

## FPT Ministerial Report

**Date:** August 21-23, 2016

**Title:** Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) 2016, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Department:** Economic Development and Transportation

### Participants:

- Energy and Mines Minister, Monica Eil-Kanayuk
- Economic Development and Transportation was represented by:
  - Sherri Rowe, Deputy Minister
  - David Kunuk, Director, Minerals
  - Lou Kamermans, Manager, Environmental Assessment & Regulation
  - Paul Budkewitsch, Manager, Minerals
  - Annie Parent-Cyr, Senior Advisor, Petroleum
  - Krista Johnson, Energy Resource Analyst

### Background:

The theme of EMMC 2016 was “Enhancing Public Confidence in Canada’s Natural Resource Sectors.” The conference was divided into four sessions: Public Confidence, Clean Technology and Innovation, Energy, and Mines. Each session produced its own decisions and deliverables.

#### 1. Open Joint Session: Public Confidence

Ministers endorsed the following principles and committed to developing a joint action plan over the coming year:

- Foster relationships and partnerships with stakeholders and Indigenous communities through early and sustained engagement and collaboration;
- Improve the communication and transparency of data and regulatory processes;
- Balance community interests and mitigate environmental and health impacts through regulation and legislation; and,
- Support science and innovation to inform decisions and enhance environmental performance.

During this session, the need for all levels of government (F/T/P) to work more

closely together was identified and thoroughly discussed. Specific attention was directed toward discussion revolving around jurisdictional processes (i.e. policy development, strategies, action plans) need to be more clear, as well as need to better align with federal initiatives.

In addition, Ministers endorsed and publicly released the following documents:

- *Natural Resources: Major Projects Planned and Under Construction, 2016 to 2026*
- *Facilitating responsible mineral and energy development: Compendium of Case Studies on Building Public Confidence in the Mineral and Energy Resource Sectors*
- *Public Confidence Along the Project Development Cycle* infographics (Energy and Mining).

## 2. Joint Closed Session: Clean Technology and Innovation

Discussion on the Government of Canada's review of federal environmental and regulatory processes, including its plans to modernize the National Energy Board. Ministers agreed to work together to ensure provincial and territorial perspectives related to issues of safety and environmental protection, Indigenous and local community consultation, delivering economic benefits, competitiveness and timeliness are accounted for in this review.

The ministers also recognized that collaborative approaches to innovation and the development of clean technologies could encourage clean growth in the minerals and energy sectors across Canada. Governments agreed on the need to develop a strategy directed toward the adoption of clean technology by the natural resource sector.

Canada's *Mission Innovation* initiative was also discussed. The Government of Canada seeks to double its governmental directed clean energy and research and development (R&D) investments over the next 5 years. In fiscal year (FY) '14/'15, funding of an approximate \$387M was provided for clean technology R&D. Canada aims to increase total amount of available funding to \$775M by FY '19/'20.

## 3. Closed Energy Ministers Session

Ministers were briefed on the progress of several working groups, which included information in energy efficiency, innovation, oil and gas, and electric reliability. In particular, Ministers endorsed the following documents for public release:

- *Encouraging Market Transformation through Collaboration on Energy Efficiency Standards*

- *Financing Energy Efficiency Retrofits in the Built Environment*
- *Innovation Cluster on Shale Resource Development and Distributed Power Generation: A Progress Report to Ministers*
- *Working Together to Advance Energy Research: Best Practices and Lessons-Learned for RD&D Collaboration*
- *Finding Our Balance: How Changes in Oil Prices Impact Canada's Economy (Conference Board of Canada)*
- *Shale and Tight Resources Web Portal*
- *Pipeline Safety Regimes Web Portal*
- *Canada's Electric Reliability Framework Web Portal*

In addition to these documents, Ministers discussed:

- Commitments made at the recent North American Leaders' Summit, including clean power targets, transportation network integration, and cross-border electricity transmission.
- Collaboration with the federal government in the implementation of the Canadian Energy Strategy. This collaboration includes a commitment to reduce diesel use in Indigenous, remote and off-grid communities, and to convene a Pan-Canadian Summit to identify options to improve access to diesel alternatives.
- The development of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

#### 4. Closed Mines Ministers Session

Mines ministers discussed current opportunities and challenges facing the mining sector, emphasizing the importance of the junior mining sector, supportive regulatory regimes, infrastructure, environmental performance, and ongoing innovation in the mining sector.

The topic of providing continual financial support to the junior mining sector was discussed for a large portion of the session. Remote and northern Canada is rich in mineral resources; however, the development of these resources is costly, and such costs have deterred junior mining companies from investing in their development. The Government of Canada mentioned that they will dedicate funds to long-term financing for these projects.

In addition, Ministers endorsed the following documents to be made public:

- Mining Sector Performance Report 2006-15

#### 5. Other Items

- David Kunuk, Director, Minerals from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, moderated a session on regulatory innovation and best practices. The session included presentations from government regulators, and industry stakeholders. Mr. Kunuk then shared the outcomes of this discussion with Ministers. Outcomes include:
  - All indigenous peoples must be consulted prior to changes in regulation;
  - Respecting the environment and building of a low-carbon economy is a priority for indigenous groups and all Canadians;
  - There is a need for more collaboration between jurisdictions in regulatory and policy making;
  - Decisions have to be science-based, and information has to be shared with the public; and,
  - Innovation and transparency are necessary for the public to regain trust in the regulatory system.
- On Tuesday, August 23, Ministers and Deputy Ministers met with national Indigenous leaders to discuss Indigenous natural resource priorities and how to strengthen Indigenous engagement in EMMC discussions.

**Related FPT Activity:**

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

1. FPT Committee Energy Steering Group (Bernie Maclsaac, Krista Johnson; emails and phones calls monthly)
2. FPT Committee Energy Technology Working Group (Krista Johnson; emails and phone calls monthly)
3. FPT Committee, Electricity Working Group (Krista Johnson; emails and phone calls monthly)
4. FPT Committee, Oil and Gas Working Group (Annie Cyr-Parent; emails and phone calls monthly)
5. FPT Committee, Energy Efficiency Working Group (Krista Johnson; emails and phone calls monthly)

**FPT meetings in which EDT (Minerals and Petroleum Resources) are involved:**

1. FPT Committee, Mining Steering Group (Paul Budkewitsch; emails and phone calls monthly)

**Next Steps:**

Ministers accepted an invitation from New Brunswick to convene in St. Andrews in August 2017, for the 2017 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference.

Ministers have agreed to further works done for the 2016 EMMC on public confidence. Public confidence as well as collaboration, communication and transparency, and supporting the development of science and innovation will be topics of focus during upcoming EMMCs.

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

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**FPT Ministerial Report to the Legislative Assembly**