



Canadian  
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du Canada

# Canada's Energy Vision:

## A Blueprint for Security, Prosperity and National Unity

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# Introduction

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In the 1950s, Canada accomplished what would seem nearly impossible today — rapidly constructing critical energy infrastructure that would define the nation’s future.

Key projects like the Enbridge Mainline and the TransCanada Pipeline (now TC Canadian Mainline) connected Alberta’s vast oil and gas reserves to domestic and global markets, enabled, in part, by Premier Lougheed’s Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority (AOSTRA) program. Additionally, the rapid development of major hydroelectric dams and plants, particularly in Quebec and British Columbia (e.g., the Manicouagan Hydro Project), expanded Canada’s hydroelectric capacity. Fueled by a combination of private capital, government support, and strong political will, these projects were completed swiftly and efficiently, setting a remarkable precedent for infrastructure development.

These initiatives were not just technical accomplishments; they were strategic, forward-thinking investments that shaped the nation’s energy infrastructure, ensured energy security, fueled economic growth and established Canada as a leading energy exporter.

Fast forward to today and these projects are frequently stalled by regulatory red tape, rising costs and a lack of political will or foresight — challenges that slow progress, erode investor confidence, drive private capital to more favorable jurisdictions, and, in recent years, make these nation-building initiatives appear increasingly unattainable. What was once a symbol of Canada’s ability to act decisively and get things done now stands in sharp contrast to our sluggish pace of modern infrastructure development as well as a decline in economic performance relative to our G20 peers, and diminishing investor confidence and capital flight.

Ensuring economic prosperity for Canada will require all forms of energy. An “all-of-the-above” approach is essential to an energy mix that is affordable, secure and sustainable today and in the future. By championing the comparative advantage of Canada’s conventional resources in the global market, we can increase domestic production, boost sovereignty and secure new resources for cleaner energy investments.

For us to be successful, we need decisive action and strong political leadership.

Canada has always been a resource-exporting nation. Yet, as trade disputes with the United States have intensified, Canada's weaknesses have never been so exposed. The need to diversify trade markets, streamline permitting processes, remove interprovincial trade barriers and eliminate reliance on the U.S. for our energy supply in certain jurisdictions has become more urgent. The current situation highlights the vulnerabilities that arise when Canada fails to create a positive investment climate for the private sector. Without investment, we can't build the infrastructure needed to transport our abundant, world-class resources to global markets and thus both ensure energy security and enhance economic security for Canadians.

Energy is vital to Canada's economic sovereignty and global influence. Canada is one of the world's most responsible energy producers, and the demand for secure, affordable, ethical and reliable energy has never been greater. Allies like Germany and Japan are waiting at Canada's front door.

We have built monumental projects before — when we have declared projects in the national interest. By cutting red tape, encouraging smart public-private partnerships, supporting research and development initiatives, expanding our energy trade beyond the U.S. market and creating an environment of regulatory timeliness and certainty for private investment that defines *how* projects get done not *if* projects get done, Canada can be a global energy and economic leader, for both conventional and emerging resources (e.g., critical minerals and geothermal energy), and at the same time, boost our prosperity.

This document, prepared by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's [Energy Security Council](#), outlines an energy vision for the next Canadian government. It is crucial for Canada to not only dismantle the barriers hindering progress but also return to our nation-building roots, thus realizing our full potential as an energy superpower.

The future of Canada is bright — but only if we act boldly and decisively to embrace our natural resource-based economy, develop national economic resiliency and defend our sovereignty.



# Getting Energy Projects to the Finish Line

Canada stands at a critical juncture. With global energy demands increasing and geopolitical pressures reshaping markets, there is an urgent need to advance major energy projects.

In the face of the current trade war that threatens to undermine the Canadian economy and our sovereignty, there appears to be a building consensus among industry, government and the public that our future depends more than ever on quickly advancing critical projects in service of Canada's ongoing stability and prosperity.

By expediting the approval of new pipelines, liquid natural gas (LNG) terminals, oil sands developments, electricity infrastructure and critical mineral projects, Canada can contribute to global energy security and stability, solidifying our position as a reliable energy partner for allies.

Conventional energy will play a big role in the energy mix for decades to come. As a reliable democratic nation with vast reserves of many highly in demand natural resources, Canada has a unique role in meeting global energy needs while advancing responsible environmental practices.

LNG projects off Canada's West Coast present a significant opportunity for the country to lead in global energy markets, rebalance trade — especially with the U.S. and other international markets — and strengthen our economic standing. To stay competitive, Canada must accelerate our LNG initiatives and create regulatory conditions that attract investment domestically. Projects such as LNG Canada's proposed Phase 2 expansion in Kitimat, British Columbia, and Ksi Lisims LNG's proposed liquified natural gas processing plant and marine terminal, located on the northern end of Pearce Island on the northwest coast of British Columbia, are major opportunities for Canada's energy future.

With both projects nearing final investment decisions, the government must act quickly to provide the necessary regulatory support, streamline approvals, and facilitate timely collaboration with stakeholders to ensure these projects move forward without delays.

Additionally, several LNG projects that were shelved or cancelled — after significant investments in technical assessments and regulatory processes — still hold considerable potential. With the right focus, projects like Saguenay Quebec LNG, Goldboro LNG, Northern Gateway Pipeline, and Energy East Pipeline could be revived. The government should urgently find solutions to resolve past obstacles, simplify approval processes, and work closely with industry and Indigenous communities to re-launch these initiatives, unlocking both economic and environmental benefits for the nation.

Beyond advancing LNG projects and other initiatives nearing final investment decisions, the government should prioritize and expedite the development of other critical nation-building and energy projects. These projects should be designated as priorities based on their strategic value, extending beyond immediate economic returns. Their objectives should be to enhance self-reliance, economic resilience and sovereignty.

Designed to secure Canada's long-term prosperity, these initiatives are essential for navigating diverse political and economic landscapes. Given the increasingly strained relationship with our largest trading partner — an issue that could be viewed as an existential national challenge — it is essential that the government expedites the completion of nation-building energy projects to safeguard Canada's future stability and global standing.







## Recommendations

- **Designate national energy infrastructure corridors** to provide certainty for major projects and facilitate streamlined development.
- **Fast-track approvals for critical energy projects** to enhance energy security and support the rebalancing of trade relationships.
- **Foster greater collaboration between federal and provincial governments** to expedite project approvals, ensuring that environmental protection is upheld while promoting Indigenous partnerships and prosperity.
- **Prioritize investments in LNG infrastructure** to replace more carbon-intensive fuels, such as coal and petroleum-based fuels used in marine transportation, with cleaner alternatives.
- **Establish trade corridors or zones** that connect regions within Canada and promote diversification of international trade relationships.
- **Ensure meaningful Indigenous involvement** by engaging Indigenous communities early on to secure their support and active participation in key projects.
- **Enhance infrastructure access to Canada's northern regions** to support economic development, energy projects and national security initiatives.



# Reforming Canada's Regulatory Approval Process

To realize our full energy potential, we must reform our regulatory processes. Canada's slow and burdensome permitting system is holding back the country's potential.

Key barriers like the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) are stalling vital energy projects. Reforming the IAA is essential to attracting investment, opening new export markets and allowing Canada to think bigger. Streamlining approval processes and ensuring decisions are legally robust will drive growth and innovation.

The need for regulatory reform has become urgent, especially as trade challenges — like the tariffs from the Trump administration — highlight the consequences of inaction. Regulatory changes are critical to creating jobs, attracting private investment and

boosting economic activity. A growing political consensus recognizes the importance of these reforms to securing Canada's energy future and expanding exports to global partners.

Canada's regulatory systems should protect from risk, not from progress. Current processes have become an obstacle, reducing infrastructure, productivity and growth, ultimately leaving Canadians poorer. Reforming these systems will unlock the economic benefits of a robust energy sector.

To regain our energy leadership, Canada must dismantle regulatory barriers and simplify approval processes. This will ensure energy projects can move forward and secure Canada's position as a reliable, responsible energy partner worldwide.





## Recommendations

- Replace the **Impact Assessment Act** with a “one project, one assessment” framework, minimizing complexity and federal interference into matters of provincial jurisdiction.
- Create a **task force** composed of government, industry and Indigenous leaders to address barriers and identify solutions to energy development.
- **Reduce regulatory approval timelines** to a maximum of six months to accelerate project development.
- Declare a **national energy crisis** and designate vital energy and critical minerals projects as being in Canada’s “national interest,” enabling the use of **emergency powers** to expedite regulatory restructuring and streamline project approvals where necessary.





## Balancing Canada's Economy with Environmental Goals

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While environmental protection remains a crucial priority, Canada must focus on economic growth through energy development. A strong, growing economy will provide the resources necessary for innovation and investment in cleaner energy technologies, ensuring sustainability while strengthening Canada's position in the global energy market.

Canada's emissions reduction targets must not come at the expense of the country's economic growth, energy security or the livelihoods of Canadians. A resilient and well-functioning economy is not merely beneficial but essential if we are to effectively address both domestic and global environmental challenges. Canada's energy sector has a pivotal role to play in this effort. The focus should be on doing things in the cleanest, most efficient and technologically-advanced way — whether in the development of critical minerals, oil and gas, geothermal, nuclear power or electricity — so that economic growth supports both environmental sustainability and the wellbeing of Canadians.



# Canada's Global Emission Reduction Opportunity

As a middle power, a trade-driven nation and a country rich in natural resources, Canada has a unique responsibility to play a key role in reducing global emissions.

Emissions do not respect borders and Canada's actions have far-reaching consequences. Becoming an energy superpower should not be viewed merely as a self-serving initiative but as a significant contribution to the global effort to reduce emissions. This can be achieved, in part, through maximizing the export potential of LNG, nuclear power, critical minerals

and geothermal technology, which harness the unique talents of Canada's oil and gas sector for commercial applications and prerequisite drilling innovations. Opening export opportunities that allow the resources we produce, refine and process in Canada to displace more carbon intensive energy sources around the world will have a profound impact on global emissions reduction.

By integrating both economic and environmental priorities into a cohesive strategy, Canada can achieve a balanced, sustainable energy future that benefits our economy, our people and our planet.





## Recommendations

- **Withdraw plans to implement the proposed oil and gas emissions cap** to support a more flexible and growth-oriented approach to energy development.
- **Encourage provinces and territories to establish complementary Indigenous loan guarantee programs** that align with the federal government's initiative, enabling greater Indigenous participation in and benefit from Canada's energy transition.
- **Expand and enhance Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits (ITCs)** to drive investments in clean technologies and low-carbon solutions, accelerating the shift toward a sustainable energy future. This includes expanding eligibility to include all nuclear projects — small modular reactors up to 1,400 megawatts thermal (MWt) and large reactors. Additionally, drilling expenditures associated with commercial geothermal applications should be included within the Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit (CTITC). Including drilling costs in the CTITC would enable deep geothermal projects by lessening economic hurdles for first-of-a-kind projects.
- **Expedite the implementation of the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit**, which has not yet come into force, to ensure timely support for clean power investments across Canada.
- Include intangible property and mine development investments in the Clean Technology Manufacturing Tax Credit to support established mining operations aiming to boost production.
- **Repeal section 74.01(1)(b.2) of the Competition Act (Bill C-59), known as the “greenwashing” provisions**, that led to a more complex regulatory environment, hindered open communication, stifled innovation, created legal uncertainty, increased litigation risks and reduced industry participation in environmental progress.
- **Repeal Bill C-48**, which imposes the West Coast tanker ban, to enable responsible energy exports.



## Conclusion

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Canada's energy sector can be a cornerstone of national prosperity and international influence. With our vast natural resources, advanced technologies and expertise, Canada has the potential to lead in the global energy market.

By streamlining regulations, advancing critical projects and supporting responsible production, Canada can not only strengthen our economy but also solidify our position as a global energy leader. Immediate action is required to harness this potential, ensuring that Canada remains a reliable, secure and affordable provider of energy for generations to come.

For too long, Canada has been a sleeping giant in the global energy landscape, allowing our natural resources to go underutilized while missing opportunities to play a more prominent role in global energy markets. The recent trade tensions, particularly the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration and the fracturing of the Canada-U.S. relationship, have laid bare the vulnerabilities and

limitations of Canada's current approach. Our relationship with the U.S. has fundamentally changed and there's no going back.

This moment should be viewed as a necessary, long-awaited wakeup call — a turning point for Canada to reconnect with our nation-building roots.

Now is the time for Canada to reclaim our competitive advantage, seize the moment, and pursue the bold, visionary actions needed to secure our future. We need to embrace our abundance of natural resources, modernize our energy infrastructure, build corridors to the coasts to get energy to world markets, secure our independence and realize our potential as a global energy powerhouse. This is not just about economic growth — this is about Canada doing great things again, leading the world in clean and responsible energy production and using our influence to contribute to global sustainability and energy security.

Let this be Canada's moment to rise, seize our potential and reassert ourselves on the world stage as an energy superpower, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all Canadians.





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