



CHEMISTRY INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE
L'INDUSTRIE DE LA CHIMIE

National Advisory Panel

Thursday, October 23, 2025, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (EST); Toronto, Ontario

Attendance

National Advisory Panel

Nadine Gudz
Nicole Jankovic
Jane Lister
Carol Moen
Ron Ormson
Alex von Knobloch
Jacob Westfall

Other Participants

Kara Edwards, CIAC
Jeff Stevens, CIAC
Gabrielle Pearce, CIAC
Adam Lukofsky, CIAC
Isabelle Des Chênes, CIAC
Shawna Bruce (Facilitator)

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1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Shawna Bruce, who welcomed participants and initiated introductions of all NAP members.

The meeting began with two videos: one highlighting the TRANSCAER® initiative and another commemorating the 40th anniversary of Responsible Care®.

2. Responsible Care Moment(s)

Jacob Westfall shared his recent visit to view the new Responsible Care® safety train and the training session in Sarnia. He noted that while the program was strong, there was room to improve awareness of Responsible Care.

Ron Ormson provided an example of product stewardship, referencing a municipal project in Calgary that converted vacant commercial spaces into residential units using imported aluminum panels. The panels used were not CSA approved for use in Canada, Ron stressed the importance of understanding whether product are CSA approved. Ron recalled the example of aluminum panels like those involved in the Grenfell Tower fire, and the need for careful review to avoid unsafe outcomes.

3. Minutes and Agenda Approval

Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved, with two additions.

Alex von Knobloch requested an update regarding chemical industry challenges in the United States and asked for further clarification from Greg Moffatt on the matter. Alex also proposed adding a discussion to the next meeting on how CIAC might address the situation in Sarnia. Jacob raised related questions regarding the rapid response capability proposed in the strategic plan.

4. Gap Closure Update (Jeff)

Jeff Stevens provided an update on CIAC's progress in addressing the gaps identified in the Intertek study of the Canadian Responsible Care program. The review had emphasized the need for greater clarity and consistency in the evaluation of the Canadian Responsible Care program.

To help address this, CIAC developed a new **Auditor and Member Guidance Document** that defines expectations for auditors and member companies, clarifies roles and responsibilities, and integrates Canadian-specific elements into the broader Responsible Care framework. The document provides detailed guidance on how to interpret the nine Canadian Responsible Care elements, linking each to relevant codes and outlining the corresponding evidence and

reporting requirements. It also confirms how auditors record non-conformances, document best practices, and ensure meaningful dialogue is captured during audits.

Jeff noted that the Responsible Care Committee has approved the updated approach, which will next be reviewed by the CIAC Board. Once approved, members will be introduced to the revised process through webinars, followed by training sessions for auditors. CIAC plans to treat the guidance as a living document, updating it based on feedback and experience.

Regarding non-conformance management, Jeff explained that any issues identified against Canadian elements will be managed by internal CIAC governance processes to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.

A key remaining challenge is how best to assess public expectations and community engagement outcomes within audits. Carol Moen asked whether the Canadian elements might be expanded in light of recent chemical incidents in the U.S. Further, the question was asked if regulatory requirements in the U.S. covered some of the same CIAC requirements. Jeff noted that the ACC has been working to strengthen its community advisory structures (CAP's). As a next step, Jeff will gather details from ACC and back brief the NAP for the next meeting.

Future potential discussion: How global companies approach public awareness and the implementation of Responsible Care across different countries, what key differences exist between jurisdictions, and the underlying reasons for those differences.

5. Post-Audit Review Process

Kara Edwards and Jeff engaged with the panel in a discussion around the concept of a post-audit review process. At the previous meeting a potential approach had been proposed that was modeled in part on practices from the mining sector. The goal of the process is to strengthen oversight, ensure audit sufficiency, and enhance public trust, credibility, and accountability within the Responsible Care program.

Feedback from NAP members focused on three main themes: defining the purpose of the process, identifying desired outcomes and impacts, and addressing resource and conflict-of-interest concerns. Carol emphasized that the post-audit review is an important change management initiative designed to ensure continuous improvement. Shawna added that feedback from members about their audit experience will help CIAC refine both the process and the audit framework, particularly the Canadian elements component.

Jeff noted that understanding member perspectives will be crucial to shaping the process, and Jacob asked whether any specific questions had been raised. Jeff explained that there were still outstanding questions about who would lead and finalize the process. Alex suggested that the review should also reflect CIAC's member values, while Jane Lister proposed a mechanism for tracking companies with non-conformances to demonstrate public accountability.

Members discussed various approaches for implementation, including having discussions at Leadership Groups and Board levels and sharing outcomes with NAP where appropriate. The process would also allow for benchmarking against other industries, with suggesting that CIAC look at examples from the automotive sector.

Kara highlighted that other Canadian regulators already provide a degree of oversight that complements Responsible Care processes. The NAP encouraged CIAC to focus on governance as a key priority and to develop a clear public outline of how the review process works and what its outcomes will look like. Members also discussed the potential for involving public representatives in a review panel to further enhance credibility, though issues of bias and practicality will need to be considered in future discussions.

Overall, to meet evolving public expectations it was suggested CIAC could enhance transparency and quality control through a combination of standardized audit criteria, an internal or multi-stakeholder review committee for consistency checks, and the publication of clear, accessible summaries of audit findings and member follow-up commitments. This approach maintains confidentiality where necessary while strengthening public trust in the Responsible Care audit process.

6. Educational Outreach Overview (Kris Lee)

Kris Lee presented an overview titled *Responsible Care in Action*, highlighting CIAC's educational outreach at the post-secondary level. Engagement efforts have included the University of Toronto, Western University, Lambton College, and the University of Ottawa.

Kris explained that the ethics in engineering are approached differently in a test/exam construct by comparing Canada and the United States. Canadian students undertake a two-part Professional Practice Exam (PPE), compared to the U.S. integrated Practice of Engineering (PE) exam, noting that Canada's model offers greater flexibility for updates and specialization. Engagement sessions have reached approximately 200 students at the University of Toronto and 400 at Western University. Kris shared two short videos showing how students applied Responsible Care principles in their projects at Western University.

The group discussed why universities should teach beyond just technical aspects of engineering. It was also shared that other departments or faculties could also be a good fit for outreach on Responsible Care such as chemistry, business, or ethics classes. From a business perspective, Responsible Care offers a uniquely Canadian innovation and historical narrative; from an ethics standpoint, it aligns with professional engineering standards; and from a leadership perspective, it presents an opportunity to integrate sustainability and innovation into business and engineering programs. The discussion noted as well the important roles that professional and provincial regulators play when it relates to engineering and what possibilities do exist to build more awareness of Responsible Care with these groups. **A future NAP meeting will work to include professors and students from Western and the University of Toronto to further this discussion.**

7. Strategic Plan Presentation (Isabelle Deschenes)

Shawna introduced Isabelle Des Chênes, who presented CIAC's new draft strategic plan, the plan is organized around four key focus areas.

The first area, **Member-First Focus**, aims to enhance member stewardship, explore new revenue opportunities, and increase community visibility. Isabelle noted that metrics such as carbon pricing could support tracking policy impacts.

The second area, **Sustainability Leadership**, focuses on strengthening the Responsible Care and Operation Clean Sweep programs, with a view to potential synergies. Isabelle explained that CIAC is exploring ways to expand its leadership on plastics and build credibility within government and the public.

The third area, **Influence and Trust**, emphasizes advocacy, government relations, and alignment with members on key policy priorities. CIAC will introduce a new policy plan and communications strategy that highlight the role of chemistry in critical sectors. Isabelle announced that Hill Day in November will feature a value-chain approach and include both large and small companies, as well as non-profits.

The fourth area, **Organizational Strength**, focuses on building a skilled, resilient and high-performing organization. Isabelle noted that CIAC is reviewing governance structures to better integrate plastics members and ensure alignment under a single set of bylaws. The discussion also touched on the growing relevance of artificial intelligence in the sector.

The discussion on the draft Strategic Plan prior to roundtable turned to emerging issues such as artificial intelligence. Alex asked how CIAC is approaching AI from both a risk and opportunity perspective. Isabelle acknowledged that CIAC does not yet have formal sustainability targets or policies related to AI but has established a working group to develop a Responsible Care-aligned approach and formalized rules of engagement.

Roundtable Discussion

During the roundtable, Ron asked about the ongoing governance review, One-CIAC, and whether it would be managed internally. It was explained that a working group composed of members from both the CIAC Board and the Plastics Division Leadership Council had reviewed three governance models—full integration, status quo, and a hybrid approach—and recommended the hybrid option to streamline operations. The proposal will now proceed to legal review for further insights.

Jacob raised questions about prioritization within the strategic plan and shared concerns about transportation safety, particularly regarding electric and autonomous trains and trucks. Kara noted there are existing partnership opportunities with distribution networks and through

TRANSCAER to strengthen CIAC's position and potential influence on these emerging issues as they have the potential to arise over the time.

Nicole Jankovic noted growing engagement with SMEs. Jane praised the supply chain approach outlined in the strategic plan and asked whether there will be **discussion on PFAS and microplastics**. Kara confirmed that these topics are being addressed through CIAC's policy work.

Shawna encouraged inviting Alberta representatives to join Hill Day discussions, and Alex highlighted the importance of strengthening relationships with Europe while maintaining engagement with U.S. partners. Carol had no additional comments, and Nadine Gudz agreed to circulate the list of strategic questions following the meeting.

There were additional points from the roundtable discussion surrounding positive feedback on the strategic plan. The NAP supports the efforts to get increased recognition of Responsible Care by governments, the creation of the Member Portal and the increased availability and access to information. The NAP suggested that they would be a good venue for testing new communications materials and toolkits. They support the CIAC working along a value-chain approach in advocacy as well as working to attract more SMEs into membership. In future NAP meetings, there is the potential for discussions around extended producer responsibility and what it would mean for members.

An update on CIAC's ESG project will also be distributed by email.

Action Items Summary

- Jeff to discuss Responsible Care collaboration with the American Chemistry Council at the Sarnia Workshop (December).
- Jeff to compile a summary of Responsible Care fundamentals by country for future reference.
- Kara to share feedback from TRANSCAER event explore opportunities for increased visibility and links between Responsible Care and TRANSCAER.
- Gabrielle and Kara to update members on the ESG Association project.
- Terms of Reference to be reviewed for 2026.
- Kara to reach out to Professors and potentially students to hear their perspectives and experiences with the RC Outreach efforts for the next NAP meeting.