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### Highlights:

- Canada's oil and natural gas industry can play a pivotal role in solving Canada's productivity and competitiveness challenges, and if properly leveraged, can ensure Canada's standing and influence on the global stage.
- Industry revenues to federal, provincial, and municipal governments across Canada reached over \$45 billion last year – this amount has increased ten-fold since the historically low commodity prices of 2020.
- Looking to the USA, the oil and natural gas industry's relationship between Canada and our neighbour to the south is far more than a simple economic relationship or trading partnership. Combined, Canada and the USA produce about 30 percent of the world's natural gas, and 25 percent of the world's oil.

Axis Connects Leadership Forum  
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## Remarks & Introduction to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

Thank you Nuvyn [Peters]. Good afternoon.

As CEO of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), and on behalf of our member companies, **I'm immensely honoured to be here to introduce one of our most influential Canadians, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper.**

But before I introduce the guest of honour, as the event sponsor, I am delighted to be able to provide some thoughts to frame today's discussion.

**Polls around the nation show that Canadians are worried.**

- They're worried about the rising cost of groceries and gas for their cars, and whether they'll have a job next month.
- They're worried about being able to pay the mortgage or if they'll ever be able to afford a home.
- They're worried about whether our healthcare system will be able to support them when they need it most.

What they're feeling are the impacts of a decade of regulatory complexity and investor uncertainty, declining business investment, lowering productivity, and an economy that is not generating enough opportunities for Canadians to prosper.

Meanwhile our world is growing more and more unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East, and Russia's continued war against Ukraine, underscore the impacts of global instability and show how oil and gas, the economy, and national security are interdependent.

**The good news is that despite a decade of counter-productive energy and environmental policymaking, Canada's economic foundation as a resource-rich nation remains intact.**

Canada's oil and natural gas industry can play a pivotal role in solving Canada's productivity and competitiveness challenges, and if properly leveraged, can ensure Canada's standing and influence on the global stage.

**Here are a few quick data points about Canada's oil and gas industry:**

- Industry revenues to federal, provincial, and municipal governments across Canada reached over \$45 billion last year – this amount has increased ten-fold since the historically low commodity prices of 2020. [1]
- The industry's supply chain stretches across the country, reaching thousands of businesses, supporting about 900,000 jobs in every province – from coast to coast. [2]
- The jobs are high-quality and high-paying. The average wage within the conventional sector pays about \$47 per hour more than the national average. [3]
- The industry is also one of the largest employers of Indigenous peoples in the country, and hundreds of Indigenous-owned businesses make up a significant part of our supply chain. [4]
- For the second year in a row, capital investment from the oil and gas industry is expected to reach about \$40 billion. In addition, producers spend about \$70 billion in annual operating expenditures. [5]
- Oil, natural gas and related petroleum sectors, such as refining and pipelines, together contribute about \$118 billion to Canada's GDP. [6]
- And the oil and gas industry makes up the largest part – or 20 percent – of Canada's trade balance, exporting some \$152 billion worth of product annually. [7]

- Over the past decade, Canada has recorded a cumulative trade deficit of \$130 billion. If it weren't for energy, Canada's trade deficit would have been about one trillion dollars. [8]
- Looking to the USA, the oil and natural gas industry's relationship between Canada and our neighbour to the south is far more than a simple economic relationship or trading partnership. Combined, Canada and the USA produce about 30 percent of the world's natural gas, and 25 percent of the world's oil. [9]

**We're just scratching the surface of our collective continental potential as a global energy superpower.**

The Canada-USA energy partnership is highly correlated to our economic security, to our national security, to our continental security, to western alliance security, and to our global geopolitical security. It underpins our hard and soft power on the world stage. We simply can't be naive about that.

As such, we must do absolutely everything in our power to protect and preserve this energy partnership and grow our global energy superpower position.

Particularly post-American Presidential election, Canada needs to be eyes-wide-open on domestic policy that threatens that partnership and our place in the world.

That means we need to actively work to align Canadian energy and climate policy with the USA - beginning with killing the proposed emissions cap that would not only be devastating to Canada's productivity and competitiveness, but would put energy and national security at significant risk.

We as Canadians simply can not afford to be illogically and ideologically dogmatic in the face of a rapidly evolving bi-national trade context with the USA.

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I mention the vast benefits Canadians receive from their resource endowment because much of what the industry can provide today is due in part to the work of the person I'm about to introduce.

As Prime Minister from 2006 to 2015, Stephen Harper was a relentless advocate for our oil and natural gas sector. In fact, much of the work he did in his years as leader of this country helped us withstand the past decade of commodity pricing and domestic policy volatility.

**During Mr. Harper's leadership, we saw:**

- the rapid building of Canada's oil sands industry,
- the development of the world-class Montney formation,
- and capital investment in the industry reach a historic peak of \$80 billion - twice what it is today.

The projects built in that decade helped drive Canadian production to its current record levels. [10]

**Beyond being a champion for Canada's energy industry, Prime Minister Harper is a renowned economist, politician, and author.**

- He transformed the country's political landscape by uniting the right into the modern Conservative Party of Canada.
- He then went on to win three consecutive national elections, leading Canada through a decade of complex geopolitical and economic challenges.
- His government championed free trade and steered Canada through the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.
- He was among the most vocal opponents of Russia's 2014 invasion of eastern Ukraine and annexation of Crimea - and led the G8 to expel Vladimir Putin's Russia.
- At home, the Harper government cut taxes and made record investments in health care, education, and infrastructure, and left the federal government with a balanced budget.

Outside of politics, Mr. Harper continues to be an influential figure on the world stage, including through his role as Chair of the International Democracy Union, the Friends of Israel Initiative, and the Policy Exchange's Indo-Pacific Commission.

It is my immense pleasure to welcome to the stage a man whose leadership continues to guide Canadians - the Right Honourable Stephen Harper. Joining Mr. Harper for his Fireside chat is **Goldy Hyder, the President & CEO of the Business Council of Canada.** Please join me in welcoming PM Harper and Goldy Hyder.

## References:

- [1] Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). "Economic Impact of Canadian Oil and Gas." <https://www.capp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/The-Economic-Impact-of-Canadian-Oil-and-Gas.pdf>
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- [3] CAPP. *Ibid.*
- [4] Indigenous Resource Network (2023).
- [5] CAPP. *Ibid.*
- [6] Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3610043406>
- [7] Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). "Economic Impact of Canadian Oil and Gas." <https://www.capp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/The-Economic-Impact-of-Canadian-Oil-and-Gas.pdf>
- [8] CAPP. *Ibid.*
- [9] CAPP. *Ibid.* And Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Mapping the U.S.-Canada Energy Relationship." [https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/180507\\_Stanley\\_U.S.CanadaEnergy.pdf](https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/180507_Stanley_U.S.CanadaEnergy.pdf)
- [10] Canada Energy Regulator. "Market Snapshot: Historical Trends in Canadian Oil and Gas Investment." November 23, 2022. <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/market-snapshots/2022/market-snapshot-historical-trends-canadian-oil-gas-investment.html>
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