

Building Trust in Canada's Natural Resource Development



Canada is a global leader in the sustainable development and management of energy and mineral resources, providing a source of prosperity and economic opportunity for Canadians. The resource sector accounts for nearly 16% of national gross domestic product (GDP) and 1.4 million jobs in Canada, directly and indirectly.

Governments, regulators, industry, Indigenous groups, communities, and civil society have different roles to play in building and maintaining public confidence in energy and mining development. The challenge for governments is to balance protection of health and the environment with support for economic competitiveness, while ensuring that policies and decisions align with community interests and values.

Federal, provincial and territorial governments are working together to build and maintain public confidence in resource development by undertaking actions in four broad areas: **engaging to build relationships; communicating transparently; advancing science and innovation; and ensuring effective regulations.**

These actions serve to support societal goals to restore public trust in regulatory and government decision making, enhance investor trust, advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and transition toward a low-carbon economy.



Governments across Canada are taking action ...



Engaging to build relationships

Federal, provincial and territorial governments have developed principles and a checklist for engaging communities on resource development.

Manitoba is engaging Indigenous communities to develop a renewed Duty to Consult Framework.

Prince Edward Island is building open and accessible communication to ensure Indigenous and community engagement on energy projects.

Ontario created the Aboriginal Participation Fund to support consultation capacity, education and relationship-building activities as they relate to mineral exploration and development.

New Brunswick consulted all First Nations communities in the province from 2011–2015 regarding the Sisson Mine Project, resulting in the signing of an Accommodation Agreement with the Maliseet in early 2017.

In **Yukon**, a Mining Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2017 by self-governing First Nations and the Government of Yukon with the purpose of establishing collaborative goals on mining exploration and the intent to develop a mineral development strategy reflecting this collaborative approach.



Advancing science and innovation

Federal, provincial and territorial governments are investing in energy efficiency programs, regulations, and standards to support a prosperous natural resource sector for Canada.

Quebec has invested \$16.5 million in the 2013–2018 Fonds de recherche du Québec—Nature et technologies, including a research partnership component on the sustainable development of the mining sector.

Newfoundland and Labrador has legislative provisions that require offshore oil and gas operators to commit prescribed levels of funding for research and development projects in the province

Under Mission Innovation, the **Government of Canada** committed to accelerate clean energy innovation, including by doubling annual investments in clean energy research, development and demonstration by 2020.

Nunavut invests in energy initiatives such as feasibility studies on hydroelectric power, wind, and solar. The territory also participates in wind and solar pilot projects, and the “Energy Wise Campaign” promoting energy efficiency.



Communicating transparently

The **Northwest Territories** has launched the Resources and Energy Development Information project. It is a public outreach program that uses a whole of government approach to provide N.W.T. residents with fact-based information, skills training and education opportunities related to resource development.

Newfoundland and Labrador has created the GeoScience on-line portal to enhance resource literacy by providing direct access to data, maps, reports, and images for viewing and download.

In **New Brunswick** NB Power undertook an extensive in person and on-line consultation exercise to determine the future of the Mactaquac Dam on the Saint John River.

British Columbia has established FracFocus, an on-line chemical disclosure registry of hydraulic fracturing fluid, joined by **Alberta** and the **National Energy Board**, to improve access to information on chemical use, oil and gas production and potential environmental impacts.



Ensuring effective regulations

The **Government of Canada** is undertaking a comprehensive review of environmental and regulatory processes to help restore credibility and ensure that decisions are based on science, facts, evidence and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples.

Nova Scotia passed legislation that requires mineral exploration companies and prospectors to file and implement community engagement plans.

Saskatchewan has improved the Regulatory Decision Item approval process to ensure regulatory decisions address best practices in regulatory governance.

Alberta is improving pipeline safety regulations, including through the Alberta Energy Regulator, which is integrating the use of risk management activities to make informed decisions, selecting key performance measures and targets, and implementing a risk-based compliance process.

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Renforcer la confiance à l'égard du développement des ressources naturelles du Canada.