



Canadian Energy Information Organization

Organization Establishment Proposal

May 15, 2017

1. Introduction¹

The paper outlines the proposal for establishment of the Canadian Energy Information Organization. The proposal represents general agreement of many stakeholders' input from various Canadian organizations, governments, regulators, businesses, universities and other entities (see Appendix A). It is based on many publications, including from the Senate, the Council of the Federation, and the Canadian Energy Research Institute for the period of 2012-2017 as well as on consultations in 2015-2017 attracting stakeholders from most parts of the country. It covers organization goals, value proposition, principles and characteristics, functions and products, operations and governance of the proposed organization. The establishment timeline which concludes the document lays out further steps for the CEIO initiative (Appendix B and C).

Motivation

The world of energy is changing rapidly both on the production and the demand sides. Canada, as an energy powerhouse, needs to be able to follow, anticipate and leverage this transformation to remain competitive with its partners. For this, it needs tools on par with its partners. This proposal aims at ensuring that Canada can count on the energy data that is required for supporting this effort.

2. Goals and value

Mission: To collect and disseminate independent, quality data and analysis on energy supply and use, to support informed discussion on public policy with respect to energy, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its related economic, social and environmental impacts.

Customers: policymakers, communities and citizens, indigenous Peoples Organizations, the energy industry and other businesses, investors, government, financial markets, banks, and the media.

Scope: energy-related data and analysis on primary and secondary energy (including but not limited to coal, oil, gas, NGLs, electricity, renewable energy, biomass, products of primary energy) supply and end-use consumption and services. A key aspect of the scope of this work is on air, land and water use impacts including Climate Change and a transition to a low carbon economy.

¹ Questions or comments regarding this proposal can be directed to Allan Fogwill, President&CEO, Canadian Energy Research Organization, 587.225.7605 or afogwill@ceri.ca

Value that CEIO brings for Canada

It is in Canada's interest that energy stakeholders operate with a set of comprehensive, consistent, coherent, high-quality, and timely information comparable to that available to its commercial partners, which can facilitate communication, increase trust in collaboration, assist in making evidence-based decisions and policymaking and maintain and enhance Canada's competitiveness of its energy sector. The benefits of CEIO are numerous and are grouped in several categories:

Trust and Policy

- Enhanced public and stakeholders trust in energy information and in government policies
- More focused dialogue and reduced conflict over energy project developments
- Availability of credible data and information to regulatory processes and to public debates
- More efficient and effective energy regulatory processes
- Enhanced credibility of provincial and national regulatory organizations
- Greater effectiveness and reporting of energy system performance monitoring
- Neutral ground to discuss data quality, collection process, definition consistency, etc.
- Independent institution to embody trust in data

Canadians and communities

- Enhanced understanding of energy policy impacts on consumers
- More energy-literate Canadians with respect to energy industry, and its impacts on economy and environment
- Enhancing public understanding and acceptance of increased diversification and sophistication of the energy sector

Quality, Gaps and Timeliness

- Convenient one-stop one-format resource to gain energy information for all data users
- Increased costs and time savings across Canada for producers and users of energy information
- Timely and efficient filling in the gaps in energy information due to development of energy infrastructure, while saving on costs to fill in the gaps due to concerted efforts
- Better quality data that can be used to achieve better energy management by companies, communities, and individuals across Canada
- More coherent data for use in policy analysis and hence increased confidence in energy policies by governments and key stakeholder groups
- Increased spatial coverage of energy information

Climate Change and the Environment

- Increasing public, stakeholder, and political understanding of energy policy impacts on the environment-economy-societal relationship
- Improved environmental and greenhouse gas (GHG) management

Markets and Reporting

- Increased energy market and investment opportunities and transparency
- Increased awareness of the transformations taking place in the energy sector
- Reduce market uncertainty and related investment decisions
- Better quality data and reporting on domestic and international policy commitments

3. Principles and key characteristics, features

To ensure alignment with the mission and benefits, and based on consultations with stakeholders, it is considered paramount that CEIO incorporates the following principles and characteristics:

Principles:

1. Independent of politics and vested interests
2. Unbiased, evidence-based data and analysis approach
3. Reliance on current energy information frameworks and organizations
4. Adding value to existing energy frameworks through collaboration
5. No policy recommendations
6. Broad stakeholders-based governance
7. Transparency of workflow and decision-making

Characteristics:

- National scope
- Inclusive of all energy types and environmental impacts
- Publicly endorsed by governments, industry groups, environmental organizations and Indigenous Peoples groups
- Dedicated to the public interest in providing unbiased, evidence-based data, information, and analysis
- Central repository for credible, comprehensive, coherent, quality, timely energy data
- Flexible and exploring new and innovative data sources in a rapidly changing world
- High level of collaboration and integration with provincial and national data collectors

4. Functions, Products and Operations

Three key functions of the CEIO would include Data Management, Analysis and Reports, and Communication.

Data Management

- Data clearing and quality assurance
- Data reconciliation and harmonization
- Ensuring relevance and timeliness
- Mediation to address data consistency and confidentiality issues
- Provision of a uniform data-retrieval interface , completed with customization and presentation capabilities
- Data gap analysis and filling in gaps (comprehensiveness)

Analysis and Reports

- Past: Analysis of historical developments, trends, statistical interpretations
- Current: Market monitoring and assessment (quarterly, annually)
- Future: Scenario Analysis

Communication

- Promoting CEIO to decision makers
- Ensuring open access to information
- Sharing information with organizations in Canada
- Promote collaboration and information exchange

To provide its services CEIO will develop and operate databases, website, data-retrieval and processing software and mobile/tablet applications. CEIO products and services will be guided by accessibility standards of the EIA and the IEA.

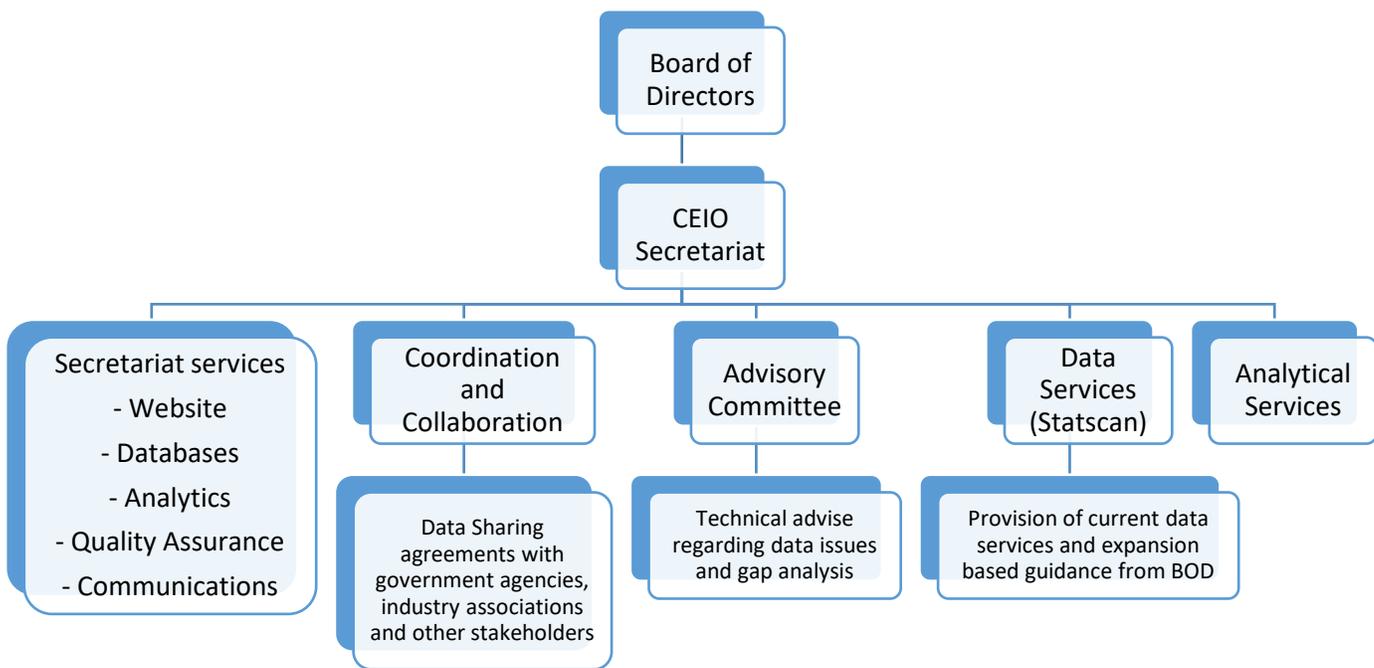
5. Governance and Management

The governance structure will provide a foundation for credibility of the organization, effective management and fulfillment of CEIO's mandate. Below is the Organizational structure (Figure 1.) with functions and number of people per function. Specifically:

- The Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from governments, regulatory, academia, Indigenous Peoples organizations, energy associations, and environmental organizations who will ensure adherence to CEIO's principles, performance objectives and its budget
- The Advisory Board is comprised of energy experts and provides strategic advice on performance and development of the CEIO, including in such areas as data gaps, consistency and emerging data needs

- Data collection/Quality Assurance team work on data collection, integration, quality assurance, reconciliation, coherence, timeliness and other issues and works with IT team on delivery of the data through website and other means
- Quality Assurance and Analytics teams are partially outsourced to existing organizations.

Collaboration with many organizations is pivotal for the success of the CEIO. Among them are governments, regulatory, institutes/programs, agencies, associations and other organizations that collect data. Partnerships with Statscan regarding data collection, and with Research Institutes for market analytics are also integral; to the CEIO design. These would be bi-lateral agreements to manage expectations and budgetary requirements.



Organizational chart

6. Funding

This proposed CEIO is projected to have a relatively modest budget. Initial estimates for the budget provided here are based on several assumptions. The actual annual budget for the CEIO would be established by its Board of Directors.

Budget development is expected in two phases:

- Phase 1: two-year start-up – hiring personnel, acquisition of facilities and equipment, development database and website/applications, executing agreements with providers of data and analytics
 - o Year One Milestone - organization fully operational, business plan established, and collaboration agreements finalized.
 - o Year Two Milestone – interactive website and databases established, reconciliation of existing data and gap analysis completed.
- Phase 2: normal operation of CEIO with incremental improvements of services