CURRENT AFFAIRS:

PERSPECTIVES ON ELECTRICITY POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Edited by Doug Reeve, Donald N. Dewees, and Bryan W. Karney

In Ontario, electricity has traditionally been generated from hydroelectric facilities, coal, and nuclear power. Today the province must respond to the escalating demand for electricity, coupled with an aging infrastructure and diminishing capacity, while also addressing growing concerns about air pollution, global warming, and the environmental impact of fossil fuel combustion. Sources of hydroelectric power in the province are limited, while nuclear power is expensive and raises safety concerns. Power from green energy sources, such as the sun and wind, is also costly to produce and in some cases is intermittent. Electricity policy in Ontario thus requires the careful balancing of environmental goals and values against costs that must be borne by consumers and taxpayers.

Current Affairs brings together local and international experts on energy, the environment, and public policy to discuss the major electricity policy issues facing Canada's most populous and industrial province. The contributors, who represent academia, think tanks, consulting firms, governments, and the International Energy Agency, bring fresh perspectives and a wealth of experience to the substantive questions concerning Ontario's electricity future. Collectively they suggest that in Ontario, as in other jurisdictions, environmental policy must be connected to meaningful research, public dialogue, and solid educational and regulatory programs to support the behavioural and institutional changes that will lead to a sustainable electricity future.

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