

## FPT Ministerial Report

**Date:** July 19-21, 2015

**Title:** Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Department:** Economic Development and Transportation

### Participants:

- Energy and Mines Minister, Hon. Monica Eil and EA Chris Scullion
- Economic Development and Transportation was represented by:
  - Paul Suvega, Deputy Minister
  - Bernie MacIsaac, Assistant Deputy Minister
  - David Kunuk, Director, Minerals and Petroleum Resources
  - Lou Kamermans, Manager, Environmental Assessment & Regulation
  - Andrew Pye, Energy Resource Analyst

### Nunavut Position:

EMMC 2015 was divided into five sessions: Innovation, Public Confidence, Energy, Mines, and Industry & Regulatory Reform. Each session produced its own decisions and deliverables.

#### 1. Open Joint Session: Innovation

Session opened by highlighting the findings of *Innovating for a Strong Canadian Energy and Mining Sector*, a report which had been developed with input from Provinces and Territories. The report presents an overview of the current state of innovation in Canada's energy and minerals and metals sectors. It is organized into three key observations: Canada's natural resource advantage, Canada's innovation leadership in the energy and mining sectors, and the future importance of innovation.

##### Decision:

- Ministers agreed to the public release of the report: *Innovating for a Strong Canadian Energy and Mining Sector*.

#### 2. Closed Joint Session: Public Confidence

Ministers heard a presentation from Dr. Monica Gattinger, a professor at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Gattinger framed the issue of public confidence through four areas of focus:

- Mining/energy literacy and public opinion

- Environmental groups and local communities
- Aboriginal participation in resource development
- Intergovernmental relations

Decision:

- Ministers agreed to continue to explore ways for FTP collaboration in the area of public confidence and continue this work into EMMC 2016.

### 3. Closed Energy Ministers Session

Ministers were briefed on the progress of several working groups, which included information on US/Canada electricity reliability, industrial energy efficiency, shale and tight resources, and pipeline/rail/tanker safety standards.

Decision:

Ministers agreed to the public release of a number of reports:

- *After the Blackout, Implementation of Mandatory Electric Reliability Standards in Canada*
- *Regulatory Side-by-Side Governing Permitting of Cross-Border Electricity Transmission Facilities*
- *Maximizing Canada's Industrial Energy Efficiency*
- *Taking Action: Moving forward together on energy research, technology and innovation.*
- Ministers also approved web content for a Shale and Tight Resources web portal, and well as fact sheets on pipeline/marine/rail safety.

Ministers also agreed to fully implement the *Pipeline Safety Act*, while continuing to implement tangible measures that improve energy transportation by pipeline, marine, and rail. Ministers made a number of other agreements, including:

- Work with other jurisdictions to maintain Canadian progress in the clean-energy market
- Participate when needed in the North American Energy Ministers' Working Group on Energy and Climate Change
- Continued participation in the EMMC Energy Technology Working Group and its multi-year work plan on shale resource development and distributed power generation.

- Working together to provide and promote evidence-based public awareness on the development of unconventional petroleum resources.

#### 4. Closed Mines Ministers Session

Mines ministers discussed current opportunities and challenges facing the mining sector, emphasizing the importance support for junior mining companies, the importance of community engagement, and ongoing innovation in the mining sector.

##### Decision:

- Ministers released four new case studies to be added to the 2014 report *Compendium of Good Practices in Community Engagement and Readiness*. The four new case studies from Saskatchewan, Quebec, Manitoba, and Yukon show how early and sustained engagement is critical through each stage of mineral development.
- Ministers recognized the importance of innovation in the mining industry by continuing to support the federal government's Green Mining Initiative. To this end, the Government of Canada recently invested \$23 million over 5 years to stimulate technological innovation in the development of rare earth metals and chromite.
- British Columbia presented on the Mount Polley incident and subsequent recommendations. Ministers agreed to the importance of strong mine regulations to ensure that industry standards reflect the highest level of environmental protection.
- The National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Initiative's (NOAMI) work in mine site remediation, and the importance of continuing that work was also discussed.

#### 5. Close Joint Session: Industry and Regulatory Reform

The last session of the conference saw a presentation from industry representatives on the future on energy and mining in Canada, updates from the Regulatory Reform working group, and updates on the Major Projects Management Office.

##### Decision:

- Ministers endorsed the findings from the Regulatory Reform Working Group Final Report, most notably the proposal to dissolve the group.
- Ministers agreed to enhance engagement with Aboriginal communities through the Major Projects Management Office. An updated version of the Major Projects Inventory was also provided.

**Related FPT Activity:**

**FPT meetings in which EDT's Energy Secretariat is involved:**

1. FPT Committee Energy Steering Group (Bernie Maclsaac, Andrew Pye; emails and phones calls monthly)
2. FPT Committee Energy Technology Working Group (Andrew Pye; emails and phone calls monthly)
3. FPT Committee, Electricity Working Group (Andrew Pye; emails and phone calls monthly)
4. FPT Committee, Oil and Gas Working Group (Andrew Pye; emails and phone calls monthly)
5. FPT Committee, Energy Efficiency Working Group (Andrew Pye; emails and phone calls monthly)

**Next Steps:**

Ministers accepted an invitation from Manitoba to convene in Winnipeg from August 21 to August 23, for the 2016 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference.

As a starting point, the issue of public confidence has been identified as a possible area that could guide the 2016 work.

**Attachments:**      **Agenda**  
                              **Press Release**

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**FPT Ministerial Report to the Legislative Assembly**