



## NEWS RELEASE

### CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AT EHRC'S 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Electricity Human Resources Canada (EHRC) honours individuals and organizations for their contribution to HR best practices in Canada's electricity sector.

February 15, 2024, TORONTO – Electricity Human Resources Canada ([EHRC](#)), celebrated the winners of its 2023 Awards of Excellence in Toronto. This prestigious event gathered industry stakeholders nationwide to recognize and applaud the outstanding achievements of innovative HR leaders within Canada's electricity sector.

“With a mission to strengthen the Canadian electricity workforce to be safety-focused, innovative, and inclusive, EHRC honours employees, leaders and teams who are making a positive and tangible impact in the industry”, says Michelle Branigan, CEO, EHRC. “The Awards of Excellence provide an opportunity to celebrate those who are doing incredible work for and within our industry.”

#### Awards of Excellence Recipients

A highlight of the annual awards is the naming of the Leader of the Year, a title honouring an individual who has performed exceptionally and who inspires professionals across the country.

This year, Lesley Gallinger, President and Chief Executive Officer at Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) was honoured with the Leader of the Year award in recognition of her exceptional leadership and commitment to cultivating an inclusive and values-based work culture.

When presenting the Award, Branigan said “Lesley is an extraordinary leader who inspires her team to be part of an organization that is driving change in this industry, and developing a workplace where everyone can achieve their potential. It is our honour to recognize her with this award.”

The winners in other categories, serving as inspirations to colleagues nationwide, are as follows:

- Emerging Leader of the Year: Oluwafemi Obadeyi from Atura Power
- HR Innovator: Lathani Sivakumaran from Ontario Power Generation

- Workplace Culture Innovator: Rosana Kemsley from ENWIN Utilities and Jesse Spring from Primary Engineering and Construction
- Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award (SME): Ontario Energy Board
- Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award (Large organization): Manitoba Hydro

## Opportunities and Challenges of the electricity labour market

Each year, as part of the event, EHRC presents an extraordinary line-up of prominent experts to share their expertise and effective strategies to address a key industry priority.

This year's theme focusing on the findings from EHRC's latest labour market intelligence study ([Electricity in Demand- Labour Market Insights 2023- 2028](#)). The panelists addressed opportunities and challenges within Canada's electricity sector, discussing effective strategies to educate, recruit and retain the skilled workforce that will be needed to deliver an electricity system that is safe, reliable, innovative and carbon neutral.

The distinguished panel included Kevin Weaver, President & CEO, Georgian College (Moderator); Pari Johnston, President & CEO, Colleges & Institutes Canada; Marcia Perry, EVP People & Corporate Services, TransAlta; Moe Kabbara, VP, Transition Accelerator; Karen Smith, VP and Chief Human Resources Officer, Bruce Power.

## About Electricity Human Resources Canada ([EHRC](#))

Electricity Human Resources Canada is Canada's leading provider of trusted HR research intelligence for our sector.

Our primary role is to strengthen the ability of the Canadian electricity industry to meet current and future workforce needs. EHRC develops the resources that inspire our next generation and is the steward of forward-thinking initiatives that drive positive change as together we build Canada's low carbon economy.

Our vision is to build a world-class electricity workforce. We will achieve this by growing our Canadian electricity labour force to be safety-focused, highly skilled and inclusive.

## Media Contact:

Aishwarya Chauhan (she/her)  
Digital Media Specialist  
[Chauhan@ehrc.ca](mailto:Chauhan@ehrc.ca)