

INDUSTRY **NEWS UPDATES** | MEMBER **BENEFITS** | UPCOMING **EVENTS** | AND **MORE**

OCTOBER 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**GOVERNMENT POLICY
AND INDUSTRY UPDATES**

ADVOCACY CORNER

SECTOR NEWS UPDATES



FULL 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PETER KILTY | **PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall, although winter seems to have arrived early for some of us in Western Canada, where we've already seen several snowfalls.

To say that October has been an eventful month would be an understatement. Provincial elections brought sweeping changes, with the Parti Québécois securing a victory in Quebec and the Conservatives forming a majority government in British Columbia for the first time in 98 years. Both results offer lessons that will likely be discussed for years to come.

Meanwhile, Albertans voted against moving forward with a formal referendum to separate from Canada by a three-to-one margin, creating tensions within Premier Danielle Smith's party. Smith has stated that the United Conservative Party (UCP) is committed to remaining in Canada and that those seeking separation should find another political home.

On the energy front, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced that Pacific Link (formerly known as the West Coast Oil Project) will be Canada's first project of national interest under the Building Canada Act. This represents a significant development for Western Canada's energy sector and the country's efforts to expand access to global markets.

There has also been encouraging news for CEMA Members. In late September, Alberta announced a pause on its provincial fuel tax, followed two weeks later by Prince Edward Island. Both provinces introduced straightforward processes allowing operators to receive immediate refunds for pre-paid provincial taxes on fuel remaining in inventory. These measures demonstrate that governments can provide timely, practical relief to fuel retailers. They also strengthen CEMA's case as we continue pressing the federal government to repay the carbon and excise taxes owed to our Members. We hope these provincial examples will help bring about the long-overdue federal action our Members deserve.

Until next time, I wish everyone a great month ahead,

Peter Kilty

President and CEO

Canadian Energy Marketers Association

STAYING CONNECTED

CEMA CONNECTION 2026 EVENTS, PODCASTS, WEBINARS



SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2027 Canadian Energy Marketing Conference returns to Toronto **April 26–27, 2027!** Details and a full speaker lineup will be announced soon.



CEMA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow CEMA on [LinkedIn](#) for the latest in energy policy, thought leadership, and content and event updates from membership and stakeholders.



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

Canada proposes changes to support the low-carbon fuel industry

On October 30, the Government of Canada published its **proposed amendments to the Clean Fuel Regulations** with the intention of helping strengthen Canada's low-carbon fuel industry by closing the competitiveness gap facing Canadian low-carbon fuel producers, creating conditions for more investment in clean technology projects in the fuels sector, and making it easier and cheaper for companies to comply with the regulations. There

will then be a 75-day public consultation period. In September, CEMA's Fuel Quality Regulation Consultation submission included suggestions for better harmonizing those regulations and the Clean Fuel Regulations.

Diesel is at record highs. Why won't Canada build more refineries?

Truckers and farmers paying record prices for diesel this fall have been asking a reasonable question: if Canada has so much oil, **why can't it make more of its own fuel?** The numbers tell a more complicated story. Canadian refineries already produce most of the gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel that Canadians consume, but for large pockets of the country, it makes more sense to buy fuel from the United States because there isn't a Canadian refinery nearby. Without a pipeline carrying western crude all the way to Atlantic Canada, existing refineries there need to rely partly on imported oil.

Opinion: Here's an easy win in the current trade war with the United States: end all federal and provincial mandates for ethanol in gasoline

Ron Barmby, the author of *Sunset on Net Zero: A Heretic's Guide to the Futile CO₂ Target*, wrote an op-ed in the Financial Post saying that three per cent ethanol is all that's needed to prevent engine knocks, and Canada's farmers can supply that. Anything more results in billions of dollars of imports from the U.S., which increases Canadian gasoline prices but does not reduce tailpipe CO₂ emissions. He argues that **ending all Canadian mandates for ethanol-blended gasoline would save \$3.5 billion** in American imports without introducing a new tariff and risking retaliation.

WESTERN REGION

Opinion: Major projects in B.C. shouldn't be dependent on federal approval

In this opinion piece, Geoff Russ says Cedar LNG and Ksi Lisims show **B.C. can get big projects built** through First Nations partnerships, without waiting for Ottawa to step in. He argues that, if a project is proposed with a sound vision, feasible logistics, and willing partners, there must be a predictable and smooth path to approval, without having to treat its timely completion as a national emergency. He says repealing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) would create a clean slate for the resource economy in B.C., but clear, reliable rules will still be required to allow projects to succeed.

PRAIRIE REGION

Saskatchewan oil exports could get a boost from B.C. election, experts say

A change in government in British Columbia could mean more opportunities for Saskatchewan to get its oil to overseas markets, potentially bringing better prices and more money into the province. With the incoming Conservative government promising to focus on resource development, experts say Saskatchewan could benefit from a more welcoming approach to pipelines and West Coast exports. Heather Exner-Pirot, director of energy, natural resources, and environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, said improving access to international markets could **make a significant difference for Saskatchewan's oil industry**.

Opinion: Saskatchewanians deserve a gas tax cut too

Gage Haubrich, the prairie director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, points out that while the federal government and several provincial governments have suspended their gas taxes to make life more affordable, Saskatchewan has not. The price of gasoline has seen an increase of approximately 50 cents per litre since March. Haubrich says since the Saskatchewan government will be taking in about \$331 million more than projected, mostly from natural resource revenues, **it can afford to cut its gas tax** and still provide services such as fixing the province's roads.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Quebec election delivers PQ minority government – What it could mean for energy development

Quebec voters delivered a **major political change** in early October, electing the Parti Québécois to form a minority government and returning the sovereigntist party to power after more than a decade in opposition. Energy could become one of the most important economic files for the new government. However, for Canada's conventional oil and natural gas sector, a PQ government is unlikely to represent a major shift toward hydrocarbon development, since it was the Conservatives who campaigned on reopening discussion around shale gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing.



ATLANTIC REGION

Newfoundland government cutting gas tax on gasoline and diesel to zero beginning December 1

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will pay **zero provincial gas tax on gasoline and diesel fuel beginning December 1, 2026**, as the provincial government delivers further cost-of-living relief to residents across the province. Craig Parry, Minister of Finance, announced October 26 that the government was reducing the provincial tax on gasoline and diesel to zero cents per litre from December 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and that the government would propose legislative amendments before the end of October in the House of Assembly, with the intention of bringing those tax changes into effect.

Summer driving fun in N.B. dimmed by Canada's highest clean fuel charges

Clean fuel charges paid by motorists on gasoline overtook New Brunswick's gas tax in size for the first time during the spring and summer, as costs of the federal policy to New Brunswick consumers **surged well beyond original projections**. According to a 117-page modelling report submitted by Environment and Climate Change Canada to the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board in January 2024, clean fuel charges were expected to grow gradually over time in New Brunswick until peaking in 2030 at eight cents per litre on gasoline. This summer, they ranged between 11.66 cents and 12.34 cents a litre.

NORTHERN REGION

N.W.T. finance minister says no emergency relief from fuel price shock, but pushes Ottawa for support

Northwest Territories Finance Minister Caroline Wawzonek is **not committing to any new relief** for residents facing an impending winter fuel price shock but promises she will advocate for support from the federal government. Wawzonek was pressed on October 21 by a number of MLAs in the Legislative Assembly who asked if she would suspend the territorial tax on gas and diesel for vehicles, or take emergency measures to provide subsidies to those who aren't already getting support for home heating fuel costs.



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.

International Energy Ties Tighten

Canada has signed a historic deal with Turkey. As part of the two countries' new strategic partnership, the deal includes cooperation on several energy-sector priorities. Prime Minister Mark Carney was accompanied by Energy and Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson on the foreign affairs trip. Both expressed an interest in expanding Canadian exports of CANDU nuclear reactors, critical minerals, and liquefied natural gas to Turkey. Carney said the two countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation on civil nuclear energy, renewable energy, and critical energy infrastructure.

Political Shakeup in British Columbia

British Columbia's snap election resulted in a major political upset, with Lorne Doerksen's Conservatives defeating David Eby's NDP to win a majority government. Eby resigned as party leader following the election, accepting responsibility for the defeat. The Conservatives won 64 seats, compared with 27 for the NDP and two for the Greens. Doerksen says his first priorities will include reviewing the province's substantial debt and working with Alberta and the federal government to advance plans for an oil pipeline to the West Coast.

The new government also plans to introduce legislation during the spring session to repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). Doerksen has said he remains committed to working with Indigenous groups as partners in the province's development but believes repealing DRIPA would create more opportunities for economic development in B.C.

During the campaign, the Conservatives promised to double liquefied natural gas production by 2032 and triple it by 2035. The party also pledged to repeal CleanBC, the previous NDP government's plan to lower climate-changing emissions by 40 per cent by 2030. U.S. President Donald Trump also commented on the election on social media. The results mark the first Conservative majority government in B.C. in almost 100 years.

Federal Conservatives Unsuccessful at Repealing Tanker B.C. Tanker Ban

On October 28, the Liberal government voted to keep the B.C. coastal tanker ban in place, defeating a Conservative bill that would have repealed it. MPs voted along party lines during second reading in the House of Commons, with only the Conservatives voting to move the bill forward to the committee stage.

As they brought forward the bill, Conservatives pointed to a proposal by Calgary-based Strathcona Resources to ship up to 250,000 barrels of Canadian oil a day on existing railroad tracks to Prince Rupert, B.C., for shipment across the Pacific Ocean. The existing law, the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, prohibits tankers from carrying more than 12,500 metric tonnes of crude oil in areas along the northern coast of British Columbia.

Prime Minister Mark Carney struck a deal with the B.C. government earlier this summer to keep the ban in place and soon afterward joined Premier Smith to announce the route for the proposed oil pipeline to the West Coast would go south to respect the tanker ban.

Alberta Is Here to Stay

After a historic referendum, Alberta voted overwhelmingly against moving forward with a formal referendum on separation from Canada. Premier Danielle Smith said she voted to remain in Canada but maintained that holding the referendum had been necessary. She also promised not to hold any other separation votes during her time in office, declaring the matter closed. Smith said that Alberta will instead pursue its interests through political and legal channels and would no longer use the threat of separation in energy-related disputes with Ottawa.



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.

INTERNATIONAL

[GAS-ONLY CARS FALL BELOW 50% OF GLOBAL NEW CAR SALES FOR THE FIRST TIME](#)

For the first time on record, gasoline-only vehicles fell below half of global new-car sales. Mobility Global data covering January through June 2026 put their share at 49 per cent, down from 73 per cent just five years ago. However, approximately 83 per cent of new vehicles sold globally still included an internal-combustion powertrain in some form during the first half of 2026.

[EU MOVES CLOSER TO KEEPING GAS CARS ALIVE AFTER 2035. HERE'S WHAT'S CHANGED](#)

A new agreement between European lawmakers would give automakers more flexibility to keep selling ICE-powered vehicles after 2035, marking another retreat from the bloc's original zero-emissions target. The compromise would require automakers to reduce average CO₂ emissions from new cars by 87.5 per cent compared with 2021 levels by 2035.

[TOYOTA WANTS TO CONVINCE THE EU THAT SOME HYBRIDS ARE ZERO EMISSIONS](#)

Toyota is pushing the European Union to count some gasoline-powered cars as zero-emission as long as they run exclusively on approved renewable gasoline. The category is called VEEF, short for vehicles running exclusively on eligible renewable fuels, including those derived from organic waste, biomass residues, or synthetic e-fuels.

ARCTIC GAS AND OIL SHOULD ‘STAY IN THE GROUND,’ SAYS EU COMMISSIONER SÍKELA

European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Síkela insists the EU will maintain its opposition to drilling for natural resources, including oil and gas, in the Arctic, despite the U.S. and Norway taking a different approach. The EU’s new Arctic strategy prioritizes security over energy development.

U.S.

GLOBAL DIESEL PRICES SEEN STAYING HIGH DESPITE TRUMP’S DEAL WITH RUSSIA

President Donald Trump’s deal with Russia to supply diesel to U.S. and global markets is unlikely to meaningfully lower diesel prices, market watchers and analysts said, noting that the promised volumes are too small to ease a global supply squeeze. Record-high diesel prices have created a political liability for Trump and his Republican Party.

EIA SAYS U.S. CRUDE INVENTORIES SINK FURTHER

Crude oil inventories in the United States saw a decrease of 3.1 million barrels during the week ending October 16, according to new data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration released on October 21. The decrease brings commercial stockpiles to 412.5 million barrels, according to government data, 3 per cent below the five-year average for this time of year.

GM EXPANDS HYBRID PLANS AS FUEL COSTS RISE

With high gas prices sending car buyers flocking to hybrids, General Motors Co. is giving the technology another look. A skeptic of gas-electric vehicles, the Detroit-based automaker now plans to have hybrid models in “multiple segments” in its lineup, CEO Mary Barra told analysts October 20 on a conference call.

CANADA

HIGHER GAS PRICES DROVE INFLATION UP TO 3.1% IN SEPTEMBER: STATCAN

Statistics Canada says the annual pace of inflation rose to 3.1 per cent in September as war in the Middle East continued to drive up gas prices. The agency says the acceleration was led by a 27.8 per cent spike in gasoline prices last month compared with a year earlier, despite the switch to the less expensive winter gas blend.

SPANISH FIRM WINS \$220-MILLION CONTRACT FOR CANADIAN PIPELINE EXPANSION

Spanish engineering firm Técnicas Reunidas has secured a contract valued at about \$220 million to manage the second phase of the Coastal GasLink pipeline project, the company announced on October 19. Under the agreement awarded by LNG Canada to subsidiary TR Canada E&C, the firm will oversee engineering, procurement, and construction management for the expansion.

PRAIRIE REGION

GRAIN GROWERS ASKS OTTAWA FOR A 50-CENT DIESEL REBATE

A Canadian farm group is seeking an emergency diesel rebate from Ottawa. Grain Growers of Canada recently sent a letter to federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne, seeking relief for “extraordinary fuel-cost pressures.” The group is asking for a \$0.50-per-litre rebate on diesel purchased for eligible agricultural production activities during a defined period of exceptional fuel prices.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

CHARBONE ADDS HYDROGEN AND HELIUM FILLING UNIT AT SOREL-TRACY

Charbone has announced the addition of an industrial gas cylinder filling unit at its site in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec. This unit will allow Charbone to fill hydrogen and helium cylinders directly from the onset at the site with the aim of broadening the company's commercial offering and developing the company's customer base in Quebec and other Canadian regions.

QIMC EXTENDS NATURAL HYDROGEN AND HELIUM SEISMIC PROGRAM ACROSS THE TEMISCAMINGUE GRABEN INTO ONTARIO

Quebec Innovative Materials Corp. (QIMC) has expanded its vibroseismic program into Ontario with the addition of a 26.8-km east-west line across the Ontario portion of the Lac Témiscamingue Graben. This area was selected partially because its corridor contains the highest soil-gas hydrogen concentrations recorded by QIMC in the area to date.

ATLANTIC REGION

SHELL BUYING 30% STAKE IN BAY DU NORD OIL PROJECT OFF NEWFOUNDLAND

Shell Canada has agreed to buy a 30 per cent stake in the proposed Bay du Nord oil project off the East Coast of Newfoundland from Norwegian energy giant Equinor, which will continue to lead the \$14-billion development. Equinor is expected to decide early next year whether it will proceed with what would be the first deepwater oil development in Canada.

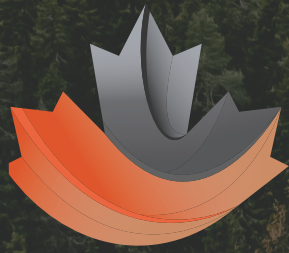
SUNCOR SELLING OFF STAKES IN N.L.'S TERRA NOVA, WHITE ROSE, AND WEST WHITE ROSE FOR \$1.2B

Calgary-based Suncor Energy has announced a shakeup in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil industry, saying it is selling off stakes in three oilfields. In a statement in early October, the energy company said it had reached a deal with U.K.-based Ithaca Energy to sell its 48 per cent interest in Terra Nova, 40 per cent interest in White Rose, and 38.6 per cent interest in West White Rose offshore assets.





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Members for working
so hard to fuel Canada.
Canada's Energy Marketers:
Essential. Reliable. Ethical.**



CEMA

CANADIAN ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

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updates you'd like us to highlight, or would like to
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