COLLABORATION ON ENERGY INFORMATION – A PAN-CANADIAN APPROACH

A Collaborative Approach to Improve Canada's Energy Information System

ENERGY AND MINES MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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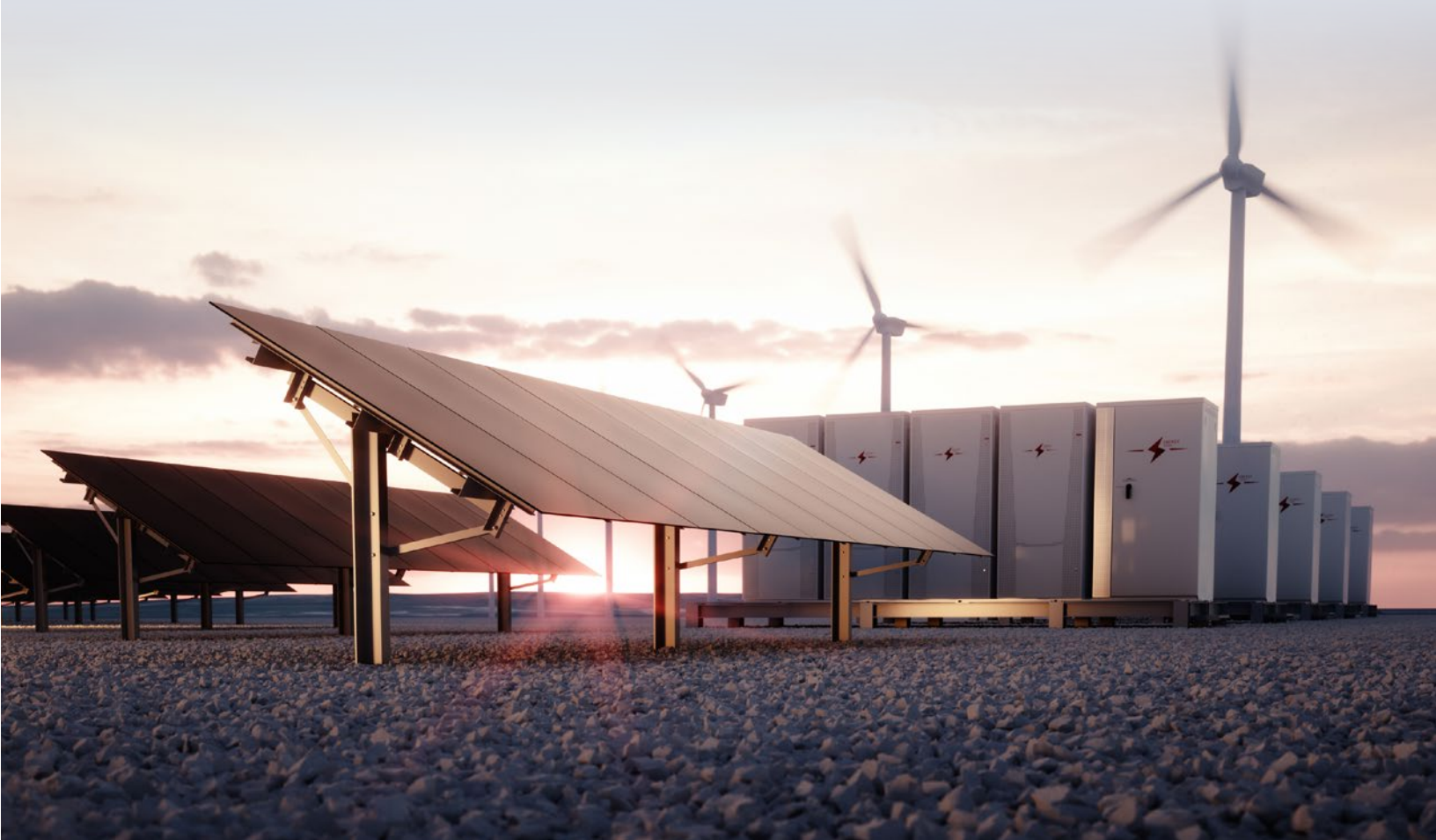
Vision

"Develop a modern, pan-Canadian energy information system that provides credible, impartial and comprehensive information that the public can trust and that stakeholders can use to make decisions that support Canada's transition to a low-carbon energy system."

Energy and Mines Ministers Conference, August 2018
"Building Canada's Energy Future Together"



Preamble

Canada has leveraged its abundant energy resources to build a stronger, more prosperous country. Canadian ingenuity has created an energy sector that drives economic growth and is a source of national pride. The depth and breadth of Canadian energy assets have taken innovative energy technologies from lab to market, promoted trade and investment, and given us a competitive advantage on the world stage. The energy sector creates well-paying jobs for Canadians across the country and is supported by a strong network of energy producers as well as service and technology providers.

While the energy sector is a key driver of the Canadian economy, it also accounts for a large part of the country's emissions. To ensure both environmental sustainability and economic prosperity, building an affordable, reliable and clean energy future is critical. Canada has the potential to position itself on the world stage as a reliable supplier of cleaner energy.

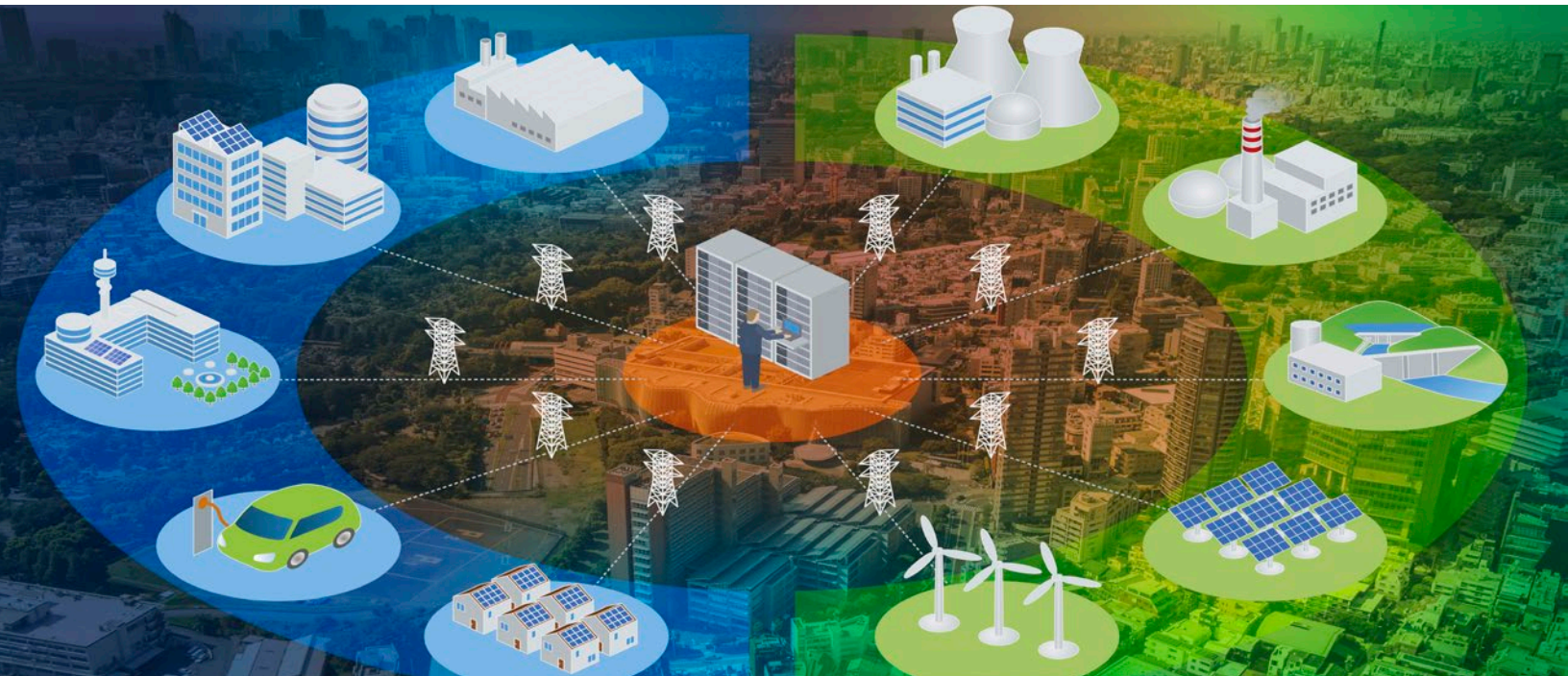
Global energy systems are undergoing fundamental change, with even more dramatic changes expected in the near future. Changes are being driven by external factors, such as growing urbanisation, shifting social values, demographic changes, digitization of the economy, the expanding global influence of emerging markets and the imperative to address climate change. Nevertheless, Canadians see an opportunity to shape those trends by making smart choices today. The availability of high-quality energy information is essential for Canadians to seize this opportunity and to make decisions based on facts.

ENERGY IS A DRIVER OF CANADA'S ECONOMY

- 11% of GDP
- 21% of total exports
- 33% of investment
- 900,000 jobs

AND

- 80% of Canada's emissions



Canada's current energy information system, which guides decision-making on energy issues, is a mosaic of contributions from many organizations. Each has its own mandate and each contributes in a unique way to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of energy information.

Within the Government of Canada, there are four federal departments or agencies (Statistics Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the National Energy Board) involved in collecting energy information. Provincial and territorial governments control many aspects of their energy resources and are vital providers of energy information, with multiple key providers – government departments, regulators, and utilities – in each jurisdiction. There are also numerous other contributors, including industry associations, academic institutions, think tanks, and international organizations that provide a range of unique data, analysis, and forecasts.

An abundance of energy information is readily available. However, as outlined in the Standing Committee on Natural Resources October 2018 report *Rethinking Canada's Energy Information System;* there is general agreement that "the quality of Canada's national energy information can be improved". Most concerns stem from "insufficient harmonization among the myriad energy data collectors and stakeholders across the country".

At the 2018 Energy and Mines Ministerial Conference (EMMC), Ministers committed to explore additional opportunities for federal, provincial and territorial collaboration. The EMMC paper Building Canada's Energy Future Together articulated a long-term vision for energy information:

> ***"Develop a modern, pan-Canadian energy information system that provides credible, impartial and comprehensive information that the public can trust and that stakeholders can use to make decisions that support Canada's transition to a low-carbon energy system."***

In support of that vision, Budget 2019 provides Natural Resources Canada with $15.2 million over five years, with $3.4 million per year ongoing, to establish a virtual Canadian Centre for Energy Information (CCEI) delivered by Statistics Canada. This Centre will compile energy data from multiple sources into a single easy-to-use website. The Centre will also support ongoing work to address data gaps and improve the overall quality of energy information available to Canadians.

Working together, federal, provincial and territorial governments can provide stronger, better quality energy information for the public, as well as for use by government to make stronger, evidence based policy decisions that will help Canada navigate and benefit from the energy transition. This collaborative approach will support the ongoing development of the CCEI.

General Considerations

The document ***Collaboration on Energy Information – a Pan-Canadian Approach*** reflects the understanding among federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) Energy Ministers of the benefits of working collaboratively and with other stakeholders to provide Canadians with a world-class energy information system. By acting together, FPT governments aim to improve the quality, timeliness and transparency of energy information in a context of evolving energy systems.

1. Purpose

To create a collaborative approach for consultation and cooperation on energy information among FPT governments that will support the establishment and guide operations of the CCEI. This approach will evolve as CCEI evolves. This will result in better energy information available to Canadians and all stakeholders, including FPT governments.

2. Scope

Recognizing the need to understand the global energy sector and noting the longstanding and productive integration of energy markets across Canada, this collaborative approach covers the sharing of energy information with the public as well as between FPT governments. This includes data which will enable FPTs to work together to strengthen and improve how energy is produced, conserved, regulated, transported, transmitted and used in Canada.1 While not bound to do so, FPT governments are able, under this collaborative approach, to share their information through data sharing agreements with other partners.

WHAT IS ENERGY INFORMATION?

Data, maps, products, outlooks and statistics on the production, transport, and use of Canada's diverse energy sources, such as:

- Electricity generation from:
  - Hydro
  - Solar
  - Wind
  - Tidal and wave energy
  - Biomass
  - Uranium/nuclear
  - Coal
- Electricity distribution and transmission
- Conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas
- Pipelines and other transportation infrastructure

Information on the economic, social and environmental impact of energy, such as:

- GDP, employment, investment, trade
- GHG emission
- Innovation
- Financial information
- Energy prices
- Regulatory data

3. Governance

Collaboration in improving Canada's energy information system is based on a strong foundation of respect for jurisdictional responsibilities, regional diversity and transparency. Implementation of the collaboration approach stated in this document will be managed at the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM)-level, through the EMMC governance structure augmented to include Statistics Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the National Energy Board. Implementation of the collaborative approach will be discussed during regular ADM level meetings each year.

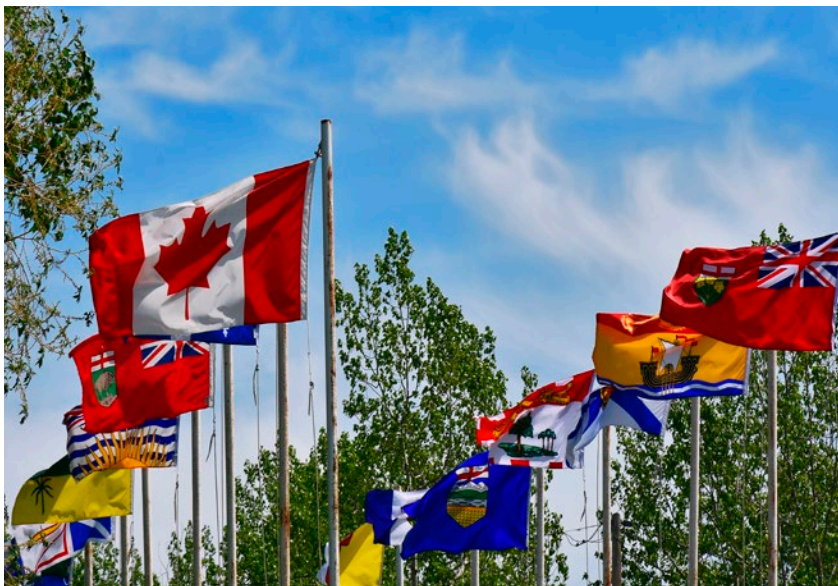
ADMs will be supported by the Energy Steering Group (ESG) Energy Information Working Group comprised of FPT representatives. The Working Group will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and advance joint initiatives.

It is understood that the capacities of partners vary with their respective roles, mandates and circumstances. Partners can therefore adapt their level of involvement to their respective circumstances. They are encouraged to leverage the work they do on energy information as part of their regular operations in a way to create synergies.

4. Benefits

Participating in joint initiatives entails benefits for partners, including:

- Alignment between their objectives and the evolution of the Canadian information system;
- Influence over joint initiatives to ensure they support their respective needs and requirements;
- Improved energy information to support their policy development and better serve their constituents



Collaborative Approach

A number of opportunities exist to strengthen pan-Canadian collaboration on energy information and support the development of the CCEI.

1. Participate in the governance of the Canadian Centre for Energy Information

The CCEI Steering Committee, comprised of federal, provincial and territorial deputy ministers (DMs) and co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of NRCan and the Chief Statistician, will convene once annually at EMMC. The Steering Committee would agree on the priorities of the CCEI and to engage on those priorities in the year ahead. Another function will be to advance work to improve FPT energy data.

Implementation: FPT DMs to participate in the CCEI Steering Committee, the decision-making body that establishes the directions and priorities for the CCEI. In addition, the members of the ESG Energy Information Working Group will be engaged in the implementation of the CCEI through their support provided to the ADM-level EMMC governance structure.

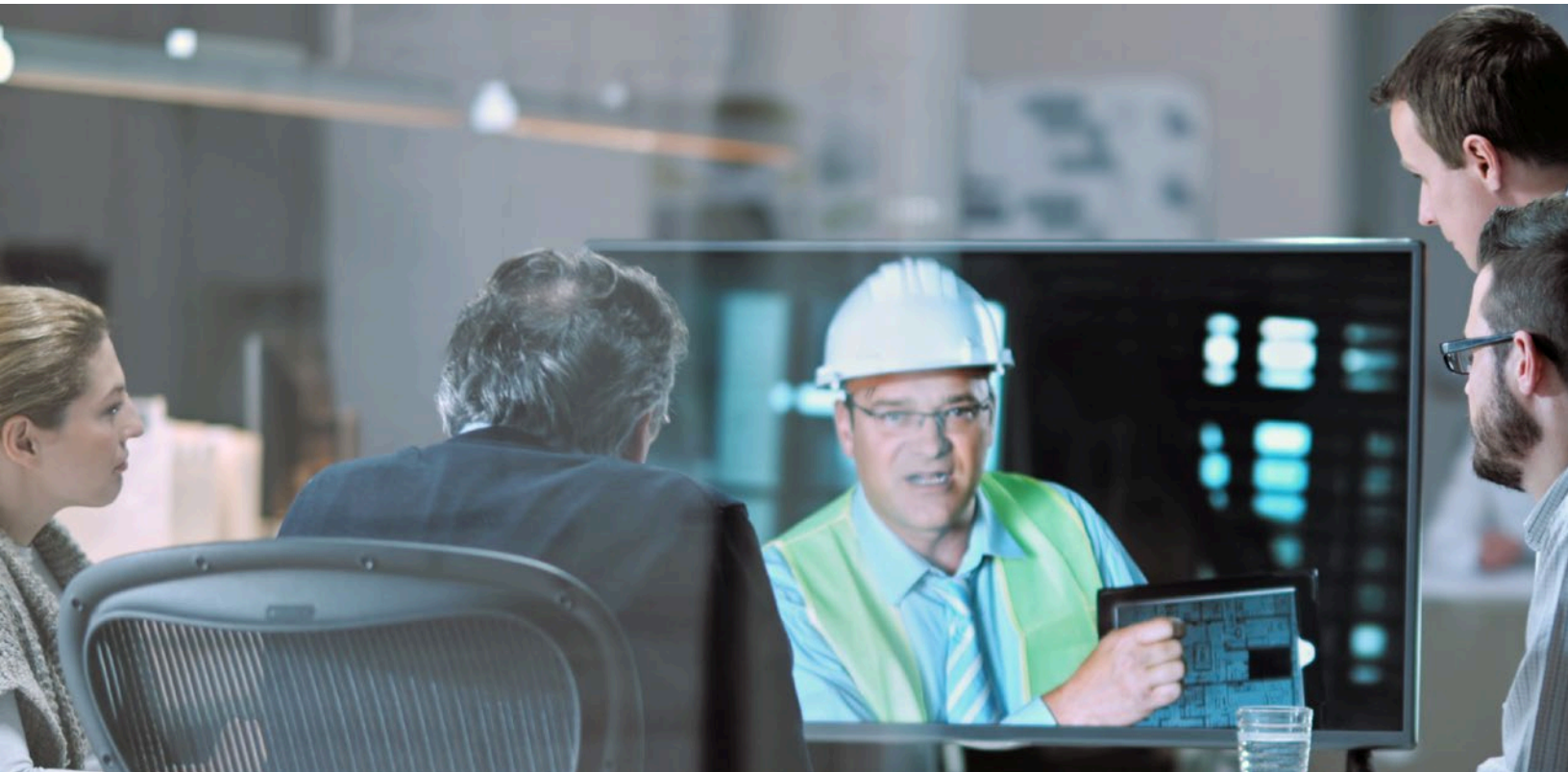
***Benefits*:** Provides a shared governance, broad engagement and a collaborative approach to improve energy information in a way that resonates with stakeholders.

2. Contribute to the ongoing development of the Canadian Centre for Energy Information

Guided by a mutual goal to improve access to energy information, partners strive to better coordinate the dissemination of energy information. The Government of Canada has launched a new Canadian energy information portal that simplifies access to pan-Canadian and regional energy information. The development of this portal is a very first step towards the establishment of the CCEI announced in Budget 2019. The portal addresses the need for energy information to be compiled in a central, easy-to-access location. FPTs will have the opportunity to engage on the launch of the CCEI, building off collaborative work in establishing this portal.

Implementation: FPTs will seek opportunities to increase the number of datasets and information products (e.g. infographics, scenario modeling) available through the CCEI, focusing on publicly available information that is already produced through their regular operations.

***Benefits*:** A simplified, harmonized approach to energy information dissemination will enable users of energy data to find extensive energy statistics and information products from a variety of energy participants, easily and quickly.



3. Work collaboratively to address data gaps in energy information

Guided by a mutual desire to improve the quality, completeness and coherence of energy information, FPTs aim to work collaboratively to address data gaps in line with their interest and capacity.

Implementation: In partnership with the CCEI, the working group will identify issues related to the existing data system and will determine areas of improvement that will have a high impact with minimal cost. This group will also contribute to the development of a collaborative approach for energy data in Canada, including common definitions, measurements and reporting standards.

Benefits: A targeted and collaborative approach to address deficiencies in energy information will enable strategic improvements to the current energy information system, where it matters most. As a result, FPT governments will have access to better information.

4. Sharing of energy information among FPT governments

Guided by a mutual understanding to collect, analyze, and disseminate accurate and timely energy information, FPTs have the opportunity to increase the mutually beneficial sharing of data. This could include sharing confidential data across different levels of government under legal agreements that protect confidentiality provided that this sharing is mutually beneficial for all parties involved. Partners are not obliged to share information they deem too sensitive or may opt instead to share data directly with Statistics Canada who will protect the confidentiality. Statistics Canada could then link the data to other datasets to provide more value-added and make anonymized datasets available for research purposes.

Implementation: Building on existing Data Sharing Agreements (DSAs) among FPT governments (Annex 1), FPTs could seek to expand the number and scope of these agreements, by including more partners and/or expanding the amount of shareable information. The type of information shared through the use of DSAs may include public and confidential data from multiple sources, i.e. survey micro data, company reports and will require formal negotiated agreements.

Benefits: Increased use of DSAs will allow the timely sharing of energy information, including micro data, from FPTs to Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada to FPTs and among FPTs. Data collected once, and shared with many, will reduce collection duplication and response burden placed on energy sector participants and survey respondents. This results in efficiency gains for FPTs and data that are more consistent for the users of energy information. Sharing of microdata will provide opportunities to increase the value of the information through record linkage with other records in the statistical system.

ANNEX 1: EXISTING DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH ENERGY PARTNERS

The federal, provincial and territorial governments have the existing data sharing agreements in place.

PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

- BC Stats
- British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Alberta Office of Statistics and Information
- Alberta Energy
- Alberta Energy Regulator
- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy
- Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics
- Manitoba Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade
- Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
- Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ontario Ministry of Finance
- Ontario Energy Board
- Institut de la statistique du Québec
- New Brunswick Statistics Agency
- Nova Scotia Department of Finance
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources
- Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency
- PEI Department of Finance and Municipal Affairs
- Yukon Bureau of Statistics
- Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources
- Yukon Department of Finance
- Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics
- Northwest Territories Department of Finance
- Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services
- Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

FEDERAL

- National Energy Board
- Indian Oil and Gas Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

OTHER

- Forest Products Association of Canada
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Petrinex
- Quebec Forest Industry Council

Partners share data with Statistics Canada, reducing response burden

STATISTICS CANADA

Statistics Canada shares data with the following organizations

- Provincial Focal Points
- British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Alberta Energy
- Alberta Energy Regulator
- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy
- Manitoba Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade
- Ontario Ministry of Energy
- Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources

- National Energy Board
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Quebec Forest Industry Council