DATA DIVE WITH NIK NANOS

JUMP-STARTING THE ENERGY SECTOR

Comfortable majorities of Canadians are good with major national energy infrastructure projects moving forward, even if some communities or provinces oppose them

OPINION

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ntersections are places where both progress and roadkill can happen. That's where we stand today in terms of building Canada's energy infrastructure.

After a decade of hostile neglect from a Liberal government that didn't believe oil and gas was a major part of Canada's economic future, Prime Minister Mark Carney is seeking to jump-start the energy sector in an effort to advance greater economic resil-

The oil and gas sector can thank U.S. President Donald Trump for the turnaround. After all, if Canadian oil is so important to Mr. Trump that it is an American no-go when it comes to tariffs, the sector is clearly a real national economic lever.

Tracking research for the University of Ottawa's Positive Energy Program by Nanos shows the importance Canadians attach to the oil and gas sector - for today's economy and into the future - is on the rise. Five years ago, 65 per cent of people rated the sector as important to the Canadian economy. This now stands at 84 per cent. Of note, perceptions of future importance have also been increasing (from 41 per cent in 2020 to 67 per cent in the latest wave).

The view that Canada should be expanding oil and gas exports to help the world access more reliable and secure energy supplies is also increasing. Back in 2022, almost six in 10 people agreed (33 per cent) or somewhat agreed (25 per cent) with this position. The numbers have moved to more than seven in 10 Canadians agreeing (44 per cent) or somewhat agreeing (28 per cent).

Mr. Carney's "build baby build" mantra will be no easy feat, even in the face of the growing political licence to move forward on major energy infrastructure projects.

Building energy infrastructure, or any major infrastructure proiect for that matter, will take time and effort. Although the dream scenario is to build consensus among governments, communities and Indigenous rights-holders, the uncertainty and length of the consensus-building process in Canada negatively affects the appetite of proponents to make long-term investment decisions.

After all, the Liberal government is new and gripped in a statistical dead heat with Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives - who can

from now whether the "build baby build" appetite will be as strong or even exist?

If perfection is the enemy of good, then today Canadians are willing to set aside the consensus model in favour of moving for-

Comfortable majorities of Canadians are good with major national energy infrastructure

predict three, four or five years projects moving forward, even if energy project. some communities or provinces oppose them. Respondents are almost three times as likely (61 per cent agree, 16 per cent disagree) to say projects should move forward even if some communities oppose them. Likewise, Canadians are more likely (59 per cent agree, 19 per cent disagree) to want a project to move forward if affected provinces oppose the national

We also do not know the "not in my back yard" impact. Respondents may very well be good with the idea of moving forward without a host province's support until they are the host and the province being steamrolled.

Look at the clash between Alberta and British Columbia over a proposed oil pipeline. On the one hand, Alberta Premier Danielle

Smith is trying to strong-arm B.C. Premier David Eby into a new oil pipeline to expand capacity for exports. On the other hand is B.C. itself, a reticent project-host province uneasy about more pipelines. This is where national and provincial interests collide. In a sense, both positions have merit. Host communities and provinces affected by a project should have a voice. But how does any project move forward on a consensus model?

This is where leadership is critical. If Canada is a country built and created by reconciling language, culture and geography, where will the current government land on reconciling respect for host communities with the national interest?

The role of Indigenous communities is another dimension that will materially affect the ability of Canada to build any projects of national significance. They realistically are at the heart of any solution, not just as hosts but also as economic partners. Indigenous communities could very well be the key to greater Canadian economic resilience.

Imagine a world where Indigenous nations lead and build their own economic resilience in a manner that also advances Canada's resilience. Perhaps the current model of starting with a province-to-province agreement could be supplanted with a model that truly starts with Indigenous support.

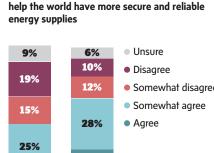
The first step to getting things done is to recognize that our current approach to building projects of national significance fails to deliver. It neither serves the national interest nor is attractive to investors.

Only 12 per cent of Canadians believe we do a very good (1 per cent) or good (11 per cent) job at energy decision-making. The only conclusion is that Canadians want our leaders to go back to the drawing board to imagine new so-

lutions. If our elected officials continue with the old approaches, we will very likely be the roadkill at the intersection, frozen in the past. We shouldn't think of this being only an oil and gas issue. The reality is that we need to create an environment to enable energy infrastructure, whether it be conventional or renewable.

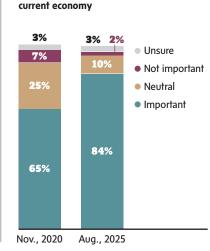
With all the upheaval going on in the world, Canadians are ready for change. They see an opportunity to build energy infrastructure. The opportunity may not be perfect, but creating a sense that Canada can be a place of opportunity and still has the genius to get things done might be the most important mission for our leaders

POWER UP



Canada should expand oil and gas exports to

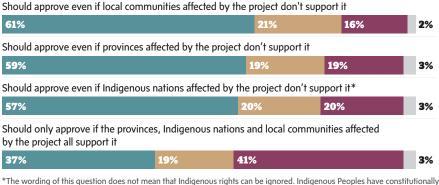
Somewhat disagree 33%



The importance of oil and gas to Canada's

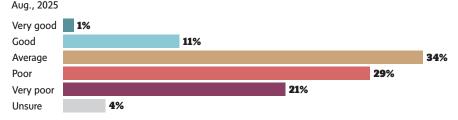
The federal government should approve major national energy projects even if some parties do not support them Aug., 2025

Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree ● Unsure



protected rights and Canada has committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Job done by Canada at building public confidence in energy decision-making



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 because of rounding. Aug., 2025 data are based on a random telephone and

MURAT YÜKSELIR / THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: NANOS RESEARCH

An individual foundation for Canada and Japan's friendship

KANJI YAMANOUCHI

OPINION

Japan's Ambassador to Canada

t the end of the Second World War, an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki at 11:02 a.m. on Aug. 9, 1945. Since then, Aug. 9 has been remembered by people all over the world as a special day to commemorate the victims, pray for peace and reaffirm our commitment to a "world without nuclear weapons."

Although it is little known to the general public, it was also the day when an air raid was carried out from the British aircraft carrier HMS Formidable on a naval base in Onagawa Bay in the Tohoku region of Japan. During the operation, the attacking force's leader, Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray of British Columbia, was killed in action. He was 27 years

A highly accomplished pilot, he was the last Canadian military fatality during the war. To this day, he remains the only recipient of the Victoria Cross in the history of the Canadian Navy. A bust of Lt. Gray is one of the 14 heroes commemorated at the Valiants Memorial in downtown Ottawa.

Lt. Gray is also a Canadian who symbolizes the progress of Canada-Japan relations. Frankly speaking, however, his name and connotations are unknown.

In January, 1989, when the Canadian government announced its intention to erect a memorial for Lt. Gray in Onagawa, there was overwhelming opposition from the local community. Although he was a hero to Canada, to the locals of Onagawa he was an "enemy" who had led the Onagawa air raid that took the lives of more than 200 people. At this point, Yoshio Kanda, who was a communications officer in the Japanese Navy's Onagawa Defence Force at the time of the air raid, made his

"Japanese and Canadians share the same hatred for war," he said. "What we hate is not enemy soldiers, but war itself."

His words persuaded those opposed, and the memorial was completed in August, 1989. Lt. Gray's sister, Phyllis, and other relatives attended the unveiling ceremony. The people of Onagawa warmly welcomed them, and friendship was forged, overcoming hostility. It is a wonderful bond between Japan and Canada. Incidentally, this memorial is the only one dedicated to a foreign soldier in Japan.

In fact, for the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Kanda prepared a Canadian flag for participants to write messages and their names on. Since then, Mr. Kanda has brought the flag with him on various occasions as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Canada, and the number of messages written on the flag by people connected to Japan and Canada has increased. In 2003, the wedding of Phyllis's granddaughter, Marcia, was held in Vancouver, and Mr. Kanda's family was invited. Their relationship deepened. Mr. Kanda passed away in 2005, but messages continue to be written on the flag. Once the blank space was filled, messages continued to be written on a second Canadian flag.

However, on March 11, 2011, the massive tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake struck Onagawa. The Lt. Gray monument was lost, but was rebuilt by the local people of Onagawa. The entire Kanda family was also killed. Their grandson, Yoshitake, who lived in Sendai and escaped the disaster, returned to Onagawa many times to search, and, several months after the disaster, Yoshitake found the two friendship flags, the old and the new, carefully folded in a plastic bag under the rubble. They were the only things left of the Kanda family. It was truly a miracle.

The collection of messages continues to this day. Both Canadian Ambassador to Japan Ian MacKay and I signed the flag, pledging to do our best to promote friendly relations between Japan and Canada. The story of Lt. Gray and Onagawa is already impactful enough, but there is more to the story.

In July of this year, I received an invitation. It said that a naming ceremony for the Royal Canadian Navy's newest Arctic and offshore patrol ship would be held at Naval Base Halifax on Aug. 9, and that the ship would be named HMCS Robert Hampton Grav. However, as someone from Nagasaki Prefecture, I was torn. This is because a memorial service for the victims of the atomic bomb was to be held in the Ottawa-Gatineau region on the same day. While wishing I had two bodies, in the end I chose to travel to Halifax to attend the

naming ceremony. In my speech, I pointed out that the reason Lt. Grav's name was inscribed on the memorial was due to the beliefs of Yoshio Kanda, as Canada-Japan relations were rapidly developing. When I mentioned that Mr. Kanda's grandson Yoshitake and great-grandson Ibuki had also been invited to the naming ceremony, they were both greeted with loud cheers from the audience. After the naming ceremony, a crowd gathered around the Kanda family and Lt. Grav's relatives. It was a sight that made me realize that the foundation of relations between countries is the friendship between individuals.

The HMCS Gray is 103 metres long, displaces approximately 6,600 tons of water, and has a maximum speed of 17 knots and a range of 6,800 nautical miles. To cope with the harsh environment, it has icebreaking capabilities and also has a large flight deck and hangar, and can carry a

CH-148 Cyclone anti-submarine patrol helicopter. After completing the necessary preparations, it will be deployed to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt on the Pacific Coast, where it will be tasked with protecting the Arctic Ocean from the Pacific and Bering Strait sides. Considering the harsh geopolitical realities of the 21st century, it may be a small first step, but it is a timely and appropriate move. It is expected that this will be further strengthened in the fu-

Japan is also closely watching the Arctic from the perspectives of the global environment and trade, Indigenous peoples, and international co-operation, as well as from the perspective of security. The "Action Plan for contributing to a free and Open Indo-Pacific region" agreed upon between Canada and Japan also explicitly calls for co-operation in the Arctic. The Self-Defence Forces are also participating as observers in Operation Nanook in the Arctic, which is organized by the Canadian military and also involves the U.S. military.

Japan has close economic and business ties with Canada, a resource-rich country, and co-operation between the two countries in the field of security is also pro-Lieutenant Hampton Gray symbolizes the new Japan-Canada relationship in the 21st century. Yesterday's enemy becomes today's friend, and tomorrow's partner in peace.