

Natural Resources are the Power of Canada

Canada's capacity to access new markets for its vast natural resources hinges on the country's ability to define and expedite a coordinated, collaborative framework for prosperity. Oil and gas, electricity, mining and forest products represent almost one fifth of Canada's GDP, half of our exports and 1.8 million direct and indirect jobs across the country. *The agriculture and agri-food industry adds another \$100 billion annually to Canada's gross domestic product, more than the national GDP of 2/3 of the world's countries.*

The impacts of the sector go beyond the forest, farm, rig or mine. Natural resources drive demand for products and services in many other sectors of the Canadian economy, such as transportation, finance, professional and scientific services, machinery and equipment manufacturers and other suppliers. For example, 70 per cent of Canada's rail cars are transporting natural resource products. In 2013, 60 per cent of the issuers on the Toronto Stock Exchange and TSX Venture Exchange belonged to the resource or clean technology sector.

There is broad acknowledgment that resource development and export will sustain and drive the Canadian economy for decades to come – yet the national dialogue around creating value to the benefit of all Canadians is not sufficiently playing out across each of Canada's diverse regions, sectors and stakeholder groups.

Canada simply does not have the infrastructure needed to effectively reach new and growing markets for our resources. This past year has tough lessons about rail and port capacity with significant impacts for all of our natural resource exports. Existing road networks are not sufficient or efficient to manage these transportation needs. The situation is particularly dire in the energy sector. Canada does not yet have a single facility capable of exporting liquefied natural gas to Asia, where prices can be four times as high as in North America, and we don't yet have the pipelines to move our oil to new markets.

If we are to seize and preserve Canada's advantage in the context of an extremely competitive global market – and within narrow windows of opportunity – we need to collectively bridge the gaps between political, social and public policy perspectives.

The Partnership for Resource Trade is a pan-Canadian initiative that is working to reinforce pride in our resource-based economy. Members include representation from a broad range of organizations and individuals representing the natural resources, manufacturing, finance, labour and aboriginal groups. Supporters of the Partnership share the following objectives:

- Resources will continue to be the engine of Canada's prosperity now and in the future
- These sectors provides unique opportunities to engage and partner with Canada's aboriginal peoples and remote communities
- Canadian resource producers can balance our role in providing the world with the materials to build and power their societies with the need to protect and preserve the environment
- Canada must reinvest in its trade infrastructure in order to maintain our resource advantage for the next generations of Canadians

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Endorse and support the messages and objectives of the Partnership for Resource Trade.
2. Invest in trade infrastructure by building and/or enabling others to build the necessary roads, rail, ports and pipelines to transport these resources effectively and efficiently.