

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM ONTARIO'S WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Wind Energy in Ontario Today

In a little over a decade, wind energy has established itself as an important part of Ontario's cleaner, reliable and diversified energy mix. The development and operation of wind projects makes up a large provincial industry today – driving significant investment, employment, leaseholder and property tax revenues, and economic growth. A sophisticated and well-established supply chain, including manufacturing and professional services, employs thousands of Ontarians.

- Installed Capacity: >5,000 MW
- Provincial Electricity Demand Met: ~7.5 per cent of Total
- Proportion of Canada's Installed Wind Capacity: 40 per cent
- Additional Capacity under Development: ~500 MW

#### Significant Economic Benefits

Commercial operation of wind energy projects began in Ontario in 2006, and new projects continue to be developed and to come online. As they do, they generate economic benefits throughout their development, manufacturing, construction and operations phases. Today's existing wind farms and current procurement commitments will continue to return significant economic benefits in Ontario through to 2030.

#### Economic Benefits:

##### A Multitude of Sources and Forms

Lease payments to landowners • Municipal property taxes • Returns to lenders and equity holders (including municipalities and Indigenous communities) • Engineering, electrical and design work • Site clearing and preparation contracts • Environmental assessment and permitting • Construction contracts • Component manufacturing • Materials transportation • Maintenance contracts • Operational jobs • Legal, accounting & other professional services • Transmission upgrades

#### More Wind Energy Tomorrow

Looking ahead, Ontario will need more new electricity generation by the early 2020s. By including wind energy as part of the mix as more generation is built, Ontario can continue its transition to lower-carbon energy and further benefit from what has become the lowest-cost source of new electricity. Additional wind-energy build-out – beyond the projects already in operation and under development – will add to the significant economic benefits Ontario is already enjoying.



**64,500**  
Direct and  
Indirect FTEs



**\$4.6 Billion**  
Direct and  
Indirect Earnings



**\$6.2 Billion**  
Direct and  
Indirect GDP



**\$12.5 Billion**  
in  
Investment

*Cumulative economic benefits between 2006 and 2030.*

This report was first published in 2015. *Wind Dividends – 2018 Update* reflects changes in planned wind energy procurement since the original analysis. The original report and the 2018 update were prepared by Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc. exclusively for the benefit and use of CanWEA. They represent best efforts and judgments based on the information available at the time each was prepared. Compass is not responsible for the reader's use of, or reliance upon, the report, nor for any decisions based on the report. Compass makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied. Readers of the report are advised that they assume all liabilities incurred by them, or third parties, as a result of their reliance on the report, or the data, information, findings and opinions contained in it. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) represents full time employment for one year; 1 FTE = 2,080 hours.