

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources, delivers Remarks at the Calgary Energy Roundtable Conference.

**Words:** 912

**Delivery Time:** 9.1 minutes (@100 words/minute)

Thank you Tom, and good afternoon everyone!

*[Introductory remarks as appropriate]*

I want to begin by acknowledging that we are on traditional Treaty 7 territory.

I also want to congratulate the organizers of this, the 15<sup>th</sup> Calgary Energy Roundtable.

The discussions you are having today reflect the key issues facing our energy sector – the impact of lower commodity prices, the hardship our businesses and families have gone through, concerns about pipelines and

competitiveness, the effects of cost-cutting, the prospects for LNG and the importance of innovation.

These important conversations come at a time when there has been set backs but also significant progress on several fronts.

Our government concluded a new trade agreement with Mexico and the United States – supporting deeper integration of North American energy markets and one that enhances energy competitiveness and investor confidence.

The new agreement got rid of the proportionality clause, restoring sovereignty over our energy resources.

We also fought for – and won – administrative changes that will save the oil patch more than \$60 million a year in fees and costs.

And I'm also pleased to report that we have reached a side agreement with the United States on energy, recognizes the importance how integrated North American energy markets are based on open trade and investment;

There was even more good news, with LNG Canada opening the door to a \$40-billion liquefied natural gas export terminal in Kitimat.

This is the largest private-sector investment in the history of our country and sends a very clear signal: Canada is open for business.

LNG Canada will:

- create 10,000 jobs
- generate billions of dollars in new government revenues; and hundreds of millions of dollars in construction contracts for Indigenous businesses.

Just as impressive, this will be the cleanest large-scale LNG facility in the world – a terrific example of the economy and the environment going hand in hand.

Our government took decisive action to get this project across the finish line. We're committing 275 million dollars for initiatives that will ensure that this project sets the world's standard in things such as infrastructure, marine protection and enhancing environmental performance. We're also committed to ensuring trade barriers don't get in the way of this once-in-a-generation investment.

So my message to you today is very simple: our government understands how important the energy sector is. For jobs. For our economy. And for our future.

That's why we're investing in ideas and technologies that will help keep this industry competitive.

That's why we launched the *Resources of the Future* Table, as well as the Generation Energy dialogues to understand the challenges and the potential of this important sector.

It's why we created the \$50 million Oil and Gas Clean Tech Program, which is supporting nine innovative projects that make oil and gas production in Canada cleaner.

It's why we approved important energy projects, including the Line 3 Replacement and NOVA Gas pipelines, the

Woodfibre LNG project and the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal.

Pause

We have also faced challenges. One of them is the federal court ruling on the TMX.

We know that we need access to new markets for our oil and gas and that getting this access is good for producers and Canadians but we also need to ensure that TMX moves forward in the right way.

Since the federal court's decision, we have taken two important steps.

First, we have instructed the National Energy Board to take into account the environmental impacts of marine shipping as part of its review of the project.

We have asked the Board to report back within 22 weeks and directed it to consider our \$1.5-billion Oceans Protection Plan as part of its review.

Second, we are addressing the Court's concern about Indigenous consultations.

While the Court acknowledged that the consultation framework we put in place was sound and that we acted in good faith but we fell short on the implementation of that framework.

So we have re-launched those consultations and we're doing them differently.

Government representatives on the ground now will have the mandate they need to conduct more meaningful discussions with Indigenous groups.

And to ensure a meaningful process, I have already started meeting and engaging with Indigenous leaders and we have appointed a former Supreme Court Justice, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, to guide and advise us on these consultations.

Let me be clear – we are not starting over. Rather, we are building on the work we have already done and I am committed to getting this right.

We all know that the past few years have been tough for the energy sector. As an Albertan, I witnessed first hand the struggles of families in my community, of friends afraid of losing their jobs and the impacts that the downturn has had on their families.

I also saw our resiliency, how Alberta's energy sector stepped up to the challenge. Cutting costs to the bone. Becoming more efficient. More innovative. Embracing

new technologies, and working hard to produce the energy we need with fewer emissions.

All of this has put you in a position to succeed. To provide the world with abundant energy. To create good jobs and economic opportunity for Canadians. And to remain the backbone of our economy for decades to come.

Our government will continue to be there for you. And stand with you.

I wish you all a very successful conference.