

CCSIP Collaborative Event: Developing Canada-California Sunlighting Solutions that Generate Clean, Natural and Sustainable Energy for Buildings

Bringing natural sunlight into the workplace offers multiple benefits. In the commercial building sector, as much as one-third of present electricity use is attributed to electric lighting.

Technology-based systems that guide sunlight into multi-floor buildings have the potential to reduce lighting operating costs by at least 25 percent, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from energy production. There is also a powerful argument that improved daylight illumination could help to improve the productivity and retention of employees.

To capitalize on these opportunities, researchers at the University of British Columbia and University of California Davis will host four bilateral workshops to explore the collaborative invention, development and demonstration of novel sunlighting systems. With support from CCSIP, the workshops will bring together participants from academia, government and industry with broad technical knowledge, influence and resources from both Canada and California.

The team will identify key priorities, cooperative approaches to R&D and potential demonstration projects that showcase the value of this technology to building inhabitants and owners, real estate developers and facility managers. Canada and California are uniquely suited as strategic partners as they represent a wide range of the latitudes, climates and building types in which such systems could be installed worldwide.

Workshop outcomes will shape a longer-term bilateral R&D strategy that identifies industrial partners and enables the training of highly qualified personnel, both of which are essential to the creation of new markets for sunlighting technology.

