
New Energy Information Initiative Announced

For Immediate Release

Calgary, Alberta (April 18, 2002) The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), together with the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (SEPAC), announced today that it intends to create a new, independent centre of knowledge about the Canadian oil and gas industry.

This Canadian centre for energy education is intended to be national in scope, North American in outlook and comprehensive in coverage. Harnessing the Internet, the centre will offer timely, objective information, and promote understanding of the pivotal role the industry plays in the Canadian and North American economies. It will be a public/private partnership, funded by both government and private industry.

“The centre will be the pre-eminent source of knowledge on the Canadian oil and gas industry,” said Jim Simpson, CAPP Chairman and President, Chevron Canada Resources. “It will give all Canadians the opportunity to get informed and get involved in an industry that has shaped our past and will power our future.”

Mr. Simpson said that CAPP and SEPAC are committed to help build a knowledge base through the centre, and invited all members of the oil and gas industry and government to support the new venture. He added that over the next several weeks, CAPP and SEPAC will be meeting with other industry associations and organisations involved in providing information about the oil and gas industry to define common areas of interest and potential efficiencies.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein endorsed the initiative, noting that the provincial government is pleased to support an energy education centre that provides facts on such a crucial industry.

“Canada’s energy industry makes a dramatic contribution to our economy and society in terms of jobs, R&D spending, tax revenues and our balance of trade with other countries. Yet the stakes for the industry have never been higher,” said Premier Klein. “Canadians are facing major policy decisions about the future of the energy industry, and people need ready access to credible, objective, high-quality information on such issues as industry expansion and continental energy markets.”

1/2

In 2001 alone, the petroleum industry provided \$15 billion in tax and royalty payments to government revenues across the country, employed more than 500,000 people and invested nearly \$25 billion, the largest of any private sector investor in Canada. The oil and natural gas trade surplus accounted for 50 per cent of Canada's trade balance last year.

"We are creating an Internet-based, central source to deliver essential information in the most effective manner to all stakeholders," noted SEPAC director Paul Gagnon. "We will develop web-based materials that broaden young people's understanding of the role energy plays in their lives and in their communities."

The new centre will also provide the public at large with an overview of the industry's growth, contribution to society as well as challenges and issues for the future.

"We will bring awareness of this vital Canadian sector to US audiences, underscoring our significant contribution to the US economic engine and to our common goal of continental energy development," added Pierre Alvarez, President, CAPP.

In addition, the new centre will create a Canadian Energy Legacy Museum that will house an interpretative centre and a national hall of fame, celebrating the passion and vision of Canada's energy pioneers and their contribution to our country's growth and prosperity.

- 30 -

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