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ENERGY EAST, ALBERTA'S JIM PRENTICE GOES PIPELINE WOONG

Prentice to meet Couillard, Wynne over TransCanada's Energy East project Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has a theory why Canada's pipeline projects are becoming something of an endangered species.

Late last month, while preparing to talk to reporters about a recent trip to India, Wall said "later." He had something else on his mind. Boy; did he.

"No pipelines are being built, no pipelines are being approved because the goal posts keep changing, and this argument apparently can't be made to the satisfaction of those who simply ... aren't comfortable with the development of oil, period."

Do the people Wall was talking about include the premiers of Quebec and Ontario?

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice doesn't think so. Gearing up to meet Quebec's Philippe Couillard on Tuesday and then Ontario's Kathleen Wynne on Wednesday, Prentice says "I start from the position that these are two premiers

This Charming Home is Nestled in One of Kelowna's Most Sought After Enclaves!!



2671 Alice Road, West Kelowna - \$499,900

This charming home is nestled in one of Kelowna's most sought after enclaves; Casa Loma. The lakeshore village type atmosphere is like no other with a community lakefront including dock and park areas. It is hard to tell this quiet community is just minutes from downtown and all the shopping, arts and entertainment Kelowna is famous for. You are also in close proximity to some of the finest wineries in the world! The home has had many recent upgrades including windows, roof, air conditioner and furnace. There have also been granite counters added in the kitchen, not to mention the back yard has a pool! Yes, all of the expensive things have been taken care of, just move in and add your personal touches! When viewing don't miss the huge outside covered deck which gives you an outdoor living area with lake view you can enjoy 6 months a year! There is no better value lifestyle home in Kelowna do not miss this one. Remember what they say...LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION! Go to Bergghomes.com to view in HD!

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with whom we can do business."

They are also the two premiers who have put sudden new roadblocks in the way of Energy East, the made-in-Canada proposal that would give Western oil producers their long coveted access to a deep-water port, in this case on the Bay of Fundy.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne listens to her Quebec counterpart,

Philippe Couillard in August in Quebec City. The two premiers have been working together on conditions for the proposed Energy East pipeline from Alberta to N.B.

Energy East would convert an existing natural gas pipeline to oil, and expand the line further into Quebec and New Brunswick.

At a cost of \$12 billion dollars, the

4,600 kilometres of pipe would transport 1.1 million barrels of oil a day from Alberta and Saskatchewan.

As one Calgary business writer describes them, "pipelines are the midwives of the energy sector."

Hence the reason they are so much on Brad Wall's mind, and others.

In his attempt to win over his



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counterparts in Quebec and Ontario, Jim Prentice has some compelling numbers to share, courtesy of consultants Deloitte.

Deloitte pegs Energy East's contribution to GDP at \$35 billion dollars over the life of the project; \$6 billion of that to Quebec and \$13 billion to Ontario, along with another \$10 billion in tax revenues for everyone en route.

Environmental groups dispute those numbers, arguing most of the oil would likely be headed offshore (N.B.'s giant Irving refinery is geared for export), and that the economic benefits would go right along with it.

Assuming there are economic benefits to be had, though, some of those revenues would accrue to municipalities.

And Ian Brodie, former chief of staff to Stephen Harper, says the voices of mayors and Chambers of Commerce along the route, are what's currently missing from the discussion.

Without more pipelines, those same municipalities will see more Western oil transported through their communities by rail — at least when the price recovers.

And that rail car pose a much greater risk, and take a much greater environmental toll, than a pipeline, argues the head of the school of public policy at the University of Calgary, Jack Mintz.

I asked Mintz if the case for pipelines is so persuasive, why is it such a tough sell?

As he sees it, the conditions being put forward by Quebec and Ontario, particularly the one calling for measuring the pipeline's impact on greenhouse gas emissions, is all about appealing to populations increasingly suspicious of the oil industry and pipelines in general.

He believes Couillard and Wynne really want the pipeline and the economic bounty that comes with it, but that they are looking for leverage — a quid pro quo.

They'll support the pipeline if the federal government makes more effort to achieve measurable and ambitious targets in reducing GHGs, something they could hold up as a political win.

It is a ploy that might work, Mintz says, but it comes with considerable risk.

One is that the premiers of Ontario and Quebec might do such a good job being environmental champions that they could find themselves with populations that won't support the pipeline no matter what conditions are imposed or met — the law of unintended consequences.

At this point, remember, polling in Quebec shows roughly two-thirds are already opposed to Energy East

The oil industry recently surpassed the transportation sector as the largest emitter of GHGs in Canada.

With the price of oil tanking, that could change again. But as Saskatchewan's Wall argues, both sectors are huge emitters, though only one is vilified for it.

"If you want to get serious about GHGs in Canada, we'd all stop driving cars," he said, pointing out, "This is an industry that is only in Ontario.

"There's perhaps a trust issue here, I also think a comfort issue," Wall went on. "I think certain interests in Central Canada aren't comfortable with the fact that we're an energy power. That oil ... is helping to provide quality of life in this country, programs ... like equalization."

Z i n g !

Oil, of course, could soon be providing a lot less in the way of equalization and standard of living. Hubris can come back to haunt us all.

For two decades now Alberta has led the nation in employment growth — by a substantial margin. Alberta's average annual growth was 2.50 per cent, which was much faster than the province in second place, Ontario, at 1.44 per cent.

If the price of oil continues to languish and the momentum behind reducing our carbon footprint strengthens — and along with it, the opposition to pipelines — the next 20 years could look quite different.

In recent weeks, we've heard from many premiers on pipelines. The private conversations are no doubt infinitely more interesting.

What we know about Jim Prentice is that he has stated unequivocally that his number one priority is getting pipelines built. And that Energy East is the pipeline he's most determined to see built.

Perhaps he knows something the rest of us don't.

CLEAN ENERGY PROVIDES MORE JOBS THAN OILSANDS, REPORT SAYS

B.C., Quebec and Ontario polish Canada's renewables record, but Ottawa criticized

Renewable energy has experienced big growth in Canada in the last five years, so much so that employment in the sector outstrips employment in the oilsands.

That's the conclusion of a report on

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the state of green energy technology in Canada by Clean Energy Canada, an advocate for renewables.

It estimates \$24 billion has been invested in the past five years, mainly because of renewable initiatives in the power sector by Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec.

Employment in the clean energy sector — which encompasses hydro power, as well as wind, solar and biomass — is up 37 per cent to 23,700 people. That compares with 22,340 employed in the oilsands.

Wind, solar, run-of-river, and biomass energy has grown by 93 per cent since 2009, albeit off a very low base.

The impact of the falling price of oil should be a warning to Canada that federal economic policy is overly reliant on oil, Merran Smith, the director of

Clean Energy Canada, said.

"We need a vision for the energy sector that is bigger than that."

Smith said the federal government needs to step up and give diplomatic support to Canada's renewable technologies. The U.S. would likely welcome some form of cooperation on clean energy, Smith said.

"The majority of diplomatic support goes to the pipeline," she said. "We need to be able to talk about green energy exports."

In 2013, Canada ranked 7th in the G20 in clean energy investment, up from 12th in 2012. Total investment was \$6.5 billion for the year, with substantial amounts of money going to wind and solar.

The bulk of the good news is a result of Ontario and Quebec's investments

in wind and solar power and B.C.'s investment in new hydro power. But there is also substantial private sector investment, mainly from Germany and Japan, in green energy.

The fact that foreign capital is coming to develop Canada's renewables shows that business sees the potential for the clean energy sector in Canada, even where government doesn't, Smith said.

"The federal government has given targeted support to every big industry in Canada to get it off the ground, from aerospace to automobiles to oilsands, but the clean energy sector did not get that kind of support." Merran Smith, Clean Energy Canada

The report advocates a move to renewable power generation in Alberta, which has reliable sunshine and wind alternatives, and Saskatchewan, which is still using coal.

Canada could meet all its energy needs with renewables by 2050, if it put the right policies in place, Clean Energy Canada says.

Meanwhile, the federal government is not doing enough to help Canada meet its 2020 targets for lower greenhouse gas emissions, the report said.

Clean Energy Canada said Ottawa is missing out on multiple opportunities to invest in renewables.

Among them:

- Give favourable tax treatment for development of power storage and solar technologies.
- Help build clean

energy infrastructure.

- Concentrate less on oil exports and more on renewable exports in trade talks.

- Provide a rebate for electric vehicles.

- Carbon pricing that could discourage use of high-carbon alternatives.

Clean Energy Canada points to several areas where Canada has a headstart on other nations in developing renewable technology, including B.C.'s smart meter expertise and Ontario and Quebec's cleantech sector. It advocates more development in those sectors, so Canada can live up to its potential in green energy.

Smith calls on Ottawa to level the playing field between fossil fuels and clean energy.

"It is not a level playing field. The oil and gas industry is creating a lot of carbon pollution and doesn't pay the cost of that pollution," she said.

Smith argues that a price was put on pollution from pulp mills to get rid of acid rain and a similar approach is needed for fossil fuels.

"We need a price on carbon," she said.

"The federal government has given targeted support to every big industry in Canada to get it off the ground, from aerospace to automobiles to oilsands, but the clean energy sector did not get that kind of support," she added.

OIL'S FADING CLOUT WILL AID CLIMATE CHANGE FIGHT IN LIMA: DON PITTIS

Declining status of energy security another cause for optimism in Peru climate talks

It may be that the decline in the status of oil — from something akin to the scarce lifeblood of industry, to just another commodity — may actually help climate change negotiators now meeting in Lima, Peru.

Representatives of 195 countries have gathered in the South American capital in what has been described as the most optimistic United Nations climate gathering yet.

A recent pact between the world's two biggest carbon emitters, China and the United States, is one reason for renewed buoyancy at this round of talks. At a meeting last month between China's President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Barack Obama, the countries for the first time agreed to firm greenhouse gas reductions.

When the current talks in Peru were scheduled, few could have predicted there would be another world-shaking event that would encourage negotiators. I refer to the sudden plunge in the price of oil that came only days before the Lima climate gathering.

It seems only yesterday that we were worried about a shortage of oil. Certainly that is what a survey we reported a year ago suggested. According to a poll released by the Woodrow Wilson Center for

Scholars in Washington, D.C., Canadians and Americans were more worried about a shortage of oil than they were about the environment.

And that's not crazy. A year ago we were still talking about worldwide oil scarcity. In those days the economic scenario was a resource-hungry developing world, including China, challenging the industrialized nations for a limited supply. A thirsty China meant world prices were heading to \$200 US.

Running out of oil would have serious consequences for the entire world economy. Countries were willing to invest to make sure that didn't happen.

As I say, it's amazing how quickly things can change.

Within a matter of months, oil has altered in status from a scarce and dwindling commodity to one where there is plenty to go around. In the last week, crude has been even further downgraded to the point where analysts say we are drowning in the stuff.

In four months we moved from dearth to glut. And many experts say that glut will not disappear quickly.

In his London Financial Times blog on Sunday, energy economist Nick Butler made a strong case that "we must prepare for a long-term fall in oil prices." Having worked for oil giant BP for nearly 30 years, he describes a business that builds decades ahead and builds to last. Powered by its own momentum, the one thing the industry can't do is slam on the brakes when oil prices fall.

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Butler is by no means a lone voice. In a speech last week, Murray Edwards, the chairman of energy company Canadian Natural Resources, said oil "could spike down to \$30" (less than half of today's price), leading to a gradual industry-wide slowdown.

Oil continues to be an essential commodity to a modern economy, so governments still have to think about security of supply. But when there is plenty to go round at bargain prices they don't have to worry as much. And that means energy security is not as big an issue facing negotiators in Peru.

There is another reason why falling prices reduce the clout of oil. An expanding business creates the precious jobs, new investment and economic growth that help governments get re-elected. A static or shrinking industry just doesn't have the same kind of leverage.

With the loss of urgency powered by security concerns, and the loss of economic sway, the fear that we are destroying our planet for future generations gets a stronger relative voice in the public debate.

When Canadians think of climate change, Peru is not one of the obvious victims. But the country is home to a majority of the world's tropical glaciers. Those glaciers, which provide the only water for huge areas of Peru's agriculture, have shrunk by nearly a quarter. The potential economic costs of further shrinkage are huge and real.

If the UN calculations are right, the costs of climate change are unimaginably large. But because

many of the most serious costs won't be incurred for decades, for many people those costs just don't feel as real as the urgent issues of today and tomorrow.

There is a growing realization that the battle to end climate change is a battle against fossil fuels. That is a difficult thing to face for countries like Canada, where oil, gas and coal have been engines of growth.

But as we enter a period where fossil fuels carry less economic and political weight, maybe the economic costs of continuing to release carbon into the atmosphere will get the attention they deserve.

'GREENPEACE DROPOUT' PATRICK MOORE DEFENDS KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE

Former Greenpeace president believes Kinder Morgan pipeline should go ahead despite protests

Former Greenpeace president Patrick Moore believes Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline should move forward despite protests because he says it's in the best interest of the country.

Moore was among the early members of Greenpeace, but is now known for his opposing views, including support for the oil sands. He publicly claims man-made climate change is not happening, despite what the majority of scientists think based on evidence.

"I think people have been worked up about something that is very unlikely to be a big problem in the end," he told The Early Edition's

Rick Cluff Monday while speaking about protests opposing the pipeline last week on Burnaby Mountain.

Others have pointed to the pipeline protests — and the willingness of people to go to jail — as a sign the company needs to earn a social license before moving forward.

"The government of Canada...and the proponents can't just bully their way through," deputy Liberal leader Ralph Goodale told Rick Cluff on Friday.

"They need to earn the trust and the confidence of the people that they're dealing with."

Patrick Moore said it can be difficult to gain that support when people don't understand the broader economic implications of the project.

"I think there will always be people opposed to projects. People have been very much opposed to the whole Gateway project in the Lower Mainland of making transportation flow better to the ports, and they're opposed to the ports themselves," he said.

Moore recently wrote a book called "Confessions of a Greenpeace

Dropout" and is now the environment chair of the Frontier Centre of Public Policy, a Winnipeg-based think tank which says it promotes policy that will "help Canada's prairie region live up to its vast but unrealized economic potential."

Moore said moving oil out of Alberta and to international markets is in the economic interest of Canada.

"It's been put into a moral context now that fossil fuels are evil. They are not evil. They are 88 per cent of all the energy that is underpinning civilization," he said.

"I think if we did what Greenpeace says, our civilization would come crashing to a halt. Billions of people would die if we gave up on oil."

Kinder Morgan has packed up its equipment on Burnaby Mountain after a B.C. Supreme Court judge rejected the company's application to extend an injunction against protesters on Thursday.

The survey work was required for the company to make its application to the National Energy Board for the pipeline expansion.

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