

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host, Colin Robertson.

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<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode, recorded on August 7th, we talk with Martha Hall-Findlay and Heather Exner-Pirot about Canada's Energy Future, Moving Ahead in One Canadian Economy, the most recent paper from the Canada-U.S.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Expert Group.

00:00:29.160 --> 00:00:36.380

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

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<v SPEAKER_1>Special Advisor to the Business Council of Canada and Research Advisor to the Indigenous Resource Network amongst other portfolios that she holds.

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<v SPEAKER_1>A former Member of Parliament, Martha is Director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.

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<v SPEAKER_1>She previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canada West Foundation and as Chief Sustainability Officer, then Chief Climate Officer for Suncor Energy.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Welcome Black Martha and welcome Heather.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Great to be here.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Great to be here, Colin.

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<v SPEAKER_1>For our listeners, Heather, Martha, and I are all members of the Expert Group on Canada-U.S.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Relations, sponsored by the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University and the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We have produced a series of papers looking at different aspects of our American relationship, with recommendations designed to inform, educate, and provoke discussion of our most preponderant relationship, that with the United States of course.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Our work is available on both the CGAI and Carleton websites.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Our latest paper, Canada's Energy Future, Moving Ahead in One Canadian Economy, argues that Canada is at a pivotal moment in its energy transition, with hundreds of major projects spanning LNG, hydrogen, wind, nuclear, hydro, pipelines, and Indigenous-led infrastructure representing over \$600 billion in actual and potential investment.

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<v SPEAKER_1>These projects offer the potential to generate nearly 50,000 direct jobs, increase GDP by at least \$11 billion per year from LNG alone, and deliver substantial tax revenues and export growth.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We argue that the government's commitment to quote, build big, build bold, and build now, unquote, sends a powerful signal to investors, workers, and trading partners that Canada is ready to deliver on major projects and unlock its vast economic potential.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But we are also conscious of requirements relating to cross-government's constitutional responsibilities, investment security, Indigenous consultation, and environmental regulation.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And Heather, I'm going to ask you to lead on this one.

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<v SPEAKER_1>From your perspective, what are the overriding top two or three takeaways for you that you want to share with listeners of our paper, Canada's Energy Future Moving Ahead in One Canadian Economy?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, great question.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And again, thanks for being here.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You know, the top takeaway for me is I'm just grateful and delighted that our group, our U.S.-Canada Expert Group with, you know, many of the most thoughtful thinkers, thought leaders in Canada, many from the East have developed this paper on energy that is supportive of oil and gas development.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And it has felt lonely in the last 10 years, I think, to advocate for Canada's energy sector.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And so just, you know, the top thing is just that it's become normalized, or that, you know, people outside of Alberta and Saskatchewan say are supporting and seeing the value of this industry has been great.

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<v SPEAKER_2>In terms of specifically out of the paper, you know, the big thing is that we identify some low-hanging fruit.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And this is certainly a situation that requires urgency.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think, you know, it's been, what, now eight months, you know, since Trump first, you know, threatened tariffs against Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The world has been kind of, you know, falling into more geopolitical disrepair for longer than that.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And we're still not seeing, you know, a ton of action.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So for us to identify, you know, here's some really easy, low-hanging fruit that you will see meaningfully increase our GDP, that would meaningfully increase, you know, our influence and our importance to our allies.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Let's move ahead with those with some speed.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So of those low-hanging fruit, do you want to identify a couple that would, so our listeners can kind of visualize what we're talking about?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, for sure.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And I think in general, you know, we're kind of taking all of the above approach with energy.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, nuclear renewables, natural gas, hydro, all those things are up there.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But in terms of low-hanging fruit, again, where you would significantly, where you would be noticeably expanding our exports, notably expanding our GDP, it's LNG Canada Phase 2, looking for a final investment decision on that.

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<v SPEAKER_2>LNG Canada Phase 1 just went into service, as people might know.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Solisum's LNG, which is being led by the NISGA.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It had its pipeline.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It was approved in 2014, by the way, its pipeline by BC.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Just was reapproved before it hit kind of its 10-year expiry date.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So we have a approved pipeline and an LNG project that should probably hit a final investment decision this year.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And then just an expansion of TransMount.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We've seen some great figures this week of how important TransMount has been, how it did narrow the differential, how we're

just getting more money, \$8 a barrel more just for every barrel we have, because we have some ability to trade outside of the United States.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And the low-hanging fruit is just to increase that existing line, not building a new pipeline, but expanding it by about 200,000 or 300,000 barrels.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And this is just to say, you know, if you go to the paper, you'll see a list of these projects with the risks and the rewards.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And I think we've taken both a prudent, but also looking at it pragmatically at what these projects are and what can be done.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And as I say, Heather's identified some of them, but there are others as well.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Martha, let me turn to you for your takeaways from the paper in terms of what we're proposing and what's doable.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, it's pretty hard not to agree with the paper, given that we're all part of the group that produced it.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But I think it's excellent work.

00:06:21.880 --> 00:06:33.400

<v SPEAKER_3>And I will echo Heather's perspective that so many of the members of the group, it's not a big group, but the majority of the members of this group are from Eastern Canada, Central Eastern Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And frankly, it's been a tough 10 years plus of attitudes towards oil and gas in particular.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I would say attitudes toward natural resources writ large.

00:06:45.700 --> 00:06:56.040

<v SPEAKER_3>And to see a rise in the rest of Canada in appreciation for our natural resources.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And in particular, a somewhat growing support for oil and gas.

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<v SPEAKER_3>More so, I think, for gas.

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<v SPEAKER_3>There's been so much argumentation to support gas in terms of some of the other benefits.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But even oil, I think there's a recognition, a greater recognition that among Canadians, although part of my point is not yet, enough recognition of just how incredibly fortunate we are here in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You know, as Colin, you've heard John Manley say this, you know, natural resources are Canada's family business.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And for too long, we've had too many Canadians almost ashamed, right, of what we produce.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Not completely sure how that came about, but the rest of the world really wants what we produce.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And they partly want it because we produce it and develop it better than almost anybody.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So not only is it something of our resources of real value to the rest of the world, which makes for economic prosperity at home, but we should be extremely proud of how we produce and develop our various resources, and all of the ones that were the examples, oil, gas, hydrogen, you know, hydro, nuclear.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, we as Canadians should be extremely proud of how we actually produce and develop those resources.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I would throw in egg, I would throw in fish, I would throw in wood, but right now we're talking specifically about energy.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I would say on the paper itself, Colin, there are a

couple of things that I think we could go even further.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so I'm going to push a little bit.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So, for example, you know, there's a there's a comment in there about the importance of of the government's role to encourage public trust and to encourage support from major projects.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I would say that I agree with that completely.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But I would also say that this current federal government has a real opportunity to lead in the broader attitudinal thing that I just mentioned.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think we are at that point yet.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I think that we are blessed.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And you know, look, we we all know that there are people all around the world who would literally kill for the resources that we have.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Luckily, we're far enough away from from most people who would.

00:09:09.860 --> 00:09:11.740

<v SPEAKER_3>But we're just incredibly blessed.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And those resources create the economic and ultimately social prosperity that we benefit from here in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But we still have this sense of we're hesitant about being really supportive.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We're hesitant about, yeah, and this world just like an amazing oil and gas producer.

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<v SPEAKER_3>There are other I don't I've never met a Saudi who

doesn't appreciate the fact that they are wealthy because of all the oil they produce.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But in Canada, we seem to still struggle with that.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I do think government has an opportunity and a real responsibility to lead, not just follow the polls, but to in fact lead.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think the attitudinal piece here is really important.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And sorry for going on so long.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The other piece is Indigenous engagement.

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<v SPEAKER_3>In the Western provinces, it's not even Indigenous consultation anymore.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's engagement right from the start.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's partnership.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's people don't talk about the duty to consult nearly as much as people used to or indeed as people in Central and Canada do simply because the consultation piece happens all up front in terms of engagement.

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<v SPEAKER_3>What's the equity arrangement going to be?

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<v SPEAKER_3>How are we going to partner on this so that everybody benefits?

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<v SPEAKER_3>The economic prosperity and the opportunity for Indigenous communities is extraordinary.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think it's really worth pointing out that although

you're hearing headlines about Indigenous communities upset at Bill C-5, which you mentioned in your introduction, there are Indigenous communities in lots of places across the country, I will say mostly in the Western provinces, who are thrilled with C-5 because of what that might mean for a greater economic prosperity sooner.

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<v SPEAKER_1>No, and with 650 plus First Nations, of course you are going to get a variety of views.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Look, Heather, this is an area which you really have confidence in.

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<v SPEAKER_1>One of the things we talk about is making a reference to the Supreme Court to give us some clarification, particularly as it relates to Indigenous consultation, discussion, partnership.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Where do you come down on all of this and what's your experience?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, part of the problem is that the goalposts have been changing for 20 years.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So a proponent and on the other side, a First Nation doesn't really know all the time what is the expectation, what is the right, but on the other hand, a lot of this over 20 years has been developed and we actually saw a lot of useful court precedents come through Trans Mountain.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So we know that there's a duty to consult and accommodate, and that we need to engage, and that communities have a lot of legal right to slow down or to hasten a project, and so that can be useful for proponents.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But we also know that there's a reciprocal duty to act in good faith, and so that there is no veto on projects that has been established in Canadian law again and again.

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<v SPEAKER_2>UNDRIP itself does not say that there's requirement for pre-prime form consent.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It says governments must act in good faith to obtain free-prime form consent, and that's a very important distinction that you have, that I think probably followed in the UNDRIP Declaration from Canadian law.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The other thing I want to point out, there's so many projects where there is a First Nation partner or even a proponent, and where the opposition is coming from, a different First Nation.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think there's any province, there's no First Nation that wants to give everybody else in the country a veto on their own project.

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<v SPEAKER_2>UNDRIP says there's a right to say no, but it also says there's a right to say yes.

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<v SPEAKER_2>In this country, we have really favored the naysayers, the ones that want to say no at the expense of the ones that want to build.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We've come a long way, but obviously there's different sets of expectations around the country.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think clarity on what is good, what is required, and as an example, the Impact Assessment Agency just did some good work of clarifying the scoping under who do you need to consult?

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<v SPEAKER_2>And everyone knows, okay, you need to consult, but I'll give you an example.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I know of a 17-kilometer little pipeline, just, you know, an addition in Alberta that had, I think, 42 nations that they were required to consult.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There's not going to be meaningful relationships, and there's not going to be equity ownership by 42 nations on a 17-kilometer additional pipeline.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, again, focusing our system on the ones whose Aboriginal and Treaty rights are really impacted, probably those three

or four closest to the project, I think is the right way to go, but we don't always get that right, and sometimes it's contentious even amongst Indigenous communities.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And just to remind listeners, we're talking about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People that Canada ceded to, what, three or four years ago now?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, yeah, and, you know, so this was passed in 2007, and it was very interesting at the time.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There was only four No's.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It was Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the ones that you normally think of as the most progressive on Indigenous issues.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But the fact is that the Declaration, UNDRIP, is not entirely compatible with Canadian law.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Jody Wilson-Raybould pointed that out.

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<v SPEAKER_2>She said it was unworkable in Canadian law.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We kind of just adopted it, you know, co-kit and caboodle anyways, and say now it applies to Canada.

00:14:35.500 --> 00:14:44.500

<v SPEAKER_2>But there's so many things that don't, you know, where the Canadian public interest or the Constitution is not exactly aligned with what UNDRIP says.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So there's, so where a lot of this tension is coming from, I think, is on expectations of what UNDRIP and free prime form consent means and what is actually what we have in Canadian law and trying to, you know, trying to figure out what is that gap and trying for that gap not to be explosive.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And so do you think that we suggest that perhaps a reference to the Supreme Court makes some sense?

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<v SPEAKER_1>We've done that before on other constitutional issues, division of the country, for example, the Clarity Act.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Do you think this makes a lot of sense then?

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, it's, no.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I would say for proponents, that would be a worst-case scenario.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You know, at the end of the day, we need to build things in this country, and not building things hurts everybody.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And again, it hurts nations that don't have access to infrastructure and it hurts nations that aren't allowed to economically develop themselves.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This is something that I need, but you know what?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Our politicians have demonstrated almost no courage on this file.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's been, you know, no one wants to touch it with a 10-foot pool.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And so I think we need to have some honest conversations.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think, you know, I don't think there's that much difference between what we all want to achieve and what we all want to achieve.

00:16:01.080 --> 00:16:11.960

<v SPEAKER_2>And I'll say this, even in the last year with C5 and the opposition we've seen, almost every Indigenous nation, even when they oppose, preface it with, we're not against economic development.

00:16:13.300 --> 00:16:15.660

<v SPEAKER_2>And that was very much not the situation in five years.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So we're all really aligned that we want to build more projects.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We're all aligned that we want Indigenous nations to benefit meaningfully from this.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And so just we need to find ways, though, that proponents can invest money in this country without having a tremendous amount of risk.

00:16:29.980 --> 00:16:32.340

<v SPEAKER_2>And we just still don't have that.

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<v SPEAKER_1>No, and as Martha reminds us, as John Manley put it, it's the family jewels, the family heritage that pays for the social justice that we want to achieve as well.

00:16:41.920 --> 00:16:44.780

<v SPEAKER_1>And that bluntly comes from our resources.

00:16:45.840 --> 00:16:54.540

<v SPEAKER_1>Martha, the Indigenous file is one piece, but both you and Heather made the point that the West has felt left out over the last decade.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So how do we maintain national unity, given the regional differences in, for example, building pipelines and our reliance on fossil fuels?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I think one, movement progress on the Indigenous front is, has been critical for the projects that have been completed.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So TMX would not have happened if Ian Anderson, the then CEO of Kinder Morgan and then TMX, had not spent years personally engaging with the Indigenous communities, the affected Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I will go back to the fact that across the country, there are different perspectives among many of the Indigenous communities themselves.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You will have different Indigenous communities fighting with each other with respect to opportunities or not, with respect to certain projects.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You know, when I joined Suncor, one of the things that appealed to me about the company was that the company had officially supported UNDRIP.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And people were so surprised at that.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But the people at Suncor said, look, it's not the question of a veto and whether in law it is or isn't.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That was certainly the perception.

00:18:04.760 --> 00:18:07.600

<v SPEAKER_3>And their view was, that's not it.

00:18:07.600 --> 00:18:09.460

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, it's like a marriage.

00:18:09.460 --> 00:18:13.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Everybody or even any other commercial partnership.

00:18:13.540 --> 00:18:15.340

<v SPEAKER_3>If everybody has a veto, right?

00:18:15.360 --> 00:18:18.800

<v SPEAKER_3>Ultimately, you can break up a partnership.

00:18:18.800 --> 00:18:24.720

<v SPEAKER_3>Ultimately, you can say, gee, it's been fun being married, but I don't want to be married anymore.

00:18:24.720 --> 00:18:29.340

<v SPEAKER_3>Or, you know, I might like you, but I don't like you enough to marry you.

00:18:29.380 --> 00:18:37.700

<v SPEAKER_3>Like in every relationship, there are these opportunities and what so many proponents have realized and with very tough lessons learned.

00:18:37.700 --> 00:18:44.640

<v SPEAKER_3>Like don't, none of this has been easy and it's been

mistakes have been made, but very important lessons have been learned.

00:18:44.640 --> 00:18:46.680

<v SPEAKER_3>You got to work up front.

00:18:46.680 --> 00:18:54.220

<v SPEAKER_3>You have, you know, you at Atco, Nancy Southern at Atco has a great example of some transmission lines that they wanted to put in.

00:18:54.220 --> 00:18:57.060

<v SPEAKER_3>They didn't even start putting shovels in the ground for three years.

00:18:57.160 --> 00:19:06.500

<v SPEAKER_3>And that may seem like a long time, but once they decided, once they got to the put shovels in the ground, the project was built really quickly.

00:19:06.500 --> 00:19:10.620

<v SPEAKER_3>The three years was spent engaging up front.

00:19:10.620 --> 00:19:13.920

<v SPEAKER_3>How is this going to be able to benefit everybody?

00:19:13.920 --> 00:19:15.840

<v SPEAKER_3>What are the benefits to the Indigenous community?

00:19:15.840 --> 00:19:19.560

<v SPEAKER_3>So I just, I think there's some really important lessons to be learned.

00:19:19.560 --> 00:19:29.620

<v SPEAKER_3>And I do think that we could do an awful lot better in Canada at learning from best practices, at learning from some of those mistakes that have been made, learning what's happening and doing really well.

00:19:29.620 --> 00:19:33.180

<v SPEAKER_3>Enbridge is doing some fantastic equity partnerships now.

00:19:33.180 --> 00:19:45.040

<v SPEAKER_3>So I'm frankly quite positive, but I think it would be very helpful if people from across Canada, including other Indigenous communities, spent more time learning about what works and what doesn't.

00:19:45.040 --> 00:19:49.840

<v SPEAKER_3>So that, I think there's opportunity there, but we have a long way to go.

00:19:50.700 --> 00:20:09.760

<v SPEAKER_3>I do think, Colin, your comment about the West having been feeling a little bit challenged over the last 10 years, I don't think there's any question that the government that we've had that we've had in the last 10 years was so clearly anti-fossil fuels without recognizing two things.

00:20:09.780 --> 00:20:16.720

<v SPEAKER_3>One, that fossil fuels in fact are a massive part of the overall Canadian economy.

00:20:16.720 --> 00:20:20.640

<v SPEAKER_3>It doesn't just benefit Alberta or to a lesser extent Saskatchewan.

00:20:21.680 --> 00:20:28.940

<v SPEAKER_3>This is a massive industry, bigger than the auto sector, bigger than, it's incredibly valuable.

00:20:28.940 --> 00:20:34.960

<v SPEAKER_3>For people in the West, to be frankly told, we want to shut you down.

00:20:36.900 --> 00:20:45.960

<v SPEAKER_3>That was being said by a number of different cabinet ministers who were publicly saying we should shut our oil and gas business down.

00:20:46.640 --> 00:20:49.620

<v SPEAKER_3>So one, that was pretty frustrating and pretty naïve.

00:20:49.620 --> 00:21:08.680

<v SPEAKER_3>The other part was, I think it was irresponsible on the part of our federal leaders to suggest that, Shadi, even if we did shut Canada's fossil fuel production down, that it would have any effect of any significance on global emissions.

00:21:08.680 --> 00:21:10.340

<v SPEAKER_3>We're not going to change India's emissions.

00:21:10.340 --> 00:21:11.800

<v SPEAKER_3>We're not going to change China's emissions.

00:21:11.800 --> 00:21:13.380

<v SPEAKER_3>We're not going to change the American emissions.

00:21:13.380 --> 00:21:14.000

<v SPEAKER_3>We're not going to change.

00:21:14.440 --> 00:21:35.580

<v SPEAKER_3>And so, the idea that we should shut down such a significant part of the Canadian economy, our prosperity and ultimately our social prosperity, with negligible to no effect on actually the issue of climate change, which many of us feel very strongly about, was irresponsible.

00:21:35.580 --> 00:21:40.180

<v SPEAKER_3>And the West was, there are a lot of people in Western Canada who are still pretty ticked off.

00:21:42.440 --> 00:21:45.820

<v SPEAKER_4>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:21:45.820 --> 00:21:50.420

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00:21:50.420 --> 00:21:59.280

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00:22:07.220 --> 00:22:21.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Heather, we've now got put in place over the last two decades, because this goes up like the Harvard government as well, a series of, and the provincial governments have also moved on as to municipal governments on the environmental front.

00:22:21.100 --> 00:22:29.840

<v SPEAKER_1>We've talked, I think, and discussed well the Indigenous issues and importance of consultation and where we are at in that.

00:22:29.840 --> 00:22:36.160

<v SPEAKER_1>But can I explore a little bit more with you, the environmental side of this, because that's also a big piece.

00:22:36.160 --> 00:22:46.380

<v SPEAKER_1>And do you feel that we're now in a position, and do we recommend enough around the environment that will satisfy the environmentalists across the country?

00:22:46.380 --> 00:22:50.780

<v SPEAKER_1>Because that's not just a regional thing, that's also in

every province.

00:22:50.780 --> 00:22:54.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, Colin, if I may, I've never known environmentalists to be satisfied.

00:22:54.900 --> 00:22:57.480

<v SPEAKER_2>So I don't know if it's the right question.

00:22:57.480 --> 00:22:58.960

<v SPEAKER_2>But do we want to find a middle ground?

00:22:59.460 --> 00:23:02.760

<v SPEAKER_2>Does almost every Canadian want a healthy and clean environment?

00:23:02.760 --> 00:23:04.480

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, absolutely.

00:23:04.480 --> 00:23:11.160

<v SPEAKER_2>Do most of us believe climate change is real and that it's in our own self-interest to try to reduce emissions where we can?

00:23:11.160 --> 00:23:12.420

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, absolutely.

00:23:12.420 --> 00:23:18.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Is that what we've achieved in the last 10 years and the tens of billions of dollars we put into it?

00:23:18.100 --> 00:23:19.640

<v SPEAKER_2>No, it doesn't look like we did.

00:23:19.640 --> 00:23:26.180

<v SPEAKER_2>And so we absolutely need to rethink of how we address climate change, of how we look to mitigate, of how we look to adapt.

00:23:26.840 --> 00:23:29.780

<v SPEAKER_2>And I don't think we've had a very sophisticated, honest conversation.

00:23:29.780 --> 00:23:32.440

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's been very ideological.

00:23:32.440 --> 00:23:35.660

<v SPEAKER_2>And there hasn't been a lot of room for discussion or dissent.

00:23:35.660 --> 00:23:37.740

<v SPEAKER_2>But climate is one thing.

00:23:38.040 --> 00:23:44.060

<v SPEAKER_2>On environmental protection, again, Martha pointed out, and I think we all know this, we're pretty good.

00:23:44.060 --> 00:23:45.860

<v SPEAKER_2>We have very high standards.

00:23:47.320 --> 00:23:51.480

<v SPEAKER_2>And sometimes I think the problem is just making the perfect the enemy of the good.

00:23:51.480 --> 00:23:55.140

<v SPEAKER_2>And so when we make the perfect the enemy of the good, what do we do?

00:23:55.140 --> 00:23:59.380

<v SPEAKER_2>We just move resource development, industrial development to places with lower standards.

00:23:59.380 --> 00:24:01.960

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's exactly what has happened.

00:24:01.960 --> 00:24:07.200

<v SPEAKER_2>And I don't know how environmentalists or anyone thinks that that's a big environmental win.

00:24:07.200 --> 00:24:10.380

<v SPEAKER_2>And so we need to be rational and pragmatic.

00:24:10.380 --> 00:24:12.640

<v SPEAKER_2>Emissions don't stop at Canadian borders.

00:24:12.640 --> 00:24:15.340

<v SPEAKER_2>Rivers and other parts of the world can get polluted, too.

00:24:15.340 --> 00:24:18.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Plastics can be dumped in other parts of the world, too.

00:24:18.800 --> 00:24:26.480

<v SPEAKER_2>And so let's find a way that allows Canadian industry to be competitive, while also maintaining world-class standards.

00:24:26.480 --> 00:24:30.980

<v SPEAKER_2>And I don't know of any Canadian industry that doesn't want to have world-class standards.

00:24:30.980 --> 00:24:33.920

<v SPEAKER_2>It doesn't want to be the best at this.

00:24:34.300 --> 00:24:41.600

<v SPEAKER_2>But you also must be able to compete and attract investment and sell your product at a price that people can buy it at.

00:24:41.600 --> 00:24:50.620

<v SPEAKER_2>And that's a balance I just don't think has been in government's mind or environmentalists' mind that has been very much a degrowth, shut-it-down mentality.

00:24:50.620 --> 00:24:53.100

<v SPEAKER_2>And we're seeing the consequence of that now.

00:24:53.100 --> 00:25:01.200

<v SPEAKER_1>And when you speak of government, you're talking to the federal government, but provincial governments also have responsibilities here and it goes both ways with them as well.

00:25:01.200 --> 00:25:03.280

<v SPEAKER_1>It's not always been easy, correct?

00:25:03.280 --> 00:25:04.940

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, absolutely.

00:25:05.120 --> 00:25:10.480

<v SPEAKER_2>And BC has, I had to admit, I've been admitting they've been making some good moves in the last six months.

00:25:10.480 --> 00:25:19.980

<v SPEAKER_2>But the last 10 years, especially if you're talking about Alberta and Saskatchewan being landlocked, BC has been almost the worst obstructionist for a lot of these things.

00:25:19.980 --> 00:25:27.820

<v SPEAKER_2>On Trans Mountain, I think we all know, it was Trudeau that actually pushed through the pipeline at great political and financial expense.

00:25:27.820 --> 00:25:33.400

<v SPEAKER_2>And it was BC that literally said, we're going to use every tool in the toolbox to block this thing.

00:25:33.400 --> 00:25:37.820

<v SPEAKER_2>And so in Quebec, we've seen obstructionism from Quebec as well.

00:25:37.820 --> 00:25:40.640

<v SPEAKER_2>So we all need to find a middle ground.

00:25:40.640 --> 00:25:52.060

<v SPEAKER_2>But to the point of the paper, and we do know that this, you know, interprovincial pipelines, for example, and some of that is federal jurisdiction.

00:25:52.060 --> 00:25:58.480

<v SPEAKER_2>It is not up to BC or Quebec to decide if the rest of Canada can build pipelines to tidewater.

00:25:58.480 --> 00:26:02.520

<v SPEAKER_2>And at some level, you know, we need to act like a nation.

00:26:02.520 --> 00:26:10.740

<v SPEAKER_2>We can't be landlocking jurisdictions within the country, especially the ones with kind of the best world class resources that the world is needing.

00:26:11.780 --> 00:26:16.600

<v SPEAKER_2>So there are solutions and the constitution and the law provides for those.

00:26:16.600 --> 00:26:19.000

<v SPEAKER_2>But we haven't seen a lot of courage.

00:26:19.000 --> 00:26:22.980

<v SPEAKER_1>Martha, you were chief sustainability officer, chief climate officer at Suncor.

00:26:22.980 --> 00:26:25.740

<v SPEAKER_1>You learned an awful lot with that experience.

00:26:25.740 --> 00:26:29.900

<v SPEAKER_1>How can we apply that to the environmental side to make progress?

00:26:29.900 --> 00:26:34.820

<v SPEAKER_1>Because this was certainly something that, in my observation, handicapped the Harper government.

00:26:34.820 --> 00:26:39.180

<v SPEAKER_1>And as Heather said, the Trudeau government had a different philosophy from the beginning.

00:26:41.120 --> 00:26:48.640

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I would actually volunteer that Canada has lost a quarter century.

00:26:48.640 --> 00:26:51.580

<v SPEAKER_3>We didn't build much of significance in the Harper government.

00:26:51.580 --> 00:26:53.840

<v SPEAKER_3>We didn't build much the five years before that.

00:26:53.840 --> 00:27:04.360

<v SPEAKER_3>We did get two major projects, LNDG Canada, which Heather referred to, and here's supporting phase two, in the Trudeau government.

00:27:04.360 --> 00:27:10.700

<v SPEAKER_3>But let's be honest, TMX cost the Canadian taxpayers a tremendous amount of money.

00:27:10.700 --> 00:27:17.720

<v SPEAKER_3>And every once in a while, I hear people from Ottawa say, well, you and the West should be grateful that we bought you a pipeline.

00:27:17.720 --> 00:27:22.040

<v SPEAKER_3>And I just think that's just such non-Canadian speak, right?

00:27:22.040 --> 00:27:25.840

<v SPEAKER_3>It's just so frustrating to hear that attitude.

00:27:25.840 --> 00:27:31.620

<v SPEAKER_3>And I keep having to remind people, no one wanted the federal government to own the pipeline.

00:27:31.620 --> 00:27:41.320

<v SPEAKER_3>The only reason the pipeline was purchased by the federal government was because the proponent recognized that it simply was no longer economic and was prepared to walk away.

00:27:41.320 --> 00:27:48.020

<v SPEAKER_3>And I think if the government hadn't stepped in, there would have been, you know, we think there's a separatism problem now.

00:27:48.020 --> 00:27:50.200

<v SPEAKER_3>It would have been extraordinary.

00:27:50.200 --> 00:27:52.680

<v SPEAKER_3>And so I don't think there was any choice on the federal government's part.

00:27:52.680 --> 00:28:02.240

<v SPEAKER_3>But it was also really expensive because the whole thing had, all construction had to be shut down for months because of one bird nest.

00:28:03.180 --> 00:28:07.140

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, I get it, we want to protect wildlife.

00:28:08.880 --> 00:28:21.200

<v SPEAKER_3>We don't, we need to understand that protecting wildlife, protecting the environment, air, water, all of it, is really, biodiversity is really important.

00:28:21.200 --> 00:28:33.500

<v SPEAKER_3>But, and I don't even like finding the idea of finding middle ground, or people talk about a grand bargain, because I feel that that means it almost suggests that somebody has to give something up.

00:28:33.500 --> 00:28:40.800

<v SPEAKER_3>That particular population of birds was not in the long run going to be significantly affected by the loss of one nest.

00:28:40.800 --> 00:28:45.900

<v SPEAKER_3>But, it took months of delay in construction to deal with that.

00:28:45.900 --> 00:29:04.560

<v SPEAKER_3>And so, you know, it's not even finding a middle ground, it's how do we find the greatest path forward that benefits everybody, that does the protection in a realistic way, that does encourage the economic activity in a realistic way.

00:29:04.980 --> 00:29:11.300

<v SPEAKER_3>And I really do feel that we're at a moment in time now in this country where people are going, yeah, that makes sense.

00:29:11.300 --> 00:29:18.160

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, maybe we don't have to give something up to be able to achieve these other things.

00:29:18.160 --> 00:29:19.840

<v SPEAKER_3>I think it's a dose of reality.

00:29:19.840 --> 00:29:25.760

<v SPEAKER_3>It's not giving, it's not somebody having to give up, it's more how can we be realistic.

00:29:25.840 --> 00:29:42.460

<v SPEAKER_3>And Heather, I think the term you used in terms of the conversations that need to be had, and I think are starting to be had, let's be realistic about what is needed to protect the things that are important to us as opposed to these.

00:29:42.840 --> 00:29:49.880

<v SPEAKER_3>And I would say somewhat ideological, we can't sacrifice one bird's nest.

00:29:52.360 --> 00:30:02.720

<v SPEAKER_3>And so I think part of the benefit of C5 is that we might be encouraged to have some of those more realistic conversations.

00:30:04.120 --> 00:30:18.060

<v SPEAKER_1>All right, before I ask you both what you're reading or streaming, my last question to you, and I'm going to let you lead on this one, Heather, if you could give Prime Minister Carney just one piece of advice in terms of proceeding with energy and the economy, what would it be?

00:30:19.580 --> 00:30:23.480

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, there's so much, but, you know, I love that he's-

00:30:23.480 --> 00:30:24.680

<v SPEAKER_3>Go, Heather.

00:30:25.860 --> 00:30:38.220

<v SPEAKER_1>You get your elevator pitch in, you're in the elevator with him, and he turns to you and says, okay, so you got three flights here before you reach to the third floor and the old centre block or west block as it is now.

00:30:38.220 --> 00:30:38.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:30:38.780 --> 00:30:45.040

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, I love that we're talking about being an energy superpower, and I think he's sincere when he says that and is looking for ways to happen.

00:30:45.480 --> 00:30:54.080

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not, you know, the C5's approach is for the government to choose nation-building projects and to choose winners and losers.

00:30:54.380 --> 00:31:14.260

<v SPEAKER_2>And much more important is that we provided an ecosystem, a regulatory framework where all proponents have a certainty, all proponents have an efficient process, and we can attract, again, just scale and multiply, have those hundreds of projects, proponents who are in the queue in Canada, make it easier for all of them instead of choosing five or six.

00:31:15.040 --> 00:31:16.920

<v SPEAKER_2>That are politically favourable.

00:31:16.920 --> 00:31:26.960

<v SPEAKER_2>But at a philosophical level, I feel like in the last 10 years, we made energy and the economy an adversary to the environment.

00:31:26.960 --> 00:31:29.340

<v SPEAKER_2>We've made it into a zero-sum game.

00:31:29.340 --> 00:31:37.480

<v SPEAKER_2>And I don't think you can make energy and the economy a second fiddle for very long without suffering the consequences, and we're suffering those too.

00:31:38.320 --> 00:31:55.720

<v SPEAKER_2>So to prioritise affordable, reliable energy, and with that, you can have prosperity, and with that prosperity, you can direct some attention into the mitigation, the adaptation that tends to cost money and doesn't make money, but that reflects our values and we want to be leaders in that too.

00:31:55.720 --> 00:32:00.360

<v SPEAKER_2>But you need to have that foundation of a strong economy for any of that to happen.

00:32:00.360 --> 00:32:04.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay, Heather, the Prime Minister says, as he's going out the door, just one project.

00:32:04.440 --> 00:32:06.580

<v SPEAKER_1>Which one do you want me to choose?

00:32:06.580 --> 00:32:09.040

<v SPEAKER_2>Northern Gateway 2.0, absolutely.

00:32:09.120 --> 00:32:14.660

<v SPEAKER_2>There's nothing like a million-dollar-barrel pipeline to Pacific Tidewater that would increase Canada's GDP.

00:32:14.660 --> 00:32:16.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay, thank you.

00:32:16.380 --> 00:32:25.500

<v SPEAKER_1>All right, Martha, what would you tell the Prime Minister when he says, the big issues of energy and the economy, what would it be?

00:32:25.500 --> 00:32:27.900

<v SPEAKER_1>And then give me an example of one project.

00:32:27.900 --> 00:32:30.680

<v SPEAKER_1>And maybe you can choose the same one.

00:32:30.680 --> 00:32:35.980

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I would start with the positive and say, we're hearing all the stuff that needs to be heard.

00:32:36.880 --> 00:32:46.540

<v SPEAKER_3>And certainly from a Western Canadian perspective, the words are good, Minister Hodgson is saying the right things, Prime Minister is saying the right things, I would say.

00:32:46.540 --> 00:32:48.320

<v SPEAKER_3>But you need to start doing things.

00:32:48.320 --> 00:32:52.060

<v SPEAKER_3>And there are some, because it's been a tough 10 years.

00:32:52.060 --> 00:32:56.940

<v SPEAKER_3>And the optimism does have a certain caution associated with it.

00:32:56.940 --> 00:32:59.200

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, is this really going to happen?

00:32:59.200 --> 00:33:01.540

<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, it's been tough.

00:33:01.540 --> 00:33:07.240

<v SPEAKER_3>And so my advice to the Prime Minister would be, so far, so good, all the right things.

00:33:07.240 --> 00:33:11.060

<v SPEAKER_3>C5, even as I said, some Indigenous communities are concerned about C5.

00:33:11.060 --> 00:33:19.840

<v SPEAKER_3>But there are lots of Indigenous communities in Canada that love C5 and see this as tremendous opportunity for bigger projects sooner.

00:33:19.840 --> 00:33:21.720

<v SPEAKER_3>The advice would be, but start doing.

00:33:21.720 --> 00:33:28.680

<v SPEAKER_3>Start taking some actions that will show that intent.

00:33:28.680 --> 00:33:36.440

<v SPEAKER_3>So for example, we still have the proposed emissions cap in Alberta, and Heather and I have had this conversation before.

00:33:36.440 --> 00:33:39.880

<v SPEAKER_3>My view is Alberta already has an emissions cap.

00:33:39.880 --> 00:33:52.940

<v SPEAKER_3>Work out something with Alberta to continue on with the Alberta emissions cap to show that there is a recognition that emissions are a problem, but the timelines associated with the federal one are ridiculous.

00:33:53.160 --> 00:34:06.740

<v SPEAKER_3>And partly because of federal challenges to building the infrastructure, for example, the carbon capture and storage infrastructure, that would allow those emissions reductions like chicken and egg.

00:34:06.860 --> 00:34:10.220

<v SPEAKER_3>You kind of need to be able to put shovels on the ground to be able to do that.

00:34:10.440 --> 00:34:14.320

<v SPEAKER_3>And we, when I was still involved, we said that to the federal government over and over and over.

00:34:14.320 --> 00:34:16.000

<v SPEAKER_3>We don't disagree with an emissions cap.

00:34:16.000 --> 00:34:19.320

<v SPEAKER_3>We already have one in Alberta, but your timelines make no sense.

00:34:19.320 --> 00:34:23.280

<v SPEAKER_3>And so as a result, they're perceived as a production cap.

00:34:23.280 --> 00:34:25.380

<v SPEAKER_3>So work on the emissions cap.

00:34:25.380 --> 00:34:35.580

<v SPEAKER_3>Work something out with Premier Smith on using the existing Alberta emissions cap so that everybody can say, we're still concerned about this.

00:34:35.580 --> 00:34:37.120

<v SPEAKER_3>But that hasn't happened yet.

00:34:37.120 --> 00:34:44.620

<v SPEAKER_3>And the proposed federal emissions cap and the frankly, ridiculous timeframes are still kind of there.

00:34:44.620 --> 00:34:52.120

<v SPEAKER_3>And this is something that the Prime Minister could

address very quickly without necessarily having to go back to parliament.

00:34:52.120 --> 00:35:07.880

<v SPEAKER_3>There are, I'm encouraged by some of the activity of the Impact Assessment Act or the Impact Assessment Agency in using some of the discretion to be able to say, look, we don't need to consult with 47 Indigenous communities if there are only three that are affected by a project.

00:35:07.880 --> 00:35:10.460

<v SPEAKER_3>Heather mentioned that earlier in the podcast.

00:35:10.460 --> 00:35:18.760

<v SPEAKER_3>Those kinds of things coming from the Prime Minister's office would be really, really valuable.

00:35:18.760 --> 00:35:29.700

<v SPEAKER_3>I would say not just in terms of building projects, but in addressing some of the ongoing concern, the number of separatists in Alberta is pretty small.

00:35:29.700 --> 00:35:33.640

<v SPEAKER_3>But there are an awful lot of people in Alberta who actually understand why they feel that way.

00:35:34.160 --> 00:35:39.580

<v SPEAKER_3>Just even a few actions would be very, very helpful and would go a long way.

00:35:39.580 --> 00:35:40.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:35:40.440 --> 00:35:41.780

<v SPEAKER_1>Good advice.

00:35:41.780 --> 00:35:44.340

<v SPEAKER_1>Northern Gateway 2.0 and pragmatism.

00:35:44.340 --> 00:35:44.800

<v SPEAKER_3>Oh, yes.

00:35:44.920 --> 00:35:47.640

<v SPEAKER_3>By the way, Northern Gateway 2.0.

00:35:47.640 --> 00:35:50.520

<v SPEAKER_1>Particularly as it relates to the emissions cap.

00:35:50.520 --> 00:35:51.480

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you.

00:35:51.480 --> 00:35:57.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, my final question, and you stay with me, Martha, what are you reading or streaming these days?

00:35:57.100 --> 00:36:02.260

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I'm reading a book that is over a quarter of a century old.

00:36:02.260 --> 00:36:03.540

<v SPEAKER_3>It's Guns, Germs, And Steel.

00:36:03.540 --> 00:36:04.840

<v SPEAKER_3>I'm actually listening to it.

00:36:05.380 --> 00:36:12.560

<v SPEAKER_3>I do a lot of listening, but it's Guns, Germs, And Steel by Jared Diamond, which I had never read when it first came out in 1998.

00:36:12.560 --> 00:36:22.220

<v SPEAKER_3>But it won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction and it's a fascinating review of civilization, migration over the millennia.

00:36:23.240 --> 00:36:28.280

<v SPEAKER_3>It's the development of the human race in global terms.

00:36:28.280 --> 00:36:33.600

<v SPEAKER_3>It's absolutely, I wish I'd read it 25 years ago because it's really, really interesting.

00:36:33.600 --> 00:36:36.060

<v SPEAKER_3>So Guns, Germs, And Steel by Jared Diamond.

00:36:36.060 --> 00:36:36.460

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:36:36.460 --> 00:36:41.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Guns, Germs, And Steel by Jared Diamond and any of his books because he is excellent.

00:36:41.380 --> 00:36:42.740

<v SPEAKER_1>Heather, what are you reading?

00:36:42.740 --> 00:36:43.060

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:36:43.060 --> 00:36:44.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'm just obsessed with commodities.

00:36:44.900 --> 00:36:50.520

<v SPEAKER_2>I love to hear how commodities have shaped the world, whether it's a history of oil or a history of wheat.

00:36:51.240 --> 00:36:53.400

<v SPEAKER_2>And the one I'm reading now is salt.

00:36:53.400 --> 00:36:55.460

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it's called Salt, A World History.

00:36:55.460 --> 00:37:10.000

<v SPEAKER_2>So just the impact of salt, how it precipitated mining, it precipitated preservation of food, it precipitated kind of European, Mediterranean, Northern Viking trade because it could make things last longer.

00:37:10.000 --> 00:37:13.140

<v SPEAKER_2>It allowed the development of cities because you could preserve food for longer.

00:37:13.200 --> 00:37:21.020

<v SPEAKER_2>So I just love thinking about how these commodities have just shaped the way that human civilization evolved.

00:37:21.040 --> 00:37:23.040

<v SPEAKER_2>It's by Mark Kurlansky.

00:37:23.040 --> 00:37:23.480

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:37:23.480 --> 00:37:23.880

<v SPEAKER_1>Excellent.

00:37:23.880 --> 00:37:27.180

<v SPEAKER_1>Kurlansky, the salt, we'll put that on the list.

00:37:27.180 --> 00:37:30.080

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:37:30.080 --> 00:37:34.040

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by Martha Hall-Findlay and Heather Exner-Pirot.

00:37:34.040 --> 00:37:41.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Again, you can find links to Canada's Energy Future moving ahead in one Canadian economy and the other papers of the Canada-U.S.

00:37:41.620 --> 00:37:44.140

<v SPEAKER_1>Expert Group in our program notes.

00:37:44.140 --> 00:37:48.280

<v SPEAKER_1>You can also find the Canadian Global Affairs Institute on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

00:37:48.280 --> 00:37:52.220

<v SPEAKER_1>The Global Exchange is brought to you by our team at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:37:52.220 --> 00:37:57.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks as always out to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:37:57.440 --> 00:37:58.900

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:37:58.900 --> 00:38:01.200

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.