



National Advisory Panel

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (ET); Virtual

Attendance

National Advisory Panel

Nadine Gudz
Nicole Jankovic
Jane Lister
Carol Moen
Laurie J. Danielson
Alexandre Warin
Jacob Westfall
Richard Janda
Nadine Blaney

Other Participants

Kara Edwards, CIAC
Jeff Stevens, CIAC
Gabrielle Pearce, CIAC
Greg Moffatt, CIAC
Shawna Bruce, Facilitator
Joanne Martineau, Guest
Kris Lee, Guest
Marko Saban, Guest
Bernard West, Guest
Emily Fattore, CIAC Board Director
Michel Brassard, CIAC Board Director



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Shawna Bruce opened the first NAP meeting of 2026, by welcoming members. The previous minutes were approved as presented. Shawna then reviewed the agenda for the current meeting and invited any additions or changes. No additions were proposed, and the agenda was adopted as circulated.

Shawna introduced Alexandre Warin, who shared his professional background and spoke about his interest in sustainability, particularly the connection between sustainability and industrial management.

Indigenous Learning Moment

Shawna Bruce introduced Joanne Martineau, Indigenous Relations Manager at Inter Pipeline (IPL). Joanne shared that she is a treaty status member who lives in an Indigenous community and is also a mechanical engineer. She explained that IPL's Indigenous relations work is structured around four pillars, Consultation, Community, Opportunity, and People, which are aligned with the company's business plans and strategic priorities. In her role, she travels to approximately 40 communities across Alberta to engage directly and build long-term relationships.

Joanne highlighted the Alexander Valve Warehouse Project as a practical example of partnership. During a visit to Alexander First Nation, IPL observed that a community warehouse had available space while the company required additional storage capacity. Through dialogue and collaboration, the initiative was developed in a way that created employment opportunities within the community while meeting IPL's operational needs.

Joanne emphasized that meaningful partnerships begin with listening carefully to community priorities and identifying opportunities that reflect those needs. Her presentation slides will be shared with the NAP, and members may forward any follow-up questions to Shawna.

Responsible Care® Moment

Emily Fattore presented a Responsible Care moment outlining an incident at ERCO's Buckingham, Quebec plant. A defective heat exchanger leaked, resulting in the discharge of a toxic substance into the river.

At the time, Quebec authorities were notified with the assumption that they would share the information with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), as is customary in other jurisdictions. This is not the case in Quebec, and due to the delayed reporting to federal authorities, charges were laid

At the time, Quebec authorities were notified with the understanding that they would share the information with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), as is customary in other jurisdictions. This is not the case in Quebec, and the delay in reporting to federal authorities resulted in charges being laid against both ERCO's parent company, Superior Plus, and ERCO's Buckingham Plant Manager.

Emily outlined ERCO's response, including halting operations, conducting a full investigation, modifying equipment design to recirculate the plant effluent within operations and thus eliminating the permitted discharge to the river, strengthening plant management practices, and reinforcing employee training related to environmental notification and reporting requirements.

Media coverage linked the release to a downstream fish kill, even though it was determined at the time of the incident that another facility was responsible. Legal proceedings concluded in January 2026.

ERCO's CEO proactively contacted CIAC regarding the matter. ERCO reaffirmed its commitment to environmental responsibility, continuous improvement, and sharing lessons learned. An additional learning identified was the value of daily testing of required samples (beyond permit requirements), which may have enabled earlier detection.

During discussion, Nadine Gudz asked how the NAP could be most helpful and whether this case represented an opportunity to strengthen awareness or engagement processes. It was noted that legal proceedings, including involvement of counsel and the impact of media communications, contributed to the extended timeline. ERCO's parent company ultimately pled guilty on January 6, 2026, to conclude the legal process. The intent in sharing the case was to highlight the organization's deep commitment to Responsible Care and sharing of key learnings, particularly regarding reporting protocols and communications.

Jane Lister asked about monitoring practices and why the issue had not been identified sooner. It was reiterated that daily testing had not been required at the time; however, monitoring practices have since been strengthened, and no discharge is currently released into the river. Members were invited to forward additional questions to Shawna.

President's Update

In the President's update, appreciation was extended to Joanne and Emily for their contributions and for reinforcing the importance of Responsible Care and community engagement.

Trade continues to be a dominant issue affecting manufacturing and regulatory frameworks. The importance of clearly articulating CIAC's value proposition and maintaining credibility when advancing Responsible Care was emphasized. Recent and upcoming advocacy activities include a workshop in Mexico City in early January, meetings in Ottawa at the end of April, and an advocacy-focused event in Washington in late May or early June. Greg also shared CIAC's views and statements regarding the recent court of appeal decision regarding the addition of all plastic manufactured items being included in Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

The NAP's 40th anniversary was acknowledged as a significant milestone, recognizing the panel's long-standing role in strengthening Responsible Care in Canada through constructive advice and challenge.

Richard Janda asked a question on how the CIAC was managing the narrative on plastics compared to the ACC, in response, it was noted CIAC is maintaining its approach and looking for practical opportunities in policy that will drive change. There may be further discussion on this topic at the October 2026 in-person NAP meeting.

Industry Economic Update – Outlook for 2026

Dave Cherniak provided an overview of economic conditions under the theme "Outlook 2026 and 2025 in Review: Uncertainty." Although there was optimism entering 2025, shipments declined by 8% and exports by 12%. While chemical and resin volumes remained relatively stable, prices fell significantly across subsectors and globally. Trade uncertainty, including tariff risks, continues to influence the operating environment.

Looking ahead, four key themes were identified for 2026: continued growth challenges in downstream sectors influenced by interest rates; global overcapacity and compressed margins, particularly in Europe and China; ongoing trade policy uncertainty affecting plastics markets; and intensified competition for investment as jurisdictions seek to strengthen supply chains and refine regulatory regimes. Projections suggest shipment values may increase by 2–3%, output volumes by 0–2%, exports by 1–3% (assuming no new trade disruptions), and plastics shipments by 1–2%.

Federal policy considerations were also discussed, including Budget 2025 measures such as accelerated cost accounting, improvements to investment tax credits, and adjustments to SR&ED incentives. A review of industrial carbon pricing remains critical to maintaining sector competitiveness.

Educational Outreach – Responsible Care at U of T Plant Design Capstone Course

Kara introduced Kris Lee, Dr. Marko Saban, and Dr. Bernard West to discuss the integration of Responsible Care into the University of Toronto's Chemical Engineering Plant Design course. Kara noted the strong impact of their lectures and thanked them for their collaboration.

Marko outlined the structure of the course, which includes approximately 18–20 projects annually with industry clients. The 12-week course is supported by teaching assistants and subject matter experts and maintains a public website featuring completed projects. Responsible Care has been integrated both to support engineering ethics and equity, two of the graduate attributes the institution is focused on ensuring to prepare students for professional practice requirements, including the National Professional Practice Examination.

In 2024, with 98 students, Responsible Care was delivered through introductory sessions, workshops, and individual team discussions, supported by a formal RC assessment. In 2025, with 125 students, the approach was adapted to improve scalability by replacing one-on-one discussions with team RC pitches and refining the assessment deliverables. Students were required to demonstrate how RC principles were incorporated into their designs and to complete a structured RC assessment. Examples of student work and experiences were shared.

During the discussion, Jane Lister noted interest in exploring what the report would look like. It was shared that reports may be able to be made available following completion, with follow-up to occur separately. Alexandre Warin also raised questions related to industry feedback and scalability and indicated interest in connecting further regarding related initiatives in Quebec.

Closing remarks emphasized the importance of integrating both industry and community perspectives in Responsible Care education and exploring how RC principles can be embedded more broadly in engineering curricula. It was stressed the value of having industry and community guests engaged in the classroom with students and working with the team to build it into the curriculum.

Highlights of Recent Responsible Care Initiatives and Challenges

Kara Edwards provided updates on recent Responsible Care initiatives. CIAC officially retired its long-standing Responsible Care verification program on December 31, 2025, with Procor's and Methanex's verifications marking the final chapter of a program that strengthened transparency and public trust since 1993. As of January 1, 2026, members and partners have transitioned to RCMS® or RC14001® certification as the sole method for

meeting Responsible Care assurance requirements. The auditor guidance has now been released, and the first member webinar is scheduled for March 10, 2026.

Work is underway with Responsible Distribution Canada to update the Partnership Agreement to advance Responsible Care along the value chain, clarify expectations related to TRANSCAER and TEAP III, and update the Partners Council framework, including reference to Operation Clean Sweep.

The MOU to enhance cross-border collaboration and strengthen alignment of Responsible Care certification across the chemical industry with ACC was signed on February 10, 2026, with member webinars planned for early March.

The 40th anniversary of the NAP was acknowledged as a significant milestone and a key focus for the year.

2025 NAP Year-End Evaluation and 40th Anniversary

Survey results from the 2025 year-end evaluation will be circulated with highlighted themes for further discussion. A recent meeting with CIAC's Director of Communications focused on developing content and a plan to recognize the NAP's 40th anniversary, with the intention of incorporating member reflections and perspectives. Further details will be shared to invite contributions.

Collaborative Discussion: Academic and Public Perspectives

During the roundtable discussion, members shared perspectives and emerging issues.

Nicole Jankovic noted that she values the networking opportunities provided through the NAP and expressed interest in attending at least one broader industry event annually.

Nadine Gudz raised the importance of climate leadership and resilience and suggested that climate-focused discussions could be further integrated into Responsible Care and broader chemistry sector conversations. She also highlighted the importance of storytelling and stakeholder engagement and will share a recent webinar with Shawna to make accessible to the group.

Jane Lister raised two issues: alignment and positioning regarding the global plastics treaty, and the importance of transparency and communication around microplastics, including potential improvements to labelling. It was suggested that Plastics representatives could be invited to speak at a future meeting.

Jacob Westfall discussed participation in regional Responsible Care meetings and the sharing of audit information among member companies. He noted that there appears to be

some resistance within industry to sharing information and questioned whether there may be a disconnect in perceptions. It was suggested that communication could be improved when audits are posted and that alternative email options could assist with coordination.

Richard Janda expressed concern about public perceptions of the chemical sector's engagement in the global plastics treaty discussions, particularly regarding lobbying activities. While acknowledging that CIAC has taken a constructive approach, he emphasized the importance of managing reputational considerations.

Alexandre Warin asked about CIAC's positioning on carbon pricing reviews and cost accounting measures, noting that in some regions' engagement could be perceived as inconsistent. He emphasized the importance of clear communication on these evolving measures. He also noted the upcoming Quebec Chemical Engineering Competition at the end of March as an opportunity for engagement, and Kara will connect with Adam regarding potential participation.

Follow-Up and Next Steps

- Circulate all meeting presentations to NAP members.
- Distribute 2025 Year-End Evaluation Survey results with highlighted themes for discussion.
- Share details regarding NAP 40th anniversary engagement and invite member contributions.
- **Jane Lister** to follow up directly with Marko regarding course project reports.
- **Nadine Gudz** to share climate-related webinar materials with Shawna.
- Explore inviting Plastics representatives to present at a future NAP meeting.
- Review and improve communication to NAP members regarding posting and sharing of audit results.

Meeting was adjourned and In-Camera session was held.