

This federal election, vote for a “MADE IN CANADA” ENERGY STRATEGY



Canada is a cold country. We need energy to heat our homes and run our cars in what sometimes seems like an endless winter. The energy companies and our government may tell you that supply shortages and increased demand drive up the price of energy. But what they aren't telling you is that the “increased demand” is coming from the energy-hungry United States.

George W. Bush is relying on Canadian energy to fuel America's military and economic expansion. But he knows that he doesn't need to invade our country to get what's left of Canada's dwindling supplies. One of the recommendations of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, signed by Bush, Paul Martin and Vicente Fox in March 2005, is a “continental energy and natural resources pact.”

Here are five reasons Canada should reject further integration of energy resources with the United States:

1. Canada is already giving away too much of its energy.

Canada now produces about 40 per cent more oil than it consumes, but has to rely heavily on imported oil from offshore. Thanks to NAFTA, Canada exports 70 per cent of the oil and 61 per cent of the natural gas we produce each year to the United States. NAFTA prevents us from selling our energy resources to Canadians at rates lower than we sell them in the U.S. And because of NAFTA's proportional sharing clause, we can't ever cut back on the amount of energy we produce and sell to the United States, even in times when our country runs short.

2. The world is running out of oil.

Oil production in the United States peaked in 1971. The extraction of oil from the Athabasca tar sands is only prolonging the exhaustion of Canada's supply. Experts argue that oil is far too cheap and suggest that it should triple in price to reflect the reality of a global oil peak.

3. Tar sands extraction wastes an enormous amount of water.

Extracting oil from Alberta's tar sands requires three barrels of water for each barrel of oil produced. The extraction

process also converts a good share of this water into toxic waste, permanently removing it from the hydrological cycle. The scarcity of oil is directly contributing to a global water crisis.

4. A common electricity grid would lead to blackouts and shortages for Canadians.

In August 2003, millions of Canadians in Ontario were affected by the existing integration of the power grid, when a system failure in the U.S. left them without power for days. The only purpose of an expanded electricity grid would be to export more electricity to the U.S.

5. Canada should focus on developing sustainable energy.

This would reduce Canada's dependence on fossil fuels and help combat climate change. The only way to protect the independence of Canada's energy supplies is by reducing consumption and halting mass exports.



This federal election, demand that candidates commit to a “made in Canada” energy strategy that promotes sustainable energy, and allows Canadians to pay a fair price.

Visit www.canadians.org to download the Council of Canadians' Voter's Guide, and see where the parties stand on energy. Or call 1-800-387-7177 for more information.