



January 02, 2018

There has been a significant development in the evolution of the UTC/UTC Canada (UTCC) relationship that will benefit both Canadian and U.S. utilities. On December 8, the UTC Board of Directors approved a recommendation put forward by the UTC Canada Board of Advisors to integrate the two groups into UTC North America.

The UTC Board's approval of this plan was the culmination of discussions among a UTCC organizational alignment task force that held meetings several times this year to discuss the strategic direction of the group. After assessing the current situation and possible alternatives, the plan above was put forward as the optimal solution to enhancing membership value and engagement across North America.

The migration to UTC North America will be achieved in the course of 2018, with several key action items, including: 1) assessing the policy and advocacy situation in Ottawa and how UTC North America can continue to engage on behalf of our Canadian members before the Canadian government where necessary and practical; 2) ensuring ample Canadian representation on the UTC North America Board of Directors through review (and possible revision) of governing documents; 3) fully integrating U.S. and Canadian committees, divisions, councils and working groups to ensure active participation and benefits on both sides of the border; 4) assessing the UTC/UTCC brands and evaluating a rebranding to UTC North America.

As we work through this transition, the dues for UTC Canada members in 2018 will remain constant. We will ensure that Canadian utilities are fully apprised of and integrated into the UTC committees, divisions and councils which address topics such as IT/OT, Telecom, Security/Risk/Compliance (such as NERC CIP), Broadband, Joint Use/Wireless Collocation/Pole Attachments, Knowledge and Learning (magazine content, training and conference programs), and Public Policy. At the same time, we will work through the transition to fully capture and pull forward the work being done by Canadian committees. Canadian members will continue to get the member rate for the annual UTC Telecom and Technology conference and any other North American conferences, workshops, trainings and webinars that are fee-based.

Several other detailed activities will also be undertaken as part of the transition in 2018, one of which is evaluating a Canadian-based workshop that would attract attendees from both Canada and the U.S. and would focus on one or two critical, cross-border issues. A working group is being formed to address the details of such a workshop(s), but the tentative date for holding an event is fall 2018.

Given the nature of the North American grid, I am excited to fully integrate our groups and better capitalize on what we all know and can learn from each other. UTC also has a long history of both membership and collaboration with other critical infrastructure providers that deploy ICT networks such as oil, gas, water and transportation, and we look forward to building on the work done recently with such entities in Canada.

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Should you have any questions about this or any other UTC/UTCC matter, please feel free to contact me at [joy.ditto@utc.org](mailto:joy.ditto@utc.org) / 202-833-6801. You can also contact the Chair of UTC Canada for the past few years, Geoff Trofimuk of SaskPower [gtrofimuk@saskpower.com](mailto:gtrofimuk@saskpower.com) / 306-551-9290, and Karnel Thomas of the UTC staff – [karnel.thomas@utc.org](mailto:karnel.thomas@utc.org) / 202-833-6816 to answer any questions.

Have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Ditto", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joy Ditto, President and CEO  
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