

## **Combined Summaries of Charrettes in Montreal and Calgary, 2017**

### **Key takeaways**

- There are many gaps, inconsistencies and other concerns affecting energy data usability, credibility and public trust in Canada.
- There is ongoing cooperation and data-sharing of information between agencies. A substantial amount of information is collected, analyzed and communicated by governments, energy regulators, industry associations, and think tanks and other non-governmental organizations, but there is no single repository or data centre where these organizations and the public can access free, open-access, quality energy data for a wide range of purposes.
- There is a big portion of legacy-data which needs to be brought to current systems. Changing demand for data/information due to the evolution of the industry and technology requires developing new architectures and consolidating data.
- New data sources are emerging that challenge traditional ways of collecting and disseminating energy information. They also present new opportunities for data acquisition, analysis and communication.
- Federal, provincial and territorial governments recognize the need to improve the quality and coherence of energy information. Enhancing public and stakeholder trust in energy information and related policy decisions is a critical issue.
- The need for improved energy data is widely supported by user groups across Canada. There is a broad recognition that existing data do not adequately meet the need for comprehensive, timely, and coherent information.
- Enhancing public and stakeholder trust in energy information and related policy decisions is a critical issue. Data transparency, governance, financing model, expert-based non-partisan service, federal and provincial government support – all can serve as source for trust. EIA and IEA could serve as trusted role-models of a one-stop agency in Canada.

### **Mission**

- *“To provide unbiased, transparent, quality data and analysis on energy supply and use, to support informed discussion on public policy with respect to energy and its related impacts (environment, economic, social).”*

### **Key design features:**

- The CEIO should not be a “bricks and mortar” institution, or a stand-alone agency. It could be a “virtual organization” housed at or co-located with an existing institution (university, government department, etc.).
- It must be widely supported by governments across Canada, and closely linked to existing energy data collection organizations to avoid duplication of effort and ensure timely sharing of data. Models for data sharing include the Canadian Institute for Health Information (a separate

agency that has the cooperation of all the provinces); Justice Statistics; and the former Greenhouse Gas Voluntary Challenge and Registry.

- It should advocate and lead collaboration on standards and guidelines for energy data collection and open access where gaps exist, and it should be flexible and forward-looking, exploring new and innovative data sources in a rapidly changing world.
- It should have a governance structure that ensures independence and impartiality for its core data service functions. Specifically, its governance needs to include expert stakeholders including industry, ENGOs, etc. It should have diversified stakeholders represented in BOD/advisory board to survive political cycle (similar to Ecofiscal, UK Climate Change committee, Petrinex), it should be depoliticised. It should not be altogether too driven by individual stakeholder issues and should hinge on a core of its staff of experts.
- It should be viewed as a public good for all Canadians. Hence, it should have significant federal government funding in addition to provincial/territorial funding. Fully federal funding might be easier at initial steps. Provinces can get on board financial gradually. CEIO establishment should not dependent on “the last” province/territory commitment to fund.
- Industry and other sources of funding support (e.g., foundations) should be accepted, subject to conditions that ensure the independence and impartiality of the organization.
- Model: U.S. EIA could serve as role model. Since EIA enjoys high credibility CEIO similar framework could “import” trust from EIA
- Customers: policy makers, Canadians, communities, financial markets, media and others

### **Functions and services**

- Provide a central repository for energy data
- Promote data integration (as per the Statistics Canada and Transport Canada initiative)
- Identify and fill data gaps (either in-house or in existing data agencies and organizations)
- Do quality control to improve data consistency and coherence
- Facilitate access to quality data
- Contribute quality data/information to regulatory processes, and to public debates
- Mediation to address data confidentiality issues
- Historical data analysis and trends
- Data transparency – where data is taken from and how it is processed should be published
- Turning data into information – aggregate indicators which would describe the trends and changes (e.g. energy usage per sq.m./individual or similar)
- CEIO should have GHG data only on energy related emissions

- Analytical reports

**Key issues to be resolved**

- Harmonizing data collection methods to enhance comparability and use in energy policy analysis
- Mandatory data collection versus voluntary data sharing
- Balancing data collection, confidentiality, privacy and open access.
- Linking data and policy analysis and modelling (e.g., as is done in Sweden, the U.K., and California).
- Independence of the CEIO while ensuring financial accountability and sustainable funding support over time.
- Accessing new data sources in the emerging ‘prosumer’ world.
- Location(s) of the CEIO.
- Funding model
- Forecasts functions: there were mixing opinions if CEIO should do forecast (from – “definitely it should” to “it better avoid doing it as it may influence its credibility if forecasts are wrong”). There were noted that U.S. also has number of organizations doing analysis and customers are free to use different sources; still there is Energy Information Agency, which issues regular standard analytics and forecast, which most of the market uses and refers to. This could be in the CEIO mandate