Energy Literacy in Canada André Turcotte, Ph.D
Associate Professor - Carleton University
Research Fellow - The School of Public
Policy at the U of C

Ivey Business School and University of Ottawa Positive Energy Conference – March 4-5, 2015

#### **ENERGY LITERACY IN CANADA (October 2012)**

Energy and Energy Literacy in Canada: A Survey of Business and Policy Leadership (March 2013)

ABORIGINAL-CANADIANS AND ENERGY LITERACY: A SURVEY OF OPINIONS AND THOUGHTS ON ENERGY (February 2014)



## **Key Findings**



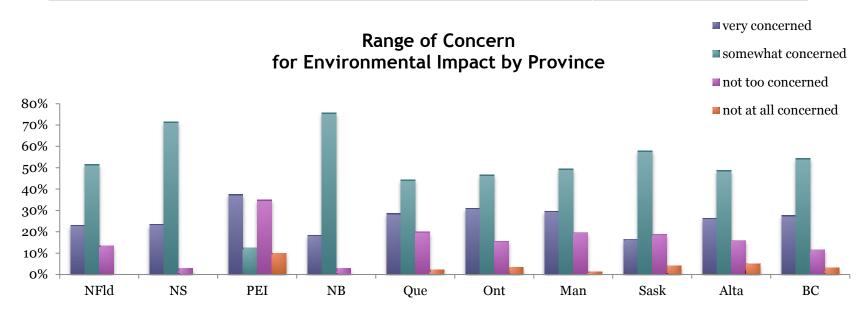


#### Energy Literacy in Canada Part 1: Canadians' Attitudes Toward Energy Issues (2012 – 1500 adult Canadians)

Dr. Michal C. Moore, Professor School of Public Policy University of Calgary Dr. André Turcotte Associate Professor School of Journalism and Communication Carleton University

#### Concern Toward the Impact of Energy Generation on the Environment

Level of Concern	(%)
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	49%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	3%
Don't know	4%



#### **Perceived Level of Knowledge**

Level of agreement	Personal understanding of energy issues	Others understanding of energy issues
Strongly agree	8%	2%
Somewhat agree	8% 52% } 60% ←	30% [28%
Somewhat disagree	28%	45%
Strongly disagree	28% 7% ] 35% ←	20%
Don't know	5%	5%

#### **Specific Level of Knowledge**

Where Canadian Energy Comes From	(%)
Canada produces most of the energy it needs at home	53%
Canada produces all of the energy it needs at home	28%
Canada imports most of the energy it needs from other countries	8%
Canada imports all of the energy it needs from other countries	<1%
Don't know	11%

Canadian Energy Economy	(%)
Canada is a net exporter of energy – that is, it exports more	55%
Canada is a net importer of energy – that is, it imports more	9%
Canada's energy imports and exports are roughly the same	11%
Don't know	25%

#### **Main Source of Electricity Generation**

Region	Actual Source	Residents' Literacy	
Canada	59% Hydro	64% Hydro	
Newfoundland	97% Hydro	93% Hydro	
Nova Scotia	58% Coal	66% Coal	
PEI	99% Renewables —	→ 27% Nuclear	
New Brunswick	31% Hydro	56% Hydro	
Quebec	96% Hydro	94% Hydro	
Ontario	55% Nuclear	53% Hydro (29% Nuclear)	
Manitoba	99% Hydro	94% Hydro	
Saskatchewan	60% Coal —	→ <b>34% Coal/34% Hydro</b>	
Alberta	72% Coal	→ 42% Natural Gas	
British Columbia	87% Hydro	89% Hydro	



#### Energy Literacy in Canada: A Survey of Business and Policy Leadership (2013 – 589 elites)

Dr. Michal C. Moore, Professor School of Public Policy University of Calgary Dr. André Turcotte Associate Professor School of Journalism and Communication Carleton University

#### **Perceived Level of Knowledge**

Level of agreement	Good personal understanding of energy issues	Other leaders' understanding of energy issues is good
Strongly agree	18% 58%   76% ←	→ 62% J 10%
Somewhat agree	58%	53%
Somewhat disagree	21% ] 24% ←	31%
Strongly disagree	3%	6%

#### **Elite Energy Source Literacy**

#### % Who Correctly Identified Major Energy Source

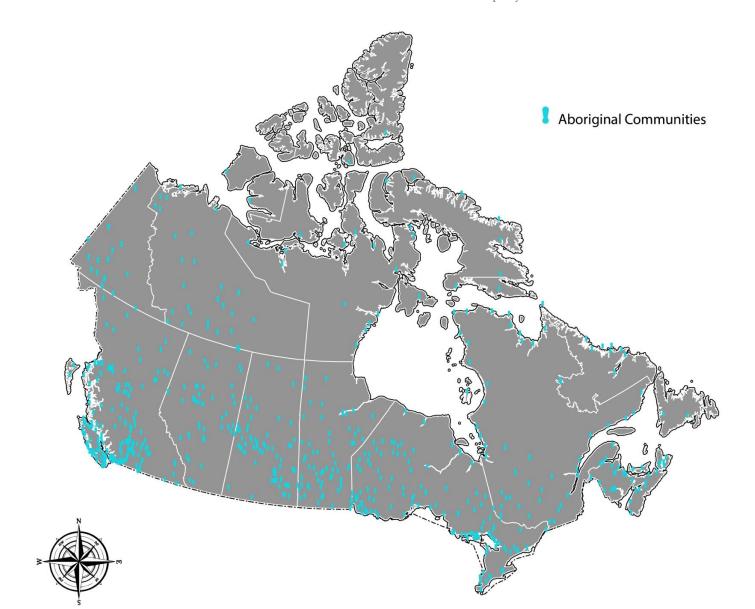
```
All Canada
Newfoundland and Labrador
Atlantic
Quebec
Ontario
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
Alberta ←
British Columbia
The North
```



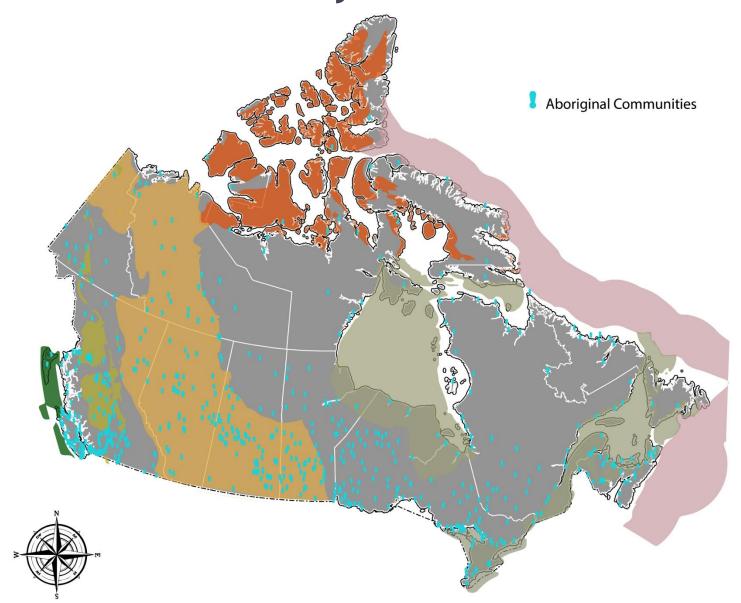
#### Aboriginal-Canadians and Energy Literacy: A Survey of Opinions and Thoughts on Energy (2013 - 300 Aboriginals and First Nations' peoples)

Dr. Michal C. Moore, Professor School of Public Policy University of Calgary Dr. André Turcotte Associate Professor School of Journalism and Communication Carleton University Dr. Jennifer Winter Research Associate School of Public Policy University of Calgary

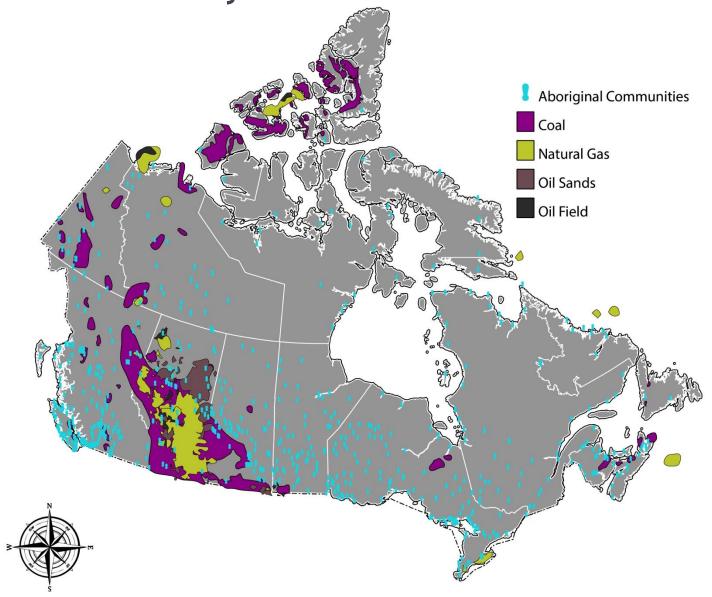
### Aboriginal Communities in Canada



# Aboriginal Communities and Sedimentary Basins

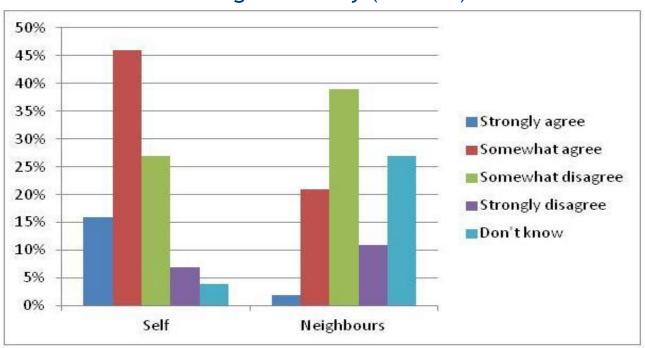


## Aboriginal Communities and Hydrocarbon reserves



## Perceived Understanding of Energy

Agreement with "Good Understanding of Energy Issues" Aboriginal Survey (N = 300)



#### Understanding of Energy Generation

#### **Energy Generation by Province or Region**

		Percentage Correct		
			General	
	Dominant	Aboriginal	<b>Population</b>	<b>Business &amp; Policy Leaders</b>
	Fuel	Survey	Survey**	Survey***
		(N = 300)	(N = 1508)	(N = 589)
BC	Hydro	91%	94%	94%
Alberta	Coal	26%	35%	38%
Saskatchewan	Coal	38%	34%	46%
Manitoba	Hydro	92%	94%	70%
Ontario	Nuclear	27%	29%	38%
Quebec	Hydro	100%	94%	100%
Atlantic	Coal	24%	51%	63%
The North	Hydro	53%	N/A	72%

## **Key Findings**

- 1. Aboriginal-Canadians are more concerned about the environment than other Canadians.
- 2. Aboriginal-Canadians are more concerned than other Canadians about the impact of energy generation on the environment.
- 3. Support for oil and gas pipelines is tied to the financial benefit to the community
- 4. Aboriginals are concerned about the "economics" of our energy future reducing cost of energy and providing jobs in their communities

# WHY?

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## Key Messages

- A literate public is capable of getting involved in policy-response
- Canadian energy resources are critical for our economic future
- Energy well-being is part of our economic and cultural heritage
- Improving energy "literacy" will be successful only if we understand the gaps, and then work to fill them

## Key Requirements Moving Forward

• A relevant demonstration (firmly positioned in people's daily life) of what energy means, comes from and of the paths to alternatives.

A trusted source of information.