



Task Force for Real Jobs, Real Recovery To Create Blueprint for Post-Pandemic Prosperity

For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER, B.C., July 13, 2020: Today, the national [Task Force for Real Jobs, Real Recovery](#) launched to draw up a blueprint for Canada's economic recovery as the country emerges from the COVID-19 crisis. The Task Force is supported by a coalition of over 25 industry associations, unions, professional organizations and Indigenous organizations representing the energy, manufacturing, transportation, forestry and construction sectors. A group of 20 expert advisors has been appointed to help develop and communicate a forthcoming set of policy recommendations for rebuilding Canada's economic prosperity.

Together the Task Force represents over a quarter of a million businesses and over 3 million workers across Canada.

The Task Force is being convened by [Resource Works](#), a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization committed to the development of Canada's resources in a manner that is inclusive of Indigenous peoples and maintains a clean and healthy environment.

Resource Works Executive Director Stewart Muir says Canada has to keep its competitive edge to create jobs in the post-pandemic recovery. "Canada must not only maintain our competitive advantages, but also actively leverage them in the recovery effort," says Muir. "Chief among these is our capacity to produce low-emissions natural resource commodities under robust environmental, social and governance conditions. These are key components of a broader resource ecosystem that is the engine of Canada's future."

The Task Force will complete its package of policy measures by the end of July, at which time it will present its recommendations to key federal government decision-makers, as well as to the Industry Strategy Council, a federal initiative launched in response to the economic effects of COVID-19.

"Government leaders have been asking for ideas, and we are responding," says Muir. "Resource industries are rising to the challenge of articulating a future that shows they understand society's high expectations and are providing meaningful solutions. I'm persuaded that all Canadians can be inspired by the incredible possibilities for natural resource activities and products to enrich our lives and protect the environment, and I look forward to discussing this with others."

A broad national coalition

Statistics Canada reported that the Canadian economy shrank 11.6 per cent in April—the largest monthly drop on record. That followed a 7.5 per cent contraction in gross domestic product in March. Both will result in lost tax revenue to a government that badly needs it.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau's recent fiscal snapshot showed the federal government's deficit is expected to hit \$343 billion this year.

As a result, job growth will likely be uneven and slow, while whole sectors will remain effectively mothballed, maybe well into 2021. Rebuilding our economy to address these challenges means identifying areas of real opportunity—and pursuing them.

“Fortunately, we already know where we have unassailable strategic advantages,” said Muir. “It will make sense to start the recovery efforts by targeting areas where markets are already waiting for the goods and services that result from people getting back to work. I’m confident that the Task Force recommendations will be accepted by Canadians as a basis for creating a prosperous and environmentally sound national economy in the post-pandemic period.

"Together, we are laying the foundations of a new era where Canada's innovative natural resource sector leads the way to a return to prosperity," says Muir. "We can't simply return to 'Business as Usual.' We need a proactive, dynamic and positive approach that empowers Canadians in the short- and long-term."

The Task Force composition, mandate and other information is available on the [Task Force for Real Jobs, Real Recovery website](#). Interviews with [Task Force advisors](#) and representatives of [organizations in the coalition](#) available on request.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Laura Cropper
Coast Communications and Public Affairs
laura@coastcomms.ca
778.323.3827

Kendall Spencer
Coast Communications and Public Affairs
kendall@coastcomms.ca
604.834.4265

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

"As Canada emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's essential that policy makers and the public understand the critical role that natural resource industries will play in rebuilding the national economy in the short- and long-term. With traditional service exports like tourism and film production collapsed, Canada's natural resource industries are more vital than ever."

— *Kim Rudd, entrepreneur, former Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Minister of Natural Resources, former MP*

“Rebuilding the economy won't be at the expense of the environment. Canadians believe that climate objectives and energy production for export and domestic use are indeed compatible and this is borne out by recent research by the University of Ottawa's Positive Energy initiative. We have an opportunity here to bridge perspectives and remind the public and decision-makers that a recovery that puts jobs first can also prioritize environmental protection and effective climate action that doesn't hurt competitiveness.”

— *Mike Cleland, executive in residence at the University of Ottawa and energy and environment policy expert*

"We have to find a way to move forward and resolve the differences that hampered our competitive advantage and denied Indigenous Peoples access to the Canadian economy. We can't diminish the role of natural resource industries in a resurgent post-COVID-19 economy. We have to ensure that all Canadians benefit from their responsible and sustainable development."

— *Sean Willy, CEO, Des Nedhe Development*

"We know that if our policy makers listen to the citizens in communities who know how best to support their local energy and other natural resource industries, then we can give the Canadian economy the power it needs to move us all back onto the road to prosperity."

— *Lori Ackerman, Mayor, Fort St. John, and Canada's 2019 Energy Person of the Year*

"Canada's resource companies are in position to be key drivers of Canada's economic recovery and lay the foundations for the world's transition to a lower carbon economy. But to achieve this, the sector needs more targeted measures to support existing projects within the regulatory system, and for government to conduct a sober assessment of the costs that new regulatory standards are creating for the sector during this fragile period. We remain hopeful that government will recognize that Canada's resource sector will be the cornerstone of a real economic recovery for all Canadians."

— *Perrin Beatty, President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce*

"Canada is a leader in responsible energy development, and we have the resource base that can grow to meet energy demand globally. Canada can leverage these advantages as the rest of the world recovers, too. Emissions reduction and environmental sustainability are key priorities. However, the idea that we can relaunch our economy without oil and natural gas ignores reality. Energy needs to be transported to where the demand is and pipelines are the safest, most responsible way to move oil and natural gas."

— *Chris Bloomer, President and CEO, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association*

"As a global leader in responsible natural resource development, Canada is ideally positioned to advance social, environmental and economic initiatives in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. When fully leveraged, our region's competitive advantages, which include a diverse and skilled workforce, cost-advantaged natural resources, and world class infrastructure, are formidable catalysts critical to generating economic activity and returning Canadians to work, while also contributing to lower global greenhouse gas emissions."

— *Alanna Hnatiw, Chair, Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association and Mayor, Sturgeon County*

"During the pandemic we have seen first-hand the immeasurable value of using sustainably Canadian-sourced pulp to make medical masks, hospital gowns, and sanitary paper products. As we push through COVID-19 and look to build back better, we have an opportunity to use Canadian wood products and what would otherwise be wood waste from our sawmills to make biomaterials and bioenergy to help build up and power lower-carbon communities. In seizing our natural Canadian advantage and our commitment to sustainable forest management we can at the same time drive economic opportunity in rural and northern Canada by growing family-supporting jobs in over 600 communities—at a time when these jobs are so desperately needed."

— *Derek Nighbor, President and CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada*

"Resource industries are the backbone of this country. One working oil rig creates over 175 direct and indirect jobs primarily in rural communities. Providing the world with the products it needs in an environmentally responsible way and rebuilding our economy at the same time is an opportunity we are lucky to have as Canadians, and we should be grateful for it."

— *Mark Scholz, President and CEO, Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors*

"This initiative is essential to build a real conversation on Canada's economic recovery and I am glad to be a part of it. As an international representative for Boilermakers in Quebec, I know how important natural and industrial resources growth is for our workers and for our economy not only in our province but all over the country."

— *Michel Trépanier, International Representative for Quebec, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers*

TASK FORCE ADVISORS

The [Task Force advisory group](#) is charged with developing the package of policy measures. It includes:

- Lori Ackerman, Mayor of Fort St. John, B.C.; Resource Municipalities Coalition
- Alan Arcand, Chief Economist at Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Mike Cleland, energy and environmental policy consultant
- Sandy Ferguson, forest and bioeconomy expert
- Alanna Hnatiw, Chair, Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association and Mayor, Sturgeon County, Alberta
- Tenzin Khangsar, advocate for critical minerals
- Tim McEwan, Senior Vice President, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association
- Robert R. McLeod, former Premier of the Northwest Territories, 2011-2019
- Patricia Mohr, economist & commodity market specialist and former Vice-President at Scotiabank
- Karen Ogen-Toews, Councillor, Wet'suwet'en First Nation and CEO of First Nations LNG Alliance
- Adam Pankratz, Lecturer, UBC Sauder School of Business
- Joseph Quesnel, Indigenous policy and governance researcher
- Darrel Reid, PhD, VP Public Affairs, Progressive Contractors Association of Canada
- Kim Rudd, former MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources, 2015-2018
- Wally Schumann, former Minister of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and the Department of Infrastructure, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Sheri Somerville, CEO, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
- Michel Trépanier, International Representative, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- Mac Van Wielingen, Founder and Partner, ARC Financial; former Chair of AIMCo
- Sean Willy, CEO, Des Nedhe Corporation

THE COALITION:

The [coalition](#) comprises the following organizations:

- Aboriginal Skilled Workers Association
- Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
- Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
- BC Construction Association
- Business Council of Alberta
- Canada West Construction Union
- Canada Works
- Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Energy Pipelines Association
- Canadian Fuels Association
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
- Christian Labour Association of Canada
- Des Nedhe Development
- First Nations LNG Alliance
- Forest Products Association of Canada
- Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC
- Indigenous Resource Network
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- Petroleum Services Association of Canada
- Progressive Contractors Association of Canada
- Resource Municipalities Coalition
- Resource Works Society
- Surrey Board of Trade