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FEBRUARY 2025

# connection

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**GOVERNMENT POLICY  
AND INDUSTRY UPDATES**

**ADVOCACY CORNER**

**SECTOR NEWS UPDATES**





## FULL MEMBERS



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



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## MISSION

CEMA's mission is to support and elevate Canada's small and medium-sized energy marketers, who are responsible for nearly 100,000 direct and indirect jobs across the country and are deeply committed to ensuring that innovative energy products, including low-carbon transportation solutions, are readily available to Canadian consumers.

CEMA ensures the voices of its membership are heard at all three levels of government in a fair, consistent and advocacy-first manner – members who include progressive leaders responsible for the distribution of diverse products like gasoline, diesel, heating oil, propane and aviation fuel, as well as low-carbon transportation energy solutions including renewable fuels and electric vehicle charging stations across a vast geography, to diverse industries, and to millions of Canadian consumers.



## CEMA CONNECTION 2025 EVENTS, PODCASTS, WEBINARS

### 2025 CANADIAN ENERGY MARKETING CONFERENCE

You'll love the exciting lineup of speakers at this year's Canadian Energy Marketing Conference presented by National Energy Equipment Inc. and Gilbarco Veeder-Root, taking place April 28-30, 2025, at the Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre.

This year's speaker lineup includes:

- Keynote speaker the **Hon. John Baird**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The **Political Pundit Panel**
- **David Adams**, President of Global Automakers of Canada
- **Bob Larocque**, President and CEO of the Canadian Fuels Association
- **Anne Kothawala**, President and CEO of the Convenience Industry Council of Canada
- **David Coletto**, President and CEO of Abacus Data
- **Avery Swartz**, Founder and CEO of Camp Tech
- Breakfast speaker **Doug Gilmour**, former Toronto Maple Leaf and NHL Hall of Fame inductee

For conference information or to register, [visit the event website!](#)

### PODCAST: ROAD CHATS SEASON 5, EPISODE 1

To kick off Season 5 of Road Chats, presented by National Energy Equipment Inc., host Catherine Clark chats with John Eichberger, Executive Director of the Transportation Energy Institute, about the Future-Ready Fleets campaign. Tune in to learn how medium- and heavy-duty vehicle operators can access free resources and gain a competitive edge while supporting environmental goals. [Listen here!](#)

### NEW FLEET TRANSITION TOOLS AVAILABLE!

The transportation sector is evolving, and fleet owners need clear, practical guidance to make informed decisions about their next steps. The Future Ready Fleets initiative, developed by the Canadian Transportation Council, provides two valuable resources:

- **A Guide to Adopting Low- and Zero-Emission Vehicles** – Covers cost considerations, technology options, and real-world case studies of fleets making the transition.
- **A Fleet Conversion Calculator** – A free tool that allows fleet owners to analyze potential cost savings and operational benefits when switching to cleaner vehicle options.

Learn more and access the guide and calculator [here](#).

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807.285.0392	519.622.7363	519.845.0058	905.670.8863	514.355.2366	506.861.1010	902.468.7342	709.747.0015

# GOVERNMENT POLICY AND INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

This update serves as a recap and reference point for our Members regarding the latest policy impacts on the energy market as well as industry trends. We will continue to monitor and communicate any policy changes directly to Members as they happen.

## NATIONAL POLICY & RESEARCH UPDATES

### Opinion: U.S. tariffs or not, Canada needs to build new oil and gas pipeline space fast

With new uncertainty emerging from Canada's biggest oil and gas customer – the United States – there is **a rallying cry to get new major pipelines built** to reach across Canada and to wider markets. Many industry experts see the threat to Canada's economy as a wake-up call for national competitiveness, arguing to keep up the momentum following the long-awaited completion of two massive pipelines across British Columbia over the last 18 months. With oil production continuing to grow, the need for more pipeline space could return as soon as next year, according to analysts and major pipeline operators.

### Singh says pipelines would not be first priority for NDP energy policy

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh says he sees an **east-west clean electricity corridor** as his first priority for expanding the Canadian energy market — not new pipelines. While Singh isn't shutting the door entirely to pipelines, he says pipeline projects must be accepted by the communities through which they're routed, must not hurt the environment, must provide good jobs, and must meet Indigenous consultation requirements. Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre says he would support the construction of an east-west pipeline and would make it easier to approve resource projects.

## PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL POLICY TRENDS

### WESTERN REGION

#### B.C. pipeline bottleneck breaks as province fast-tracks NEBC Connector

Among the 18 mine and energy projects the B.C. government recently announced will be fast-tracked is a **\$450-million natural gas liquids pipeline** from northeastern B.C. to Alberta: the NEBC Connector. Given the delays the project has suffered from BC Energy Regulator inertia, news that it may be fast-tracked is "a positive signal" in an important oil and gas-producing region that has been clouded of late with uncertainty, according to Brad Hayes, president of the energy consulting firm Petrel Robertson.



## **Morgan steps into hot seat at Canada's top provincial oil and gas regulator**

Rob Morgan, the former head of one of Canada's top liquids producers, has started a new job as **chief executive of the Alberta Energy Regulator**. He took up his role at the regulator on February 18, having most recently been chief executive of Strathcona Resources, overseeing the company's rapid growth over seven years from a junior producing about 17,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day to a major generating 185,000 boepd, the fifth-largest liquids producer in Canada.

### **PRAIRIE REGION**

#### **Saskatchewan leaders clash over Trump tariffs, pipelines**

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and NDP leader Carla Beck **are urging action** to protect provincial industries amid an escalating tariff war with President Donald Trump, but their approaches highlight disagreements over trade strategy and pipeline development. Moe intends to focus on growing trade with India and Japan as alternatives to reduce reliance on the U.S., which represented 55 per cent of Saskatchewan's exports in 2023. In contrast, Beck demands an emergency legislative session to address retaliatory measures and accelerate pipeline construction to Canada's East Coast.

### **ONTARIO AND QUEBEC**

#### **Quebec adopts its regulation prohibiting motor vehicles and internal combustion engines by 2035**

On December 16, 2024, Quebec adopted **the Québec Regulation, banning the sale of all new light-duty combustion engine vehicles** (motor vehicles) in Quebec by 2035. The Quebec Regulation is part of the government of Quebec's actions to achieve its goal of 100 per cent zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035. The ban will apply to light-duty combustion engine vehicles, such as passenger and commercial vehicles, including cars and light trucks, as well as most sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks. Mopeds, motorcycles, and off-road vehicles such as snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are excluded from the scope of the Quebec Regulation.

## **Quebec says it's open to LNG, oil projects after Trump threats**

Quebec has long resisted proposals to build new oil and gas pipelines through its territory. U.S. President Donald Trump's threats against Canada might change that. Quebec Environment Minister Benoit Charette said the government province is **open to reconsidering two major energy infrastructure projects** that it previously rejected. TC Energy Corp.'s Energy East pipeline, which would have carried western Canadian crude to refineries in eastern Canada, was mothballed in 2017 over regulatory hurdles and intense political opposition in Quebec. A separate proposal known as GNL Quebec to build a liquefied natural gas pipeline and export terminal in the Saguenay region was rejected by both federal and provincial authorities on environmental grounds.

#### **Ontario taxpayers applaud PC promise to make gas tax cut permanent**

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is applauding Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford's promise to **make the province's temporary 6.4 cent per litre gas tax cut permanent**. The Ford government cut the province's gas tax by 6.4 cents per litre on July 1, 2022. Since then, the average two-car Ontario family has saved more than \$1,000. The tax cut is currently set to expire on June 30, 2025. "Making the gas tax cut permanent would be a huge win for Ontario taxpayers at a time when struggling families need it," said CTF Ontario Director Jay Goldberg.

### **ATLANTIC REGION**

#### **Nova Scotia government bill would lift ban on fracking, uranium exploration**

A new government bill put forward February 18 would lift blanket bans on uranium exploration and hydraulic fracking of fossil fuels in Nova Scotia. The province says the omnibus bill would repeal the existing Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act to allow for research about the presence and distribution of uranium in Nova Scotia. It would also **make changes to the Petroleum Resources Act** to "create the potential" for hydraulic fracking to access onshore natural gas.

## In the face of doubts, Nova Scotia remains bullish on green hydrogen

The race to establish **Canada's first commercial green hydrogen plant** has thinned out, casting doubt on the industry's potential, but Nova Scotia's energy minister is undeterred. "We're very motivated to continue working with developers on a path forward, and we'll continue to do so," said Trevor Boudreau, who was appointed to manage the energy portfolio in December following a fall election. Two companies are looking to build green hydrogen operations in Cape Breton.

### NORTHERN REGION

#### **Canada Infrastructure Bank grants \$100-million loan for Inuvialuit natural gas plant**

The Inuvialuit-led M-18 well development project is one step closer to reality thanks to a \$100-million loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank. The financing toward the \$293-million project was announced in a February 20 news release. The M-18 well development project aims to develop a new plant south of Tuktoyaktuk, which will

produce natural gas and synthetic diesel, creating a local supply of **fuel for energy, heating, and transportation** for over 50 years.

## GLOBAL RESEARCH TRENDS

### **Natural gas is still a dirty word, but it's here to stay: Wood Mackenzie**

Natural gas will **play a critical role** in the global energy transition, serving as a bridge fuel between coal and renewables, according to a new report from Wood Mackenzie. Despite concerns over emissions and affordability, gas is expected to remain a key part of the energy mix for decades, particularly in power generation, industrial processes, and transport. According to WoodMac, natural gas demand has surged 80 per cent over the last 25 years, now accounting for nearly a quarter of global energy consumption. While electrification and renewables are expanding, they alone won't be enough to meet rising global energy demand.

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# ADVOCACY CORNER

Featured in the newsletter on a monthly basis, Advocacy Corner provides insight into federal and provincial political activity of importance to our Members. Read on to find out what decisions are being made, what's on the horizon, and what it all means for our sector.

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## Ongoing Threats from the United States

After anxiety approaching the February 1 deadline, Canadian industry was offered a reprieve when President Donald Trump announced a 30-day delay on his 25 per cent blanket tariffs – 10 per cent for energy. Industry experts say hundreds of thousands of jobs are at risk, on both sides of the border, if the tariffs come into place. Ontario and Alberta would be most impacted, with those relying on crude oil refineries in the U.S. Midwest heavily affected as well. Industry and government partners are taking part in ongoing conversations advocating for Canadian energy interests and the necessity to continue to move product to the U.S.

Trump's move to delay came after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau agreed to appoint a "fentanyl czar" and carry out other measures to improve border security. However, since then, the U.S. president has come out with a flurry of aggressive tariff threats. These have included tariffs on steel and aluminum, as well as floating the idea of a 100 per cent tariff on Canadian-made vehicles, which would have an existential impact on the sector. More recently, this threat has been de-escalated to make the tariff on automobiles 25 per cent – the same as for microchips, pharmaceuticals, and lumber.

While federal and provincial political leaders and industry work to put Canada in the best possible position to respond to these threats, angry Canadians have begun protesting by booing the American national anthem at sporting events and boycotting American goods with a "Buy Canadian" consumer mindset.

Meanwhile, Trump's repeated comments about Canada becoming the 51st state have been met with a mixture of disbelief, anger, ridicule, and trepidation.

New fears for Canadian sovereignty emerged due to a meeting between U.S. and Russian officials, which is reported to have included discussions regarding arctic energy and a potential energy deal with territory north of the 60th parallel — land which belongs to Canada and Denmark. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith had recently called for greater Arctic security in the wake of the impending tariff war with the United States.

## **Federal Updates**

With Parliament prorogued until March 24, the Liberal party's leadership race is in full swing. Of the candidates, former Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney are front runners. Many have cited the possibility of Mark Carney as prime minister as the reason the Liberals have seen an immense bump in the polls. For most of the past year — and leading to the prime minister's resignation — Conservatives were heavily favoured in the polls and seemed set up for an easy win come election time. Now, with Carney at the potential helm, Liberal numbers have begun to rise quickly. Carney has promised to call an election quickly if he's elected Liberal leader.

In light of growing tensions between the U.S. and Canada, Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne has strongly suggested a pipeline from Alberta to the east coast might be a necessary move, despite his party being largely blamed for the pipeline being cancelled by the proponent in 2019. In the face of a major shift in public opinion, Bloc Quebecois Leader François Legault has acknowledged he could alter his government's opposition to LNG infrastructure in the province.

## **Provincial Updates**

Ontario Premier Doug Ford was looking for a strong mandate when he called a snap election for February 27, and he got one. The provincial Progressive Conservative Party has earned another majority government for the next four years. Voters responded well to the strength and leadership Ford has shown in the face of American tariff threats and Trump's comments about making Canada the 51st state. He also announced that his government would ban any Chinese state-owned enterprises from "buying or taking equity in any Ontario government-funded energy and critical mineral projects."

In other provincial news, Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Andrew Furey announced his resignation at a surprise press conference in St. John's on February 25, saying he couldn't commit to another full term with an election slated for the fall. Furey has been a key advocate for a united Canadian front against the tariffs. The announcement comes about a week after the resignation of Prince Edward Island Premier Dennis King.



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DAVID COLETTI

President and CEO  
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BOB LAROCQUE

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Canadian Fuels Association

ANNE KOTHAWALA

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Convenience Industry  
Council of Canada

DOUG GILMOUR

Former NHL Player and  
Hockey Hall of Fame  
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President and CEO  
Canadian Energy Marketers Association

CATHERINE CLARK

Emcee and  
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Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre | Toronto, Ontario

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# NEWS UPDATES

The following section is a summary of the top media headlines and coverage of key policy and issues impacting the transportation fuel marketing space. Please note that all orange text in the following section is hyperlinked. If viewing electronically, you can click to read full articles directly from the publication source.

## GLOBAL

### [WILL OPEC SIT BACK AS NON-OPEC OIL GAINS GROUND?](#)

The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts non-OPEC crude oil production to increase by 1.8 million barrels per day this year. OPEC+ has maintained output cuts for three years, reducing its global market share from 53 per cent in 2016 to 47 per cent in 2024.

### [BRAZIL TO JOIN OPEC+](#)

Brazil's government on February 18 approved joining OPEC+, a group of major oil-exporting nations, signalling the country's evolution into a major oil state just nine months ahead of hosting the United Nations' annual climate summit.

### [RENEWABLE DIESEL INDUSTRY RUNS INTO HEADWINDS](#)

Interest in renewable diesel remains high around the world, but growth is slowing. Planned capacity for 2025 around the globe is 23.7 billion gallons, which is up only three per cent from 2024 levels. This is partially due to an expected drop in crude oil prices to about US\$60 per barrel by 2026.



## **NISSAN AND HONDA DITCH \$60-BILLION MERGER TALKS, FACE NEW UNCERTAINTY**

Nissan and Honda ended merger talks to forge a \$60-billion car company on February 13, pitching Nissan deeper into uncertainty and highlighting the pressure on legacy automakers from Chinese rivals upending the industry.

## **IN A MAJOR SHIFT, JAPEX TO PRIORITIZE OIL AND GAS INVESTMENT THROUGH 2030**

Japan Petroleum Exploration (Japex) is prioritizing investment in oil and gas exploration and production through 2030, revising an earlier plan to aggressively expand its renewables businesses due to rising costs, its president said. He added that Japex could selectively invest in non-oil and gas segments if returns are viable.

### **UNITED STATES**

## **TRUMP'S ENERGY COUNCIL LOOKS TO FAST-TRACK OIL PROJECTS**

President Donald Trump signed an order creating a "national energy dominance council" and will task it with steering U.S. policy on the issue, underscoring his commitment to driving already record-setting domestic oil and gas production.

## **TRUMP PROMISES TAX CUTS FOR OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS**

President Donald Trump plans to work with Republicans to implement tax cuts for oil and gas producers, allowing them to expense 100 per cent of capital spending. The proposed budget bill includes substantial tax cuts over the next decade, aiming to boost the energy industry and the overall economy.

## **TRUMP'S OIL AMBITIONS FACE HARSH ECONOMIC AND GEOLOGIC REALITIES**

President Donald Trump wants to "unleash" American energy. The problem: U.S. oil production growth is starting to dwindle. Soon enough, oil companies may need to "drill, baby, drill" just to keep up current production levels rather than boosting them.

## **U.S. REFINERS MULLS SWITCH TO ALTERNATIVE LIGHTER CRUDES AMID TRUMP TARIFF FEARS ON CANADA, MEXICO**

Top U.S. refiners are poised to seek alternative sources for heavy, sour crudes, including running more domestic grades, as they await clarity around President Donald Trump's threatened tariffs on imports from the nation's top crude suppliers Canada and Mexico, executives said.

## **U.S. OIL INDUSTRY BRACES FOR MORE PAIN AS INVENTORIES CONTINUE TO GROW**

The American Petroleum Institute estimated that crude oil inventories in the U.S. rose by 3.34 million barrels for the week ending February 14. Analysts had expected a 2.2-million-barrel build. This adds to the almost 18 million barrels of builds in U.S. crude oil inventories during the last four weeks, including a 9 million-barrel build in the week prior.

## **US OIL, BIOFUEL GROUPS UNITE TO URGE NEW TRUMP EPA TO BOOST BIOFUEL MANDATES**

In an unusual move, U.S. oil and biofuel groups banded together in mid-February to urge the new Trump administration to increase volumes of renewable fuels that must be blended into the nation's fuel mix in 2026 and beyond.

## **CURTAIN FALLS ON HYDROGEN TRUCK MAKER HYZON**

Hydrogen fuel cell electric truck manufacturer Hyzon closed its doors February 18, according to an executive, almost exactly four years after promising to produce 40,000 trucks in 2025. A hollowed-out Hyzon struggled through a several-month search for a last-minute reprieve via additional funding or a buyer, but none materialized.

## **NIKOLA DECLARES BANKRUPTCY, WILL SELL OFF ASSETS**

After failing to find a white-knight buyer willing to bankroll hydrogen fuel cell electric and battery-electric Class 8 truck production, truck maker Nikola Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection February 19 and plans to auction off its assets.

## **MERCEDES-BENZ TO LAUNCH MORE NEW COMBUSTION ENGINE CARS THAN EVS IN NEXT 2 YEARS**

Mercedes-Benz will launch 19 new combustion engine cars and 17 battery-electric vehicles from 2025 to 2027, a presentation by its CEO showed on February 20, in a sign of a renewed combustion engine focus by carmakers amid low uptake of EVs.

### **CANADA**

## **NEW FARMS AND FUELS ALLIANCE (FFA) LAUNCHED TO CHAMPION CANADA'S DOMESTIC ETHANOL SECTOR**

Greenfield Global Inc. and Alco Energy Canada, two of Canada's largest fuel ethanol producers, and Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, announced on February 19 the establishment of Canada's Farms and Fuels Alliance, a groundbreaking coalition uniting Canada's domestic ethanol industry and agricultural sector.

### **WESTERN REGION**

## **B.C. COMPANY CANCELS PLANS TO BUILD OIL REFINERY FOR FUEL EXPORTS TO ASIA**

A B.C.-based company has cancelled its proposal to build a West Coast refinery designed for exporting finished petroleum products to Asia. Pacific Future Energy sought to transport bitumen from Alberta's oil sands to northwestern British Columbia for refining. The idea was to load refined petroleum products such as diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel onto Asia-bound tankers.

## **SUBSIDIZED AMERICAN BIODIESEL THREATENS B.C. REFINER**

The owner of an oil refinery in Prince George says it can't compete with U.S. biodiesel subsidized by the Inflation Reduction Act's Clean Fuel Production Credit and has filed a countervailing and anti-dumping duty complaint with the Canada Border Services Agency.

### **PRAIRIE REGION**

## **DECISION TO PAUSE A \$2-BILLION INVESTMENT IN CANOLA RATTLES SASKATCHEWAN GROWERS**

A \$2-billion investment in canola processing plants in Regina – set to churn out 15,000 barrels of renewable diesel daily and create more than 2,500 long- and short-term jobs – has been put on hold as uncertainty over trade and biofuels takes hold in Canada's breadbasket.

### **ONTARIO AND QUEBEC**

## **HI-VIEW RESOURCES INITIATES HYDROGEN EXPLORATION NEAR VILLE MARIE, QUEBEC**

Hi-View Resources Inc. has announced plans for a Phase 1 work program and data compilation for its mineral claim applications near Ville Marie, Quebec, following a significant hydrogen discovery by Quebec Innovative Materials Corp.

## **STELLANTIS PAUSES JEEP COMPASS BUILDS AT ONTARIO PLANT, PUTTING EV PRIORITIES IN JEOPARDY, EXPERTS SAY**

As car manufacturer Stellantis pauses work on its next-generation Jeep Compass, including retooling a plant in Canada designated to build the vehicle, industry observers say the company is rethinking its priorities on electric vehicles as tariffs create an uncertain environment for automakers.

### **ATLANTIC REGION**

## **NL'S OIL AND GAS MORE VALUABLE THAN EVER ADMIT TARIFF THREAT**

The CEO of Energy NL says now more than ever it's important to develop Newfoundland and Labrador's oil and gas resources. Charlene Johnson was responding to the uncertainty created by U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to impose 10 per cent tariffs on Canadian oil and gas.





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