

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER_2>Hello, everyone, and welcome to Energy Security Cubed, one of the world's foremost energy security podcasts presented by the CGAI, or Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I'm Kelly Ogle, Managing Director here at CGAI.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And I'm Joe Calnan, Vice President of Energy and Calgary Operations at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_2>For today's podcast, we're featuring a discussion with Heather Exner-Pirot, where we had a great conversation about new Canadian major project legislation, whether new energy infrastructure is needed, and how this legislation will affect the process.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But before we dive into that, let's quickly talk with Joe about new stories affecting other global energy security issues this week.

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<v SPEAKER_2>How are things, Joe?

00:00:54.596 --> 00:00:55.736

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm doing great, Kelly.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I got back from Washington, DC last week, and had a really great series of events and kind of a lot of socialization with a lot of people, which was really an interesting time.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'm happy to talk a little bit about that later here.

00:01:10.156 --> 00:01:10.476

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:01:10.476 --> 00:01:12.696

<v SPEAKER_2>Let me put a plug in for Joe.

00:01:13.036 --> 00:01:14.376

<v SPEAKER_2>I attended both of the events.

00:01:14.376 --> 00:01:20.676

<v SPEAKER_2>One was organized by Joe about gas on the continent and

he did a really good job, Joe.

00:01:20.676 --> 00:01:22.516

<v SPEAKER_2>What's in the news?

00:01:22.516 --> 00:01:26.376

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, let's start off actually with our oil price guesses for June.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We can talk a little bit about news in the oil space.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So last month, you guessed \$62 per barrel, and I guessed \$65 per barrel.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Average price for Brent crude, and this is average across the month of May.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So Brent prices when we recorded last month were \$62.26, but the whole month was quite a bit better than the market anticipated.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The EIA's average Brent price across May was \$64.45 per barrel.

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<v SPEAKER_1>As of the recording of this podcast, Brent crude oil prices are now \$67.49 per barrel, well above the 50s that many were predicting.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But we should go into some of our own predictions for the next month.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I like \$65.

00:02:12.536 --> 00:02:15.816

<v SPEAKER_1>You're going to think sticking with \$65 per barrel, Kelly?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:02:16.816 --> 00:02:17.616

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, sounds good.

00:02:17.616 --> 00:02:20.156

<v SPEAKER_1>I think I'm actually going to be a little bit more bullish.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I think I'm going to go with \$67 per barrel average.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I think that there's just some initial indications that there's a floor on prices at around \$62.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Oil prices can't get much lower than that before you start seeing real drop-offs and rig counts in the Permian.

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<v SPEAKER_1>That kind of supports prices at around that level.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Then I think that we're starting to see some indications that oil demand isn't dropping nearly as much as people actually thought it would.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Also there's some initial indications that OPEC supply, which was kind of the big headline over the past little while, big anticipation of real oil supply hitting the market.

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<v SPEAKER_1>There's some indications that quite a bit of that is actually just paper barrels.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It's not actually real physical crude coming out of the market.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I saw that this morning that they didn't meet the increased targets.

00:03:09.476 --> 00:03:11.616

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:03:11.616 --> 00:03:20.056

<v SPEAKER_1>A lot of that is just kind of aligning the quotas with the production that's already happening under the radar in places like Kazakhstan, Iraq and Russia.

00:03:20.676 --> 00:03:26.216

<v SPEAKER_1>So there's a question as to how much oil will actually be oversupplied this year.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Okay.

00:03:27.316 --> 00:03:28.896

<v SPEAKER_2>What's going on?

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<v SPEAKER_1>So before we get into the interview with Heather, I'd like to comment on a couple of stories.

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<v SPEAKER_1>First of all, I'd like to talk about a BC Insider article published at the Global Mail on Tuesday, and the question about the feasibility of new oil pipelines.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So we'll get more into this with the conversation with Heather, but I really want to touch base a little bit on this.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So the article explores the BC NDP government's opposition to a new oil pipeline through British Columbia.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Specifically, their opposition is being framed around the quote unquote economic case for the project, with a few statements from Premier David Eby and Energy Minister Adrian Dix, claiming that oil pipeline proposals that are meant to reach BC's northern coast are not practical.

00:04:15.576 --> 00:04:23.316

<v SPEAKER_1>Specifically, Dix said that there are quote unquote no proponents, which is true right now.

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<v SPEAKER_1>However, we should really explore why there are no current proponents.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I mentioned this in the pod too, Joe, but central to the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, otherwise known as Bill C-48 or the Tanker Ban, this federal statute prohibits any oil export tankers from stopping, loading or unloading at ports in the moratorium area.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The moratorium area covers the entire British Columbia coast north of Vancouver Island, including the deepwater ports of

Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Stuart.

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<v SPEAKER_2>With this tanker ban, any project meant to export oil off the coast of northern British Columbia is impossible.

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<v SPEAKER_2>As a result, it is no surprise that there haven't been any private sector proponents.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This all means that moves need to be made on the political and policy side, namely revoking the tanker ban.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There will be a need for additional pipeline capacity by 27-28.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Many independent energy analysts have pointed to the impending problem of pipeline shortages and the resulting blowouts of the differential because of a lack of egress.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We shouldn't understate the problem with not having enough pipeline capacity.

00:05:32.876 --> 00:05:38.016

<v SPEAKER_1>It means that we can't get the value that our resource really has in international markets.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It means that we need to use much less efficient ways of getting this crude oil to market, and often much more dangerous ways of getting this crude oil to market like rail or truck.

00:05:49.256 --> 00:05:59.456

<v SPEAKER_1>And it means that Albertans, British Columbians and people in Saskatchewan don't get the full market value of the resource and that's a big economic problem.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It's just going to be a big hit to GDP for no good reason in my view.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, because the barrels that are shipping are going to be, and we'll go into this in more detail, but those barrels are going to be replaced by somebody else in the market globally and Canada needs to be part of that.

00:06:17.836 --> 00:06:19.416

<v SPEAKER_2>Hopefully, it'll evolve, Joe.

00:06:19.416 --> 00:06:33.436

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, I'm hopeful that Hodgson and Carney, Ed Alck, and along with the Premieres, Mo Kanu and Smith can bring EB to his senses.

00:06:33.436 --> 00:06:34.336

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:06:34.336 --> 00:06:43.696

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, on a related note, I'd like to make a quick note about a mistake that I made on CBC's Radio West program with Sarah Penton last week.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I patched into the radio program while I was on a train back to Dulles Airport in Washington DC, and I may have misunderstood one of Sarah's questions about the cost of building a pipeline.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So Sarah asked me about the idea of a East-West pipeline.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So the quote is literally talking about an East-West pipeline.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I interpret her question to be about a revival of the Energy East project, which I commented on before in the media.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I was a little bit surprised by the question since we had been talking about a pipeline in the Pacific, but I thought that we had kind of transitioned to a broader discussion of possible projects.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I quoted a common price estimate for the Energy East revival, and this is around 60 to 80 billion dollars.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I've heard it said in many different places.

00:07:31.196 --> 00:07:32.276

<v SPEAKER_1>This isn't my own number.

00:07:32.276 --> 00:07:33.456

<v SPEAKER_1>I should say that.

00:07:33.996 --> 00:07:41.496

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm not typically in the business of trying to estimate the cost of projects, but this is a number that I've heard in several different places.

00:07:42.216 --> 00:07:54.216

<v SPEAKER_1>But 60 to 80 billion dollars is a very expensive project, and the economics of the idea are a little bit tough, especially if we're talking about just a pipeline that's maybe a million barrels per day.

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<v SPEAKER_1>You need like a really big pipeline, multiple pipelines to make 60 to 80 billion dollars work economically.

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<v SPEAKER_1>However, in a post-interview article that was put up on CBC's website, I was surprised to see my quote seemingly being used in the context of a pipeline through British Columbia.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I should really note here that the costs of an oil pipeline to Kitimat or Prince Rupert are extremely speculative, but we could take the cost of COSAGASLINK and the Trans Mountain Expansion as maybe a possible range, maybe 15 to 35 billion dollars.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But I really want to note here that the cost could be substantially lower under a more proactive and better regulatory system with more certainty and better idea of what the timelines are here.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The estimate of 60 to 80 billion dollars, that is an estimate about Energy East under the current regulatory system.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It is not an estimate about a pipeline to the Pacific.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I really want to be clear there because I'm worried that I was misunderstood by anybody who read that article.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'd really like to thank the author of the CBC Online article, Katie DeRosa.

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<v SPEAKER_1>She has agreed to exclude that quote after I flagged my mistake.

00:09:03.876 --> 00:09:06.816

<v SPEAKER_1>I think it really was an honest misunderstanding here.

00:09:07.896 --> 00:09:13.256

<v SPEAKER_1>But I really want to make sure that that doesn't become a common idea that a pipeline to the Pacific would cost that much.

00:09:13.396 --> 00:09:15.096

<v SPEAKER_1>I don't think it would cost that much.

00:09:15.096 --> 00:09:22.696

<v SPEAKER_1>And there's no reason why any big project should cost even \$30 billion.

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<v SPEAKER_1>There's ways that we can dramatically reduce the cost of these projects, which we will talk about in our conversation here with Heather.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Last up, let's quickly talk about a few quick takeaways from the trip to Washington, DC.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Kelly, do you have any initial thoughts as to what your first takeaways are from the natural gas project that I conducted in coordination with the US Chamber of Commerce, but then also the S&P Global Oil Sands Dialogue?

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<v SPEAKER_1>Any initial thoughts?

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<v SPEAKER_2>First of all, Joe, both conferences were held under the Chatham House Rule, so we're not going to talk about anybody that was there.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We're going to talk generally about what was discussed.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think that my overall overarching impression is that you get below the political noise of the Canada-US relationship among politicians and cabinet ministers and secretaries of state, etc.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The bureaucrats that were in the room from both Canada

and the United States are all on the same page about North American energy security.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The prevalence of low-carbon-sent gas from Canada to the US, the interaction of how much gas comes to Canada from the United States, how much oil comes to Canada from the United States, how LNG Canada's project and Canadian gas shipped globally will be really low-emitting.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You've got the process of hydroelectric feeding the power sources at the LNG Canada export facility.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I guess just my best impression is that everybody is on the same page about the necessity of what we're doing, how it's getting done and how cooperative and collaborative both jurisdictions are with one another.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, I completely agree.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It should be stated that the United States needs Canadian oil and natural gas for a long time to come.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We're seeing a situation where the Permian could potentially decline in its production and this could happen pretty soon here.

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<v SPEAKER_1>In that case, the energy security of the United States will be largely backed up by Canadian oil and then also with the big US expansion of LNG, which allows the United States to back up the energy security of Europe, Japan and South Korea.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Canadian and Afragast, we needed to back fill in the United States too.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So to make sure that US customers aren't hurt too much.

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<v SPEAKER_1>US consumers, US households aren't hurt too much by this increase in LNG export.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Then also Canadian projects to the Pacific, the Trans Mountain Expansion, LNG Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_1>These were also discussed as the Canada's contribution to that Trans-Pacific Energy Security, as well as the energy security of places like California and the West Coast, the United States.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So lots of different ways that we can really see joint combined interests in these sorts of energy systems.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Okay, Joel.

00:12:24.196 --> 00:12:24.916

<v SPEAKER_2>Very good.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for bringing those to our attention.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, for sure, Kelly.

00:12:28.516 --> 00:12:29.056

<v SPEAKER_1>Not a problem.

00:12:29.156 --> 00:12:35.756

<v SPEAKER_1>And to our listeners, if you're interested in these updates, please do subscribe to the free Energy Security Farm newsletter on our website.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And you can receive an overview of the story shaping energy security in Canada around the world every Thursday.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So please do subscribe.

00:12:43.376 --> 00:12:43.936

<v SPEAKER_2>Great.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks, Joel.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Let's go over and talk to Heather.

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<v SPEAKER_2>For today's interview, which we recorded on June 10,

2025, we're about to discuss major energy projects in Canada in the context of planned legislation, including the question of whether they are needed, challenges for shortening approval timelines and opportunities for improving the delivery of major projects.

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<v SPEAKER_1>With us to discuss this is Heather Exner-Pirot.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Heather is a Senior Fellow and Director of Energy, Natural Resources and Environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute in Ottawa.

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<v SPEAKER_1>She's also a Special Advisor to the Business Council of Canada and a Research Advisor to the Indigenous Research Network.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Heather, really happy to have you back on the podcast, given the everything that's happening, really sort of happening maybe faster than we've expected in the last several years.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, the energy policy field hasn't been boring lately, that's for sure.

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<v SPEAKER_2>No, so let's get right to it.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And let's start off with an important point to frame the discussion.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The question of whether new energy infrastructure is needed.

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<v SPEAKER_2>A few weeks ago, Federal Heritage Minister Stephen Guibo argued very wrongly that new pipelines were not needed because our current oil transportation infrastructure isn't full, which is really a blatant misrepresentation of more specifically the Trans Mountain Pipeline, which he said was 40% full.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's more than 80% full.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And any pipeline will never be at 100% because of just the continuity of updates and also that you always keep a little bit

of spare room for those that don't have access to it on a contract basis.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But that's me editorializing about my great friend Stephen Guibo.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And then last week, BC Deputy Premier Niki Sharma echoed Guibo in doubting that new infrastructure is needed to get the resource to market.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But given the fact that Bill C-69 is Bill C-48, don't allow bitumen to be transported on the ocean at the BC coast.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So of course, it's not built.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Start off with Heather, what do you think about needing new pipelines?

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<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, we do need new pipelines, like for so many reasons.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So let's go through kind of the economic, political and geopolitical reasons why we need oil pipelines.

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<v SPEAKER_3>First is, you know, just the logistics of it, is that we are going to run out of capacity.

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<v SPEAKER_3>This is very foreseeable.

00:15:14.456 --> 00:15:16.316

<v SPEAKER_3>The sector knows it.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Probably will run out.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You mentioned, you know, TransMountain is already 80% full.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Actually, the CEO said in the cold mail last week, it was

at 90% full.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And that's just in a year.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Let's appreciate the fact that it's only been running for a year and it's already, you know, very meaningfully utilized.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so we know that by, you know, conservatively, I think, by early 2027, we will run out of pipeline egress in Canada again.

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<v SPEAKER_3>What happens when that happens?

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<v SPEAKER_3>You get the big blowout in the differentials between the price of West Texas intermediate, benchmark crude and the Western Canada select benchmark crude.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And then we just give away money, you know, to our buyers who have us over a barrel.

00:15:55.856 --> 00:16:03.516

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we don't want to ever reach 100%, no cap, no capacity, no egress left, because then you're constrained.

00:16:03.516 --> 00:16:05.976

<v SPEAKER_3>And so what are our options?

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<v SPEAKER_3>There are a few short-term options.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So one is to expand the Enbridge mainline, and that's going, of course, south to the United States.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And they're likely to do it.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And they're working on that, right?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, so that's very likely to happen.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And if that happens and we get a couple hundred thousand barrels by there, we will run out of capacity in 2028.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so it buys us time, but it's not, it's a band-aid, you know, to this bigger solution.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Another option is to expand Transmountain, which the CEO Transmountain has been saying clearly and is a great idea.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You could add 200,000 to 300,000 barrels to Transmountain.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Again, you know, it's helping the pipeline capacity and some undoing some bottlenecks and diluents and that kind of thing.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So that would be great.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Maybe that would get us to 2029.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But we know it's 2025 now.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We think, you know, if you started today, you might get a Northern Gateway kind of pipeline in four years, maybe longer than that.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So we just see this train coming down the tracks that we will run out of egress.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We do need, if we want to grow, we need to expand.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so we need it.

00:17:08.136 --> 00:17:13.416

<v SPEAKER_3>Now you guys can interject, but there's two other great reasons why we need this pipeline.

00:17:13.416 --> 00:17:15.336

<v SPEAKER_3>One is obviously economic.

00:17:15.336 --> 00:17:17.916

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we do have this GDP per capita crisis.

00:17:17.916 --> 00:17:19.796

<v SPEAKER_3>We do have a productivity crisis.

00:17:19.796 --> 00:17:31.016

<v SPEAKER_3>And there isn't, no economist will say otherwise, there isn't another project in Canada that will grow the GDP, that will grow productivity, that will increase exports and investments like a bitumen pipeline.

00:17:31.016 --> 00:17:31.976

<v SPEAKER_3>There just isn't.

00:17:32.136 --> 00:17:40.576

<v SPEAKER_3>That is the gold standard of what you can do in Canada, where you actually see it in our GDP numbers, where it will actually show up a single project.

00:17:40.576 --> 00:17:46.776

<v SPEAKER_3>So TransMound, for example, added a quarter of a percentage to GDP of a G7 country.

00:17:47.376 --> 00:17:50.996

<v SPEAKER_3>So that is a low-hanging fruit, but then geopolitically.

00:17:50.996 --> 00:17:54.516

<v SPEAKER_3>And we all know that the United States' shale is peaking.

00:17:54.516 --> 00:17:57.396

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, it used to be taboo to say it.

00:17:57.396 --> 00:18:00.916

<v SPEAKER_3>Now I think it's pretty mainstream to acknowledge that it's happening.

00:18:01.296 --> 00:18:03.336

<v SPEAKER_3>We are seeing production.

00:18:03.336 --> 00:18:07.576

<v SPEAKER_3>You are certainly seeing rigs drop off like flies, and we'll start to see production too.

00:18:07.576 --> 00:18:12.076

<v SPEAKER_3>On the other side of the Atlantic, Norway's oil and gas production is also peaking.

00:18:12.076 --> 00:18:15.496

<v SPEAKER_3>And the reserve life that the United States and Norway

have is quite low.

00:18:15.496 --> 00:18:22.556

<v SPEAKER_3>So the only democracy that has large reserves that can meaningfully grow, that can take up that slack, is Canada.

00:18:22.556 --> 00:18:30.336

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we absolutely need to, you know, not again give more market share to OPEC, but make sure that democracies are retaining that global market share.

00:18:30.476 --> 00:18:33.836

<v SPEAKER_3>And again, I don't care if it's 80 million or 120 million barrels.

00:18:33.836 --> 00:18:37.616

<v SPEAKER_3>You need democracies to have a meaningful portion of that.

00:18:37.616 --> 00:18:39.596

<v SPEAKER_3>And in the future, that's got to be Canada.

00:18:39.596 --> 00:18:42.136

<v SPEAKER_3>So we have to have another pipeline.

00:18:42.136 --> 00:18:43.696

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, yeah, I completely agree.

00:18:43.696 --> 00:18:55.476

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think that, like you said, even even with current optimizations of the oil sands will be very quickly coming to the limits of what our current capacity can hold.

00:18:55.556 --> 00:19:01.116

<v SPEAKER_1>And it's, you know, 2027, 2028 with some some improvements to Enbridge Mainline.

00:19:01.116 --> 00:19:09.856

<v SPEAKER_1>But it seems as though every year the expectations for how far Canadian oil production can grow get higher.

00:19:09.856 --> 00:19:14.976

<v SPEAKER_1>And we're not talking a minor economic hit from these differential blowouts.

00:19:14.976 --> 00:19:19.236

<v SPEAKER_1>We're talking about, you know, tens of billions of dollars.

00:19:19.236 --> 00:19:31.296

<v SPEAKER_1>You know, over the course of year, I believe that if you if you have sustained, you know, like 30, 40 dollars differentials like we saw in 2018, 2019, like you're to retire like 100 billion dollars.

00:19:31.516 --> 00:19:32.356
<v SPEAKER_1>Maybe not quite that.

00:19:32.356 --> 00:19:32.976
<v SPEAKER_1>It was, though.

00:19:32.976 --> 00:19:33.836
<v SPEAKER_3>Frank McKenna.

00:19:33.836 --> 00:19:36.296
<v SPEAKER_3>Frank McKenna said 117 billion.

00:19:36.296 --> 00:19:40.456
<v SPEAKER_3>That's what he calculated that lack of egress back in back in 2018.

00:19:40.456 --> 00:19:42.276
<v SPEAKER_3>And he's a liberal, you know.

00:19:42.276 --> 00:19:43.816
<v SPEAKER_3>Sure, let's take it from us.

00:19:43.816 --> 00:19:50.096
<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, it's a huge economic hit that we're toying with by not being proactive here with our infrastructure.

00:19:51.696 --> 00:19:58.456
<v SPEAKER_1>So, but thankfully, there are some indications now that we are trying to be more proactive with our infrastructure.

00:19:58.456 --> 00:20:05.576
<v SPEAKER_1>I'm not sure if we're completely aligned, the federal government is completely aligned with how big of a risk this is to the Canadian economy.

00:20:05.576 --> 00:20:16.196
<v SPEAKER_1>But we should really touch on this big piece of news, which is Bill C5, which was tabled last week with the House of Commons.

00:20:16.196 --> 00:20:19.196
<v SPEAKER_1>And this bill includes the Building Canada Act.

00:20:20.036 --> 00:20:31.396
<v SPEAKER_1>Now, the Building Canada Act proposes the creation of a

list of projects, which would be determined by the Canadian federal government to be quote-unquote, in the national interest.

00:20:31.396 --> 00:20:38.956

<v SPEAKER_1>So, Heather, maybe this is more of a discussion point than, you know, a question, because so many things are really unclear.

00:20:38.956 --> 00:20:46.616

<v SPEAKER_1>But how much do you think being on this list would really improve the prospects of a project succeeding?

00:20:46.616 --> 00:20:47.856

<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, a lot.

00:20:47.896 --> 00:20:54.196

<v SPEAKER_3>But, you know, if you have the will and the power of the federal government behind you, you can get just about anything built.

00:20:54.196 --> 00:20:57.556

<v SPEAKER_3>And I say that because they got Trans Mountain built, you know what I mean?

00:20:57.956 --> 00:21:03.096

<v SPEAKER_3>And it's all about, like, you know, just, you know, you know, money that the market would never spend.

00:21:03.096 --> 00:21:10.316

<v SPEAKER_3>And doing and going above and beyond on duty to consult and accommodate, you know, that again, the market would probably not be able to do.

00:21:10.316 --> 00:21:20.716

<v SPEAKER_3>So yes, having the federal government backing your project will certainly get it through, you know, but then again, it's which projects will they back, you know, is the question we're all wondering.

00:21:22.316 --> 00:21:28.756

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, because it's, the, I guess that's, it really is in flux.

00:21:28.756 --> 00:21:42.176

<v SPEAKER_2>Can you give any indication of, or have you, do you understand, is there any understanding of where are these bigger, like, you know, the comment about, and we're going to get to decarbonization of oil in a minute, but is there a pecking order?

00:21:43.636 --> 00:21:48.616

<v SPEAKER_2>Do you know, Heather, or is there anything that we know that we don't know?

00:21:48.616 --> 00:21:52.836

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, so I can say what, you know, obviously I've been paying close attention, as have you.

00:21:53.176 --> 00:22:06.616

<v SPEAKER_3>So there are criteria in C5, you know, so it's enhancing sovereignty, enhancing the economy or other benefits, having Indigenous partnership, expanding our trade diversity.

00:22:06.616 --> 00:22:07.716

<v SPEAKER_3>So we kind of know where it's going.

00:22:07.716 --> 00:22:10.556

<v SPEAKER_3>And then you know what the premiers themselves have submitted.

00:22:11.016 --> 00:22:18.936

<v SPEAKER_3>And we know that so far the process was the federal government asking the provinces and the territories to submit some favourite projects.

00:22:18.936 --> 00:22:22.576

<v SPEAKER_3>We can get into, you know, the wisdom of that particular approach.

00:22:22.576 --> 00:22:35.356

<v SPEAKER_3>But the ones that have got keep coming up, you know, so Churchill, obviously the energy corridor, port to port to port in the west from the Hudson Bay, maybe to the Arctic and to BC's coast.

00:22:35.356 --> 00:22:37.376

<v SPEAKER_3>We don't know what kind of energy.

00:22:37.376 --> 00:22:38.896

<v SPEAKER_3>We don't know what the business case is.

00:22:39.036 --> 00:22:41.556

<v SPEAKER_3>But the provinces seem keen on this.

00:22:41.556 --> 00:22:49.016

<v SPEAKER_3>The Grays Bay, part of that, I think, Grays Bay Port and Road all the way up to Nunavut, which would give us a port on the Western Arctic for the first time.

00:22:49.016 --> 00:22:51.396

<v SPEAKER_3>The Ring of Fire often gets brought up.

00:22:51.396 --> 00:22:56.376

<v SPEAKER_3>That's probably, you know, the one that I think most

people agree we would like to see built.

00:22:56.376 --> 00:22:59.456

<v SPEAKER_3>Certainly Doug Ford would like to see it.

00:22:59.456 --> 00:23:04.596

<v SPEAKER_3>And then maybe some uranium mines, I think, on top of Saskatchewan's list, would probably be some uranium mines.

00:23:04.596 --> 00:23:06.336

<v SPEAKER_3>And that's building new projects.

00:23:06.336 --> 00:23:09.216

<v SPEAKER_3>But obviously, and this is, you know, we're just getting to the discussion.

00:23:09.216 --> 00:23:10.176

<v SPEAKER_3>That's fine and good.

00:23:10.176 --> 00:23:17.756

<v SPEAKER_3>Oh yeah, and West Wind, you know, so, you know, using Nova Scotia offshore wind to tap into the Canadian grid.

00:23:17.756 --> 00:23:30.116

<v SPEAKER_3>But you guys know, and I know, that there are, you know, probably over a hundred projects in the regulatory queue right now, if you looked at all the federal, provincial and territorial processes.

00:23:30.116 --> 00:23:35.636

<v SPEAKER_3>And those are all proponent-driven, and those presumably, you know, have money behind them.

00:23:35.636 --> 00:23:41.416

<v SPEAKER_3>And if you ask me, you know, there's a difference between a nation-building project and a project in the national interest.

00:23:41.416 --> 00:23:53.996

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think any project that increases our GDP, that increases our productivity, that increases, you know, our revenues and the tax take, all of those projects are probably projects in the national interest.

00:23:53.996 --> 00:24:02.296

<v SPEAKER_3>So to just choose three or four or whatever the number will be, will not be solving our GDP and our productivity crisis.

00:24:02.796 --> 00:24:06.556

<v SPEAKER_2>But I go back to the point about what you made early.

00:24:06.716 --> 00:24:11.556

<v SPEAKER_2>And we can attest to this because Joe and I took the TransMountain folks to Ontario.

00:24:11.556 --> 00:24:18.076

<v SPEAKER_2>The GDP on a per capita basis of a bitumen pipeline, nothing else is even close to comparing to that.

00:24:18.076 --> 00:24:24.076

<v SPEAKER_2>Like for instance, TransMountain will probably print 2 billion of EBITDA for 2025.

00:24:25.296 --> 00:24:27.756

<v SPEAKER_2>They only have 750 employees in total.

00:24:28.376 --> 00:24:41.096

<v SPEAKER_2>Like the inverse variation of that amount of tax take, as you very eloquently stated, relative to how many people have to do it, is astronomic.

00:24:41.096 --> 00:24:43.196

<v SPEAKER_2>Nothing else can compare to this.

00:24:43.196 --> 00:24:44.016

<v SPEAKER_3>No, and we know that.

00:24:44.436 --> 00:24:49.976

<v SPEAKER_3>And we've all seen the data of labour productivity per hour of various sectors in the country.

00:24:50.036 --> 00:24:52.416

<v SPEAKER_3>Obviously, natural resources comes out on top.

00:24:52.416 --> 00:24:56.436

<v SPEAKER_3>Oil comes above mining and oil sands comes above conventional oil.

00:24:56.436 --> 00:25:10.376

<v SPEAKER_3>And depending on the price, a bitumen, it's been as high as \$1,000 per hour of labour worked, is what an oil sands worker contributes to the GDP, whereas the Canadian average is about \$55, \$60.

00:25:10.376 --> 00:25:13.136

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, it's not even, it shouldn't be a second question.

00:25:14.996 --> 00:25:31.956

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, no, and just to touch on something you said, though, there, Heather, we're the concern about all of these projects, all of these really important projects that we have in the cues for, like across the country and in the territories, that are private

proponent driven.

00:25:31.956 --> 00:25:41.816

<v SPEAKER_1>And I feel like this is something that's been coming up increasingly, with increasing frequency now, is a question about why these projects are being put on this list.

00:25:41.816 --> 00:26:03.996

<v SPEAKER_1>Apparently, I don't think it's mandatory that they're proposed by provinces, but it seems as though the phrasing of all the guidance around this is indicating that these are going to be provincially led projects and provincially proposed projects, and not necessarily proposed by the private sector proponents who would hypothetically be actually building them.

00:26:04.156 --> 00:26:11.676

<v SPEAKER_1>I guess, yeah, just to kind of build on that, do you think we're going to see an impact on this?

00:26:11.816 --> 00:26:20.876

<v SPEAKER_1>Like, you know, it's going to be more political, politically favoured projects rather than really economically favoured projects that are going to be proposed here?

00:26:20.876 --> 00:26:30.256

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, well, I'm prepared to give Hodgson and Carney the benefit of the doubt, because we all have to agree, they've said all the right things, they've only been in power for six weeks.

00:26:30.256 --> 00:26:38.696

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, if you had said a year ago that a Liberal Prime Minister would do and say all these things, I would never have believed you, but I would have been delighted if someone had said this would happen.

00:26:38.696 --> 00:26:40.156

<v SPEAKER_3>So I want to give them the benefit of the doubt.

00:26:40.676 --> 00:26:52.596

<v SPEAKER_3>And there is some, maybe some, you know, maybe it makes sense on the level of, they have come out strong to give investors confidence that this is a different government that we do want to build faster.

00:26:52.596 --> 00:26:56.756

<v SPEAKER_3>And so I'm willing to, you know, tolerate this honeymoon period and this approach.

00:26:56.756 --> 00:27:06.236

<v SPEAKER_3>But a lot of the projects that have come up seem to me to

be ones that require subsidies, that require political support.

00:27:06.236 --> 00:27:17.336

<v SPEAKER_3>And we all know, and governments are all like this, but in particular, little liberal governments like to choose winners and losers and like to use public funding to help out their winners.

00:27:17.336 --> 00:27:27.576

<v SPEAKER_3>When, like I say, there are dozens, probably hundreds of projects, you know, that the private sector would advance if the regulatory system was easier, if it was simpler for them to do.

00:27:27.576 --> 00:27:33.136

<v SPEAKER_3>So why we're making it easier for projects that probably require public dollars to support it.

00:27:33.136 --> 00:27:41.756

<v SPEAKER_3>The ones I listed, Churchill, Grays Bay, Wind West, all of those would require public support to get off the ground.

00:27:41.756 --> 00:27:50.756

<v SPEAKER_3>When, again, there are, you know, at the theatre called Projects of Natural Interest or PONES, and I say, let's choose the Stallions, you know, the ones that don't require...

00:27:50.756 --> 00:27:51.136

<v SPEAKER_2>I like it.

00:27:51.136 --> 00:27:54.056

<v SPEAKER_3>I like the Northern Gateway, you know, Northern Gateway is a stallion.

00:27:54.056 --> 00:28:00.296

<v SPEAKER_3>All the LNG projects right now, Silasum, PRGT, LNG Canada Phase 2, those are stallions.

00:28:00.296 --> 00:28:10.016

<v SPEAKER_3>Those are things that we're not asking for handouts, not asking for subsidies, and a finance for an Indigenous nation to participate is not a subsidy, but that's what they're counting.

00:28:10.016 --> 00:28:13.816

<v SPEAKER_3>And get those ones going and make it easy for those ones to get through.

00:28:13.816 --> 00:28:20.856

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, it's interesting the rhetoric and the narrative around it and the definitions, as you just pointed out.

00:28:20.856 --> 00:28:26.076

<v SPEAKER_2>And those that are opposed, just, you know, they just cram everything into a subsidy.

00:28:26.076 --> 00:28:43.396

<v SPEAKER_2>That said, while the text of the bill itself doesn't make it mandatory, major project proposals seem to be restricted, as Joe has just mentioned, to provincial and territorial governments and as well as Indigenous communities, rather than through private sector companies.

00:28:43.396 --> 00:28:52.436

<v SPEAKER_2>You've stated a little bit about this, Heather, but could you go into a little more detail about what kind of an effect this would have on the projects as they're proposed?

00:28:52.476 --> 00:29:18.816

<v SPEAKER_2>Because I'm thinking, as you're speaking there, of a few little massive things, like CN rail interconnectors between the ring of fire and their main line, for instance, or a new corridor, or from Uranium City to wherever that corridor is to ship in assets and material for chemical to ship out Uranium.

00:29:18.816 --> 00:29:23.816

<v SPEAKER_2>These are things that aren't so much in the news, but are really, really crucial to the discussion.

00:29:23.816 --> 00:29:24.976

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:29:24.976 --> 00:29:29.876

<v SPEAKER_3>There's obviously a role for governments to play in building infrastructure.

00:29:29.876 --> 00:29:31.636

<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think anyone would argue that.

00:29:33.496 --> 00:29:34.616

<v SPEAKER_3>A responsibility even.

00:29:34.616 --> 00:29:38.076

<v SPEAKER_3>There's responsibility for them to build infrastructure so the rest of us can thrive.

00:29:38.076 --> 00:29:45.016

<v SPEAKER_3>I have been thinking, what nation building projects have we had as a country, and have there any been recently?

00:29:45.016 --> 00:29:49.936

<v SPEAKER_3>You can obviously point to the National Railway, Trans-Canada Highway, the St.

00:29:49.936 --> 00:29:54.956

<v SPEAKER_3>Lawrence Seaway, and those all had legislation attached to them.

00:29:54.956 --> 00:30:04.996

<v SPEAKER_3>The federal government, for example, in the case of the railway, actually took jurisdiction over the lands through BC upon the railway was built, and then gave it back later.

00:30:04.996 --> 00:30:12.676

<v SPEAKER_3>But can we think of any in the last, I'm going to say, three or four decades of projects that we would consider nation building projects?

00:30:12.676 --> 00:30:15.876

<v SPEAKER_3>So there's a big difference between nation building and a project in the national interest.

00:30:15.876 --> 00:30:20.276

<v SPEAKER_3>So maybe we're just mature enough as a country that there aren't those big projects.

00:30:20.336 --> 00:30:25.536

<v SPEAKER_3>But when we talk about an energy corridor, I mean, there is a railway from Vancouver to Hudson Bay.

00:30:25.536 --> 00:30:31.136

<v SPEAKER_3>You could ship something, but why would you ever ship something from Vancouver to Churchill and put it back on a boat?

00:30:31.136 --> 00:30:33.236

<v SPEAKER_3>I don't know.

00:30:34.076 --> 00:30:49.096

<v SPEAKER_3>So again, I'm willing to give the benefit of doubt, but then again, when the lists come out and the rationale comes out for why someone got on the list and some didn't, I'm sure there's going to be lots of fodder for us to criticize kind of the thinking behind it.

00:30:50.556 --> 00:30:56.696

<v SPEAKER_3>But I'll wait, I'll reserve my judgment until we see what kind of projects they're picking and what kind of proponent.

00:30:56.696 --> 00:31:02.576

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, Hodson and Carney, at least, have a lot of private sector experience.

00:31:02.576 --> 00:31:11.116

<v SPEAKER_3>And I would hope that in these short two months of being

politicians, that they haven't forgotten what makes a project successful and what the market needs to see.

00:31:11.116 --> 00:31:24.656

<v SPEAKER_2>So I guess just putting this, pulling this all together and listening to provincial leaders and the federal government, Hodson and Carney more particularly, I guess the...

00:31:24.656 --> 00:31:42.376

<v SPEAKER_2>And listening to the Premier of Alberta this morning on a podcast, the corridor from, say, Churchill to Port-au-Prince-Rupert seems to me to be what they're outlining.

00:31:42.376 --> 00:31:43.296

<v SPEAKER_2>Would you agree with that?

00:31:44.496 --> 00:31:44.896

<v SPEAKER_3>I would.

00:31:44.896 --> 00:31:49.136

<v SPEAKER_3>I would agree, you know, I mean, that's what Premier Mo said that exactly.

00:31:49.136 --> 00:31:56.396

<v SPEAKER_3>To the other point, Kelly, Premier Canoe has said, and I saw this this week, that they would consider issuing a request for proposals in RFP.

00:31:56.396 --> 00:32:01.816

<v SPEAKER_3>If proponents don't come forward, then maybe governments have to issue it on RFP.

00:32:01.816 --> 00:32:06.116

<v SPEAKER_3>So I'm not exactly sure the wisdom of that bit, but that's what's been proposed.

00:32:06.116 --> 00:32:07.016

<v SPEAKER_2>And then I hear...

00:32:07.016 --> 00:32:08.876

<v SPEAKER_2>Sorry, Joe, just one more point about that.

00:32:08.876 --> 00:32:17.376

<v SPEAKER_2>Then I see this morning where Dibo is contemplating national parks on the west coast of Hudson Bay right on the route.

00:32:17.376 --> 00:32:17.956

<v SPEAKER_2>Like I...

00:32:17.956 --> 00:32:18.876

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, it's...

00:32:19.036 --> 00:32:23.876

<v SPEAKER_2>You take a couple steps forward and then you get kneecapped by...

00:32:23.876 --> 00:32:36.136

<v SPEAKER_2>But just the rhetoric then that comes around that doesn't seem to me to be, not only not in the national interest, but it certainly speaks to negative tenation building.

00:32:36.136 --> 00:32:36.416

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:32:36.416 --> 00:32:38.036

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, there's definitely competing goals.

00:32:39.076 --> 00:32:52.436

<v SPEAKER_3>And Kelly, and some of your listeners may know, I mean, there's been a protracted effort for at least a decade to create reserves, protected lands on the BC coast, where you would put a pipeline.

00:32:52.436 --> 00:33:03.976

<v SPEAKER_3>In fact, and you know, the government, writing a paper about this now, the government has provided half a billion dollars to buy a protected areas and they've leveraged that for another billion dollars in private money to buy protected areas.

00:33:03.976 --> 00:33:06.636

<v SPEAKER_3>And quite a bit of that is on the west side of BC.

00:33:07.936 --> 00:33:11.256

<v SPEAKER_3>Anyway, so, so Daniel Smith isn't crazy on this one.

00:33:11.256 --> 00:33:15.536

<v SPEAKER_3>There is, you know, there is a strategy, I think, but also protected areas aren't bad.

00:33:15.536 --> 00:33:19.116

<v SPEAKER_3>So you hate to be like, oh, you shouldn't protect any of BC.

00:33:19.116 --> 00:33:23.276

<v SPEAKER_3>Obviously, there's some, you know, beautiful coastline and some endangered species there.

00:33:23.276 --> 00:33:27.676

<v SPEAKER_3>But, but are we good in this country of finding that balance?

00:33:27.676 --> 00:33:29.996

<v SPEAKER_3>We haven't been good so far and it's been very polarized.

00:33:29.996 --> 00:33:31.416

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think you both agree.

00:33:31.416 --> 00:33:34.496

<v SPEAKER_3>The thing we want the most is that pipelines aren't in the news every day.

00:33:34.816 --> 00:33:36.616

<v SPEAKER_3>That it's just a normal part of doing business.

00:33:36.616 --> 00:33:38.656

<v SPEAKER_3>It's a normal thing that a country does.

00:33:38.656 --> 00:33:42.256

<v SPEAKER_3>And it isn't the wedge issue that we talk about all day on AXE.

00:33:42.256 --> 00:33:43.056

<v SPEAKER_2>There you go.

00:33:43.056 --> 00:33:53.036

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, no, it's, it's, and we could get a bit into, into the question of kind of how Alberta's resource has been sort of kettled in more and more.

00:33:53.036 --> 00:34:07.876

<v SPEAKER_1>And, and how it seemed as though there was a moment for a little while that, that would, we would be talking about increasing our energy security ties to Europe and Asia, trying to talk about how to diversify away from the United States.

00:34:07.876 --> 00:34:21.876

<v SPEAKER_1>But it's increasingly looking as though if this is the direction that things are, are going in, then it'll be very difficult to say that any more oil will be exported off the Western East Coast.

00:34:21.876 --> 00:34:24.196

<v SPEAKER_1>Marvel will be going down to the United States for sure.

00:34:24.196 --> 00:34:32.536

<v SPEAKER_1>And that would be expansion of the Enbridge main line, maybe even revival of certain parts of Keystone, doing stuff on that.

00:34:32.536 --> 00:34:41.076

<v SPEAKER_1>I think just the economics of a differential blowout will mean that it'll become very painfully obvious that new pipeline

capacity is needed.

00:34:41.076 --> 00:34:45.196

<v SPEAKER_1>And this pipeline capacity will be down to the United States if it can't be out to Asia.

00:34:45.796 --> 00:34:48.096

<v SPEAKER_1>I just wanted to quickly say that.

00:34:48.096 --> 00:34:48.516

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:34:48.516 --> 00:34:49.316

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I just jumped in.

00:34:49.316 --> 00:34:55.296

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, you know, the energy literacy of the average Canadian has gone up, you know, a thousand percent in the last six months.

00:34:55.716 --> 00:35:00.536

<v SPEAKER_3>So people understand why we need pipelines, what it means to our economy, who's the buyer.

00:35:00.536 --> 00:35:07.176

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think, you know, again, American production is peaking, will start to decline, however slowly or quickly.

00:35:07.176 --> 00:35:13.056

<v SPEAKER_3>And 70 percent of the American refinery complex, which is the biggest refinery complex in the world, is optimized for heavy.

00:35:13.056 --> 00:35:17.436

<v SPEAKER_3>So we're obviously not going to not ship oil, you know, to the United States.

00:35:17.436 --> 00:35:19.076

<v SPEAKER_3>And come on, like we're in NORAD with them.

00:35:19.076 --> 00:35:22.676

<v SPEAKER_3>We're not at the point where we are totally disentangling our energy security.

00:35:22.796 --> 00:35:29.896

<v SPEAKER_3>But we have learned the lesson, the very hard way, that when you're dependent on a single country and you have that monopsony, you are very vulnerable.

00:35:30.676 --> 00:35:34.576

<v SPEAKER_3>So the business case just makes too much sense to do

Northern Gateway.

00:35:34.576 --> 00:35:37.376

<v SPEAKER_3>And on the East Coast, Joe, I know I don't talk about it more.

00:35:37.376 --> 00:35:40.696

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, Newfoundland has tremendous offshore oil and gas.

00:35:40.696 --> 00:35:43.376

<v SPEAKER_3>They just had their big conference last week.

00:35:43.376 --> 00:35:46.856

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, some more feasibility studies showing where there are some more deposits.

00:35:46.856 --> 00:35:56.196

<v SPEAKER_3>For me, you know, if you want to get off eastern dependence on Saudi oil or American oil, we'll start with your own oil and gas, of which you have quite a bit.

00:35:56.196 --> 00:36:01.896

<v SPEAKER_3>And if we want to be shipping stuff east to Europe, or at least have that redundancy, that ability to do so.

00:36:01.896 --> 00:36:13.396

<v SPEAKER_3>Again, you're doing a lot better if you're going from Newfoundland or offshore Nova Scotia, than building that, you know, \$60 billion energy pipeline across the whole country.

00:36:13.396 --> 00:36:17.216

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I'll just make a small editorial comment about that, because I'm an old guy.

00:36:17.216 --> 00:36:28.136

<v SPEAKER_2>But, you know, back 50 or 40 years ago, you know, I was never a big fan of Petro Canada, but without Petro Canada, the initial exploration of offshore Newfoundland never happens.

00:36:28.136 --> 00:36:35.336

<v SPEAKER_2>The other players were there, but Petro Canada stayed in the game after the Ranger disaster, etc.

00:36:35.336 --> 00:36:40.116

<v SPEAKER_2>So, yes, and this comes right back to how this discussion has been framed.

00:36:40.116 --> 00:36:44.556

<v SPEAKER_2>There is a point of time where the federal government has

to be the partner.

00:36:44.556 --> 00:36:45.656

<v SPEAKER_2>I look at the oil sands.

00:36:45.656 --> 00:36:53.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Without the government of Ontario, Bill Davis and federal government, the oil sands would not have continued in the early 70s.

00:36:53.636 --> 00:36:55.876

<v SPEAKER_2>Premier Law, he could not have done it on his own.

00:36:55.876 --> 00:37:01.036

<v SPEAKER_2>So, these are, as you say, this is the national interest.

00:37:01.036 --> 00:37:02.516

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, agreed.

00:37:02.516 --> 00:37:03.496

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, absolutely.

00:37:03.496 --> 00:37:04.456

<v SPEAKER_2>I'll stop there for a minute.

00:37:04.816 --> 00:37:05.496

<v SPEAKER_2>Go ahead.

00:37:05.496 --> 00:37:17.836

<v SPEAKER_1>So, but moving away from this list question, I think, you know, like there's still going to be much discussion on about what projects should be on this list, but we should also talk about the ways in which the list kind of helps out as well.

00:37:18.416 --> 00:37:23.596

<v SPEAKER_1>And through that, we should touch on the proposed Federal Major Projects Office.

00:37:23.596 --> 00:37:26.576

<v SPEAKER_1>So, there's not a huge amount of details on this.

00:37:26.576 --> 00:37:31.756

<v SPEAKER_1>I've talked a little bit with the people at the existing regulatory bodies.

00:37:31.756 --> 00:37:38.176

<v SPEAKER_1>They're all kind of in wait-and-see mode to see how they fit in with this entire idea.

00:37:38.176 --> 00:37:45.856

<v SPEAKER_1>But this new body is meant to be a quote unquote one-stop

shop for projects on the national interest list.

00:37:45.916 --> 00:37:49.596

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think that this is going to be exclusively for projects on the national interest list.

00:37:49.596 --> 00:37:54.096

<v SPEAKER_1>I could be wrong, but I believe that this is reserved for those projects.

00:37:54.096 --> 00:38:05.856

<v SPEAKER_1>But this major projects office is meant to enable consultation with Indigenous communities, including discussion of mitigation measures and Indigenous equity ownership.

00:38:05.856 --> 00:38:15.096

<v SPEAKER_1>And the purpose of this seems to be to try to speed up decisions down to just two years for all the regulatory side of things.

00:38:15.136 --> 00:38:26.516

<v SPEAKER_1>So I'm not 100% sure on what exactly it's going to do, what role it plays in conjunction with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, with the Canada Energy Regulator, with provincial regulators and permits.

00:38:26.516 --> 00:38:29.236

<v SPEAKER_1>It's all kind of like amorphous right now.

00:38:29.236 --> 00:38:33.436

<v SPEAKER_1>But I'd like to really drill down into the Indigenous side of things here, Heather.

00:38:33.436 --> 00:38:37.016

<v SPEAKER_1>And I would love to get your opinions on the broader regulatory piece.

00:38:37.016 --> 00:38:42.916

<v SPEAKER_1>But where it comes to Indigenous consultation, I think it's really important to talk a little bit about this.

00:38:43.036 --> 00:38:47.636

<v SPEAKER_1>So, consultation is a complex process.

00:38:47.636 --> 00:38:57.236

<v SPEAKER_1>And Heather, do you really know whether it's really possible to shorten meaningful consultation to just two years?

00:38:57.236 --> 00:38:57.676

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:38:57.676 --> 00:39:01.676

<v SPEAKER_3>So just quickly on the Federal Major Projects Office, I do think that's a good idea.

00:39:01.676 --> 00:39:08.556

<v SPEAKER_3>I think for a lot of projects, you just got mired in this, in this is, you know, maze of federal regulation.

00:39:08.556 --> 00:39:16.236

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, we give the Impact Assessment Agency a hard time, but usually when I hear people complain, a lot of the time it's Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

00:39:16.236 --> 00:39:20.916

<v SPEAKER_3>And you got to get that fish permit, even if it's not in federal jurisdiction, you still got to get that fish permit.

00:39:20.916 --> 00:39:23.616

<v SPEAKER_3>You got to get, you know, migratory bird permit from ECCCC.

00:39:23.616 --> 00:39:27.136

<v SPEAKER_3>So all these different things, the idea I think is to coordinate this.

00:39:27.136 --> 00:39:31.476

<v SPEAKER_3>And then to make them instead of sequential is to make them, you know, happening at the same time.

00:39:31.476 --> 00:39:37.916

<v SPEAKER_3>So you're not getting a permit and then another permit and keep on this permit or, you know, roller coaster, but you can get these all kind of at the same time.

00:39:37.916 --> 00:39:43.336

<v SPEAKER_3>But on the Indigenous consultation process, I mean, this is, you know, boiling over a little bit.

00:39:43.336 --> 00:39:47.576

<v SPEAKER_3>So we had the Fast Track Bill in BC, the Fast Track Bill in Ontario, both have passed.

00:39:47.576 --> 00:39:51.896

<v SPEAKER_3>Now this is essentially a Fast Track Bill C5 from the federal government.

00:39:51.896 --> 00:40:04.376

<v SPEAKER_3>And a lot of First Nations, you know, are getting their hackles up and, you know, feel like they're going to be railroaded,

you know, that everything we fought for for the last 10 years and the progress we've made, you know, will be for naught.

00:40:04.376 --> 00:40:08.396

<v SPEAKER_3>And that projects will go over with or without their consent.

00:40:09.016 --> 00:40:11.036

<v SPEAKER_3>Now, what are the two things?

00:40:11.036 --> 00:40:12.636

<v SPEAKER_3>One is the duty to consult and accommodate.

00:40:12.636 --> 00:40:14.036

<v SPEAKER_3>That is in the Constitution.

00:40:14.036 --> 00:40:21.316

<v SPEAKER_3>And there's no Ontario bill, there's no BC bill, there's no federal bill that can railroad the duty to consult and accommodate.

00:40:22.696 --> 00:40:24.216

<v SPEAKER_3>And then there's the FPIC.

00:40:24.216 --> 00:40:30.296

<v SPEAKER_3>So now the BC and the federal government have introduced legislation for free prior informed consent, which is part of the UN.

00:40:30.296 --> 00:40:32.476

<v SPEAKER_3>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

00:40:32.476 --> 00:40:43.536

<v SPEAKER_3>And we just had a court case last two months ago, three months ago, Kabawek versus CNL to say that there is a duty to consult, but there is a higher standard to FPIC.

00:40:43.536 --> 00:40:46.376

<v SPEAKER_3>And you have to meet that higher standard now, but we don't know what that means.

00:40:46.476 --> 00:40:48.276

<v SPEAKER_3>And the judge didn't tell us what it is.

00:40:48.276 --> 00:40:56.136

<v SPEAKER_3>So that is on the proponent side, creating a lot of a lot of consternation, you know, that there's a new standard again, that has not been defined.

00:40:56.756 --> 00:40:59.556

<v SPEAKER_3>So where do we find ourselves in this mess?

00:40:59.556 --> 00:41:01.976

<v SPEAKER_3>Can you do a duty consult and accommodate in two years?

00:41:01.976 --> 00:41:03.356

<v SPEAKER_3>Yes, you can.

00:41:03.356 --> 00:41:06.236

<v SPEAKER_3>Especially if you do a good job with it.

00:41:06.436 --> 00:41:15.996

<v SPEAKER_3>And especially if you've done some of the groundwork, and especially if you have benefits lined up, procurement, training, employment, equity, then I think you could.

00:41:15.996 --> 00:41:21.616

<v SPEAKER_3>And if you provide, if we make Indigenous people as the bottleneck, yes, the process will be slower.

00:41:21.616 --> 00:41:34.556

<v SPEAKER_3>But if you can provide them the capacity so that they can get their own studies, get their own lawyers, do their own due diligence, so they can evaluate the impacts on their rights, then that's another way to speed it up, is to help them respond to you.

00:41:34.556 --> 00:41:47.296

<v SPEAKER_3>You know, if you've got one person, they're making 40 grand a year, and it's their job to be, you know, to consult with and issue, you know, approved permits for a \$10 billion project, well, that's going to be an issue, you know?

00:41:47.296 --> 00:41:53.216

<v SPEAKER_3>So help the Indigenous communities have the capacity so they can do their side of the negotiation in enough time.

00:41:53.616 --> 00:41:57.596

<v SPEAKER_3>But this is what I'll say about consent and vetoes and un-consultation.

00:41:58.996 --> 00:42:00.896

<v SPEAKER_3>There is a reciprocal duty.

00:42:00.896 --> 00:42:09.376

<v SPEAKER_3>The Crown has to work in good faith and has to look at what the impacts on rights are and has to mitigate them and has to accommodate those rights and with benefits.

00:42:09.376 --> 00:42:14.456

<v SPEAKER_3>And proponents need to come forward with benefits so that everyone's a winner on a project.

00:42:14.456 --> 00:42:22.256

<v SPEAKER_3>But it is no one's right, not a province, not the feds, not an Indigenous nation, to obstruct and not act in good faith.

00:42:22.256 --> 00:42:27.696

<v SPEAKER_3>That there is a reciprocal duty and that's actually, you know, in the jurisprudence is a reciprocal duty.

00:42:27.696 --> 00:42:40.176

<v SPEAKER_3>If there are impacts on your rights, to find solutions to address them, to mitigate them, and to be specific about this is the impact on my right, and this is how you could mitigate it or this is the problem that I have.

00:42:40.496 --> 00:42:43.396

<v SPEAKER_3>This is what we need to find a solution for.

00:42:43.636 --> 00:42:51.336

<v SPEAKER_3>And we can't allow the naysayers, those who are in principle opposed to development, to veto projects in Canada.

00:42:51.336 --> 00:43:00.556

<v SPEAKER_3>But we should be looking together, all sides, for solutions to address the legitimate, very legitimate infringement that we do find on rights.

00:43:00.556 --> 00:43:11.836

<v SPEAKER_3>And so, and this isn't rocket science because we have found many projects where the proponent and the government and the Indigenous Nation work in good faith and find solutions and find ways that everyone benefits.

00:43:11.836 --> 00:43:15.076

<v SPEAKER_3>In fact, we've gotten pretty good at that in Canada, better than anyone else in the world.

00:43:15.596 --> 00:43:23.396

<v SPEAKER_3>So, you know, in some cases, you know, Ring of Fire, Northern Gateway, there are just some principled opposition to these projects.

00:43:23.396 --> 00:43:26.776

<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think that's necessarily reasonable.

00:43:26.776 --> 00:43:30.996

<v SPEAKER_3>And so people had to come to the table reasonably looking to find solutions.

00:43:32.396 --> 00:43:33.696

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, that's great.

00:43:35.196 --> 00:43:40.076

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's wrap up and let's go back to where we started the conversation.

00:43:40.076 --> 00:43:48.276

<v SPEAKER_2>Last week, Prime Minister Carney provided some daylight for oil pipelines to be included on the major projects list, which we've covered.

00:43:48.276 --> 00:43:53.236

<v SPEAKER_2>But there's a caveat that they would have to carry decarbonized oil.

00:43:53.236 --> 00:44:02.036

<v SPEAKER_2>Again, maybe more of a discussion point than a question, but Heather, I'm having a hard time finding the definition of decarbonized oil.

00:44:02.556 --> 00:44:08.336

<v SPEAKER_3>So generously, it is oil that has, for the emissions intensity, has been lowered, Kelly.

00:44:08.336 --> 00:44:15.196

<v SPEAKER_3>And we all know that actually Canadian producers have been very successful at lowering the emissions intensity of our barrel.

00:44:15.196 --> 00:44:25.176

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think, you know, a goal, which is a reasonable goal, is to make sure that whatever we do produce in export, the intensity is less than the global average.

00:44:25.176 --> 00:44:32.476

<v SPEAKER_3>So that if you got rid of Canadian oil and gas, and someone else replaces it, there'll actually be higher global emissions.

00:44:32.476 --> 00:44:44.436

<v SPEAKER_3>If we're below the global average, then, you know, we're displacing others with dirtier emissions, like Venezuela or Mexico, you know, heavy oil, then actually that's benefit to emissions.

00:44:45.256 --> 00:44:52.416

<v SPEAKER_3>So I would say getting the emissions intensity to a low enough level that, yeah, you feel pretty good about Canadian oil and gas.

00:44:52.416 --> 00:44:53.996

<v SPEAKER_3>We're already there with LNG.

00:44:53.996 --> 00:44:57.396

<v SPEAKER_3>We all know that, and there was a good Fraser Institute report that came out.

00:44:57.396 --> 00:45:00.856

<v SPEAKER_3>We have the very lowest emissions intense LNG.

00:45:00.856 --> 00:45:03.096

<v SPEAKER_3>You would never want to get rid of Canadian LNG.

00:45:03.656 --> 00:45:05.156

<v SPEAKER_3>Same as Canadian Conventional.

00:45:05.156 --> 00:45:07.256

<v SPEAKER_2>I was just going to say Conventional oil.

00:45:07.256 --> 00:45:08.176

<v SPEAKER_3>Yes, it is.

00:45:08.176 --> 00:45:16.876

<v SPEAKER_3>Now, heavy oil, okay, we know it is an issue, but we also know they've done God's work in getting the emissions intensity down in the last 20 years.

00:45:16.876 --> 00:45:25.356

<v SPEAKER_3>I have a paper coming out probably this week, and it shows that really the oil sands, and some oil sands facilities are actually lower than the global average on a life cycle basis.

00:45:25.356 --> 00:45:29.396

<v SPEAKER_3>But on average, they're only one to three percent higher than the global average.

00:45:29.396 --> 00:45:30.636

<v SPEAKER_3>That's all crude.

00:45:30.636 --> 00:45:38.596

<v SPEAKER_3>If you just compared Canadian heavy to the comparators in other heavies, then Canadian heavy would be I think lower.

00:45:38.736 --> 00:45:41.896

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, I think quite a bit lower than our competitors.

00:45:41.896 --> 00:45:47.476

<v SPEAKER_3>So on a heavy crude, which you need heavy crude for some refineries, we're already lower than the global average.

00:45:47.476 --> 00:45:57.936

<v SPEAKER_3>But Pathways Alliance can get us below that global

average, that one to three percent that you need just to be below the whole average.

00:45:57.936 --> 00:46:01.236

<v SPEAKER_3>Then all Canadian product is going to be below the global average.

00:46:02.116 --> 00:46:04.856

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think, you know, I've heard this behind closed doors.

00:46:04.856 --> 00:46:09.156

<v SPEAKER_3>It's not just marketing, although they can't market anymore because of the greenwashing bill.

00:46:09.156 --> 00:46:11.876

<v SPEAKER_3>I think Joe's been in this room with me.

00:46:11.876 --> 00:46:15.176

<v SPEAKER_3>I have heard them say behind closed doors, it's not just a marketing thing.

00:46:15.176 --> 00:46:18.976

<v SPEAKER_3>They are competitive on cost, but they are not competitive on carbon.

00:46:18.976 --> 00:46:20.536

<v SPEAKER_3>And it would be great to get some help.

00:46:20.536 --> 00:46:31.616

<v SPEAKER_3>And we should, we all have an interest in making sure that Canadian heavy oil is very competitive on global markets, that we feel good about it, that we know that when we're sending oil, we are not the problem, we are the solution.

00:46:31.616 --> 00:46:32.036

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, absolutely.

00:46:32.036 --> 00:46:34.436

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, you know, Heather, you've, sorry, Joe.

00:46:34.436 --> 00:46:35.296

<v SPEAKER_1>Go ahead, Kelly.

00:46:35.296 --> 00:46:45.516

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, this is great because I, that gives me a much better frame around the thing because I think if you just read decarbonized, well, decarbonized means zero.

00:46:45.516 --> 00:46:46.596

<v SPEAKER_3>It means water.

00:46:46.596 --> 00:46:48.476

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, decarbonized.

00:46:48.476 --> 00:46:56.416

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, as long as we're moving forward with, and I've been around the business for 50 years, you're absolutely right.

00:46:56.816 --> 00:47:02.036

<v SPEAKER_2>The move toward less carbon emissions has been dramatic, and it's continuous.

00:47:02.036 --> 00:47:10.456

<v SPEAKER_2>And, you know, as you know, I'm involved with CleanTech in Alberta, and we're doing everything we can to continue this down this road.

00:47:10.456 --> 00:47:21.696

<v SPEAKER_2>So I feel a bit, you know, I feel like there is a pathway here, and it isn't just, it isn't the hub of this wheel isn't net zero anymore.

00:47:21.696 --> 00:47:24.316

<v SPEAKER_2>And that's really an important point to make, I think.

00:47:24.316 --> 00:47:24.676

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:47:24.676 --> 00:47:24.876

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:47:24.876 --> 00:47:47.136

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think it's good that with this major products list, I think that there's a major opportunity here to have kind of a vote of confidence in the continued existence of this very important sector for the Canadian economy to say, give kind of an opportunity for the companies to actually invest, thinking about 70, 80 years down the line.

00:47:47.356 --> 00:48:00.476

<v SPEAKER_1>Because I think that's the time frame that we need to be thinking about if we're going to be talking about deep decarbonization of the oil sands is 70, 80, 100 years and what sort of infrastructure will be required to make it so that the industry is still viable that far out.

00:48:00.476 --> 00:48:08.276

<v SPEAKER_1>Because I think at that point, the global economy is going to be probably at least three or four times the size it is now.

00:48:08.276 --> 00:48:16.516

<v SPEAKER_1>Oil consumption is still going to be a huge component of global materials production, of building of roads and infrastructure, all of those sorts of things.

00:48:17.516 --> 00:48:20.296

<v SPEAKER_1>Because we might not even be burning oil at that point.

00:48:20.296 --> 00:48:28.316

<v SPEAKER_1>But we might still be using long hydrocarbon chains are very useful for all sorts of things, not just burning.

00:48:28.316 --> 00:48:38.356

<v SPEAKER_1>And if we have a much larger economy, global economy down the road there, then we could see a much different circumstances for Canadian oil and gas.

00:48:38.356 --> 00:48:43.016

<v SPEAKER_1>So we need to be thinking in into the 2100s, in my view.

00:48:43.016 --> 00:48:44.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Joe, you make an interesting point.

00:48:44.696 --> 00:49:00.696

<v SPEAKER_2>And it came up last week when you and I were in DC with the S&P Global at the oil sands dialogue that one of the things that we haven't talked about and that isn't talked about nearly enough is I don't mean if you can build, if everybody's going to drive a zillion electric cars, they still need roads.

00:49:00.696 --> 00:49:08.256

<v SPEAKER_2>And Canadian bitumen is the best compound of carbon chain to build asphalt in the world.

00:49:08.256 --> 00:49:10.616

<v SPEAKER_2>This is it's a known fact.

00:49:10.676 --> 00:49:16.076

<v SPEAKER_2>So again, you know, I think that that's and that remember that isn't combusted.

00:49:16.076 --> 00:49:22.696

<v SPEAKER_2>It's only gathered at like once that becomes bitumen or becomes goes from being bitumen to asphalt.

00:49:22.696 --> 00:49:26.636

<v SPEAKER_2>The only combustion is what was done to build the road, not to burn it.

00:49:26.636 --> 00:49:32.316

<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, that, that, that, that again, plays into the lower emissions globally.

00:49:32.316 --> 00:49:36.136

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there's a giant market for bitumen, asphalt, globally.

00:49:37.856 --> 00:49:39.496

<v SPEAKER_1>Absolutely.

00:49:39.496 --> 00:49:40.056

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:49:40.056 --> 00:49:42.116

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, there's so much more to talk about here.

00:49:42.116 --> 00:49:43.636

<v SPEAKER_2>We could go on for hours.

00:49:43.636 --> 00:50:04.776

<v SPEAKER_1>And I'm sure we'll have you on again as soon as we get a little bit more clarity on what the final version of this will look like and what the first projects are going to be, because this is going to be, I think, you know, if we start seeing some huge projects coming on this list and getting this accelerator regulatory permitting, we could see big changes over the next 15 years in terms of Canadian energy.

00:50:04.776 --> 00:50:06.856

<v SPEAKER_1>So really excited for that.

00:50:06.856 --> 00:50:07.736

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks so much, Heather.

00:50:07.736 --> 00:50:12.336

<v SPEAKER_1>And we always have one last question that our listeners are always interested in hearing.

00:50:12.336 --> 00:50:13.856

<v SPEAKER_1>What are you reading these days?

00:50:13.976 --> 00:50:18.636

<v SPEAKER_1>Ideally, for pleasure, but if you're only reading technical works, I'd be happy to hear that as well.

00:50:19.176 --> 00:50:22.496

<v SPEAKER_3>So I have one of each, one for business, one for pleasure.

00:50:22.536 --> 00:50:24.276

<v SPEAKER_3>I just finished Abundance.

00:50:25.876 --> 00:50:34.336

<v SPEAKER_3>So that's kind of been taking American progressivism by storm and kind of the Civil War within that movement of kind of degrowth versus abundance.

00:50:34.336 --> 00:50:38.336

<v SPEAKER_3>And obviously degrowth is not a popular political proposition.

00:50:38.336 --> 00:50:45.576

<v SPEAKER_3>So I think they're trying to square that circle of having an abundance mindset instead of just asking people to always have less.

00:50:45.576 --> 00:50:52.496

<v SPEAKER_3>And then for pleasure, I had the pleasure of going with my daughter to Italy a couple of weeks ago and we went to Pompeii.

00:50:52.496 --> 00:51:02.636

<v SPEAKER_3>It was fascinating and so of course in the bookstore, like a good Canadian tourist, I bought a couple books to learn more about Pompeii and how the Romans lived in that time.

00:51:02.636 --> 00:51:03.636

<v SPEAKER_1>Oh, cool.

00:51:03.636 --> 00:51:04.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Great.

00:51:04.636 --> 00:51:05.556

<v SPEAKER_2>Great, Heather.

00:51:05.556 --> 00:51:06.916

<v SPEAKER_2>It's always a pleasure to talk to you.

00:51:06.916 --> 00:51:19.776

<v SPEAKER_2>It's nice to see you around the dialogue and we really appreciate your input into the Canadian, like you do a lot to promote the Canadian national interest and we really appreciate that and thanks for coming on again.

00:51:19.776 --> 00:51:21.376

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks, Kelly.

00:51:21.376 --> 00:51:23.656

<v SPEAKER_2>With a real short notice, I'll let our fans...

00:51:23.656 --> 00:51:26.636

<v SPEAKER_3>We'll always make time for you guys.

00:51:26.636 --> 00:51:27.836

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks very much.

00:51:27.836 --> 00:51:28.036

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:51:28.036 --> 00:51:30.036

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you, Heather.

00:51:30.036 --> 00:51:36.196

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00:51:36.196 --> 00:51:40.716

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00:51:40.716 --> 00:51:42.896

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00:51:42.896 --> 00:51:46.816

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00:51:48.176 --> 00:51:55.796

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00:51:55.796 --> 00:51:59.396

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00:51:59.396 --> 00:52:04.476

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks go out to our producer, Joe Calnan and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:52:04.476 --> 00:52:05.376

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm Kelly Ogle.

00:52:05.376 --> 00:52:07.396

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for joining us on Energy Security Cubed.