoples
• Licensees

Themed:
• Youth
• Academia
• Medical community
• Municipalities
When do we engage?

- On all major projects and initiatives
- In accordance with our Domestic Outreach and Engagement Plan
- In response to requests and unexpected issues
- On changes to our regulatory framework

Never too early or often
How does the CSNC Engage?
The CNSC’s Public Engagement Activities

- **EXTENSIVE OUTREACH PROGRAM**
- **PARTICIPANT FUNDING PROGRAM (PFP)**
- **INDIGENOUS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**
- **REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSEES TO COMMUNICATE**
CNSC’s Outreach Activities – In Person

In 2016–17, the CNSC participated in over 120 in-person outreach activities, including:

- open houses and meetings related to the deep geological repository initiative for used nuclear fuel
- activities in nuclear host communities
- youth-related activities
- booths at industry conferences

An example outreach activity is CNSC 101:

- designed to build public understanding of Canada’s nuclear regulatory regime
- since CNSC 101 was launched in 2010: 67 sessions, 54 different locations across the country, over 1606 participants

Meeting Canadians from coast to coast to coast
CNSC’s Outreach Activities – Digital Presence

Multiple digital tools used:

• CNSC website
• Government of Canada website (Canada.ca)
• emails
• webinars
• earned media and letters
• social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn

Improving public understanding and seeking feedback
Twitter

Twitter is used to quickly share the latest news and updates from the CNSC.
Facebook

Facebook is used to share stories, educational resources, and facts on nuclear safety in Canada

In Canada, the highest average doses of natural background radiation come from which kind of natural background radiation?

- [A] Cosmic Radiation
- [B] Ingestion
- [C] Inhalation
- [D] Terrestrial Radiation

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
Yesterday at 12:35pm

In Canada, the highest average doses of natural background radiation come from which kind of natural background radiation?

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
April 30 at 10:30am

CNSC volunteers look forward to an exciting day helping Canada’s future scientists with their all-day Let’s Talk Science challenge event at Carleton University (Official) today.
YouTube

YouTube is used to share video content, including Commission proceedings
Consultations on Regulatory Framework

Consultation with the public, Indigenous peoples, licensees and interested organizations is an important part of the CNSC’s regulatory framework development process.

The CNSC welcomes public input on draft documents that are open for consultation, including:

- Proposed regulations
- Draft regulatory documents
- Discussion papers
- Draft standards

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CNSC invites the public to comment on new regulatory document that addresses technical and management system requirements for dosimetry services

From: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

News release

April 25, 2018 – Ottawa, ON

REGDOC-2.7.2, Dosimetry, Volume II: Technical and Management System Requirements for Dosimetry Services, sets out requirements and guidance to ensure that licensed dosimetry services meet technical requirements and implement quality assurance measures, in accordance with the Nuclear Safety and Control Act and the Radiation Protection Regulations.

A dosimetry service is a facility licenced to measure and monitor doses of radiation.


The public has until June 29, 2018 to provide comments.

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Consultation With Indigenous Peoples

• Canada is home to 1,400,685 Indigenous people (4.3% of the population), there are 617 communities and reserves, and more than 50 Indigenous Nations
• Legal duty to consult
• Government of Canada’s commitment to reconciliation and a renewed relationship
• The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Honour, integrity, good faith and fairness
CNSC’s Approach to Consultations with Indigenous Peoples

• Building positive, long-term relationships
• Leading a whole-of-government approach
• Understanding and addressing potential impacts
• Welcoming participation and the sharing of traditional practices/knowledge and project-specific concerns
• Requiring licensees to engage early and throughout the life of their project

Transparency and impartiality
CNSC’s Participant Funding Program (PFP)

Established to give the public, Indigenous groups and other stakeholders the opportunity to request funding from the CNSC to participate in its regulatory processes (annual envelope of approx. $900,000 or 8,827,065 ZAR)

Objectives

• enhance Indigenous, public and stakeholder participation in the CNSC’s environmental assessment (EA) and licensing process

• help stakeholders bring valuable information to the Commission, through informed and topic-specific interventions related to aspects of EA and licensing processes

Open for all public Commission hearings and environmental assessments through a funding application process

Enabling active participation by all interested parties
Public Information and Disclosure Program

RD/GD-99.3, *Public Information and Disclosure*, provides requirements and guidance for public information and disclosure programs (PIDPs)

Applies to:

• Uranium mines and mills
• Class I facilities (nuclear power plants, research reactors and fuel processing facilities)
• Certain Class II facilities (pool irradiators and commercial isotope production facilities)

All major facilities are implementing their PIDPs
Public Information and Disclosure Program (continued)

Regulatory oversight tools for PIDPs:

- Program assessment completed for licence renewal/application
- Annual evaluation completed to verify implementation
- Inspections for compliance verification

An effective PIDP is a licence condition
Culmination of Engagement: Independent Commission

• Commission hearings and meetings are open to the public, webcast live, and archived
• Held in-house or in communities
• Written and/or oral interventions
• In the last five years, over 80 public hearings and meetings, over 2,600 submissions
• All decisions are released to the public

Transparent, science-based decision making
Challenges

Despite the progress made, we continue to face challenges when it comes to public engagement in Canada, including:

• The opinions of people who are either strongly for or against nuclear will not change, and it is difficult to capture the attention of the majority of people in the middle

• Social media has made it easier for false information to be spread quickly and broadly

• Unless there is an emergency, few people turn to the nuclear regulator for information

• Engaging in evolving issue areas such as transportation of waste require new approaches
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