# Public Confidence & Canada's Oil & Gas Industry

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Canada's Oil and Natural Gas Producers



## **Overview**

- Public confidence is one of many requirements for the oil and gas industry's <u>competitiveness</u> and <u>access to markets</u>.
- Public confidence supports public policy but is public policy based on a true assessment of public confidence?
- What is the current state of public confidence in Canada's oil and gas industry?
- What drives public confidence?
- Is the issue literacy or trust?
- Implications for communications and public policy?



# **Steps to Building a Strong Reputation**





Pyramid of Trust courtesy of IPSOS REID

## **Current State of Public Confidence in the Oil Sands Industry in Canada**





# **Drivers of Public Confidence**

#### Sources

- Public institutions
- Media
- Academics & industry experts
- Friends, families, neighbors

### • Pillars of Trust

- Economic contribution
- Safety
- Environmental impact
- Industry character



# **Industry Performance on Trust Pillars**

#### • Economics +52%

Creating jobs for Canadians (+63%, -11%)

#### • Safety +21%

 Operating safely in all the communities where they are active (+44%, -23%)

#### Environment +12%

Working to lessen the impact (+41%, -29%)

#### • Character +11%

- Behaving ethically (+41%, -26%)
- Being responsive to concerns (+39%, -29%)
- Being honest (+38%, -30%)



# **Opinion of Canadians**

# Canada maintains modest to strong support for oil and gas development.





# **Confidence vs Advocacy**

#### Most Canadians support oil and gas development.

#### So what is the issue?





# **The Challenge – Literacy vs Trust vs Advocacy**

- Canadians trust our industry the more they feel we align with their values.
- Opponents are 3x more likely to speak out against than supporters are likely to speak out in favor.

# **Implications for communications & public policy**

- We must show Canadians how our performance aligns to their values safety, economics, environment and industry character.
- We must encourage trustworthy, supportive voices to speak up where needed to boost public confidence.
- Risk for Canadians: public policy follows polarizing voices, not true public opinion in the community.



## Reflections

- Is energy literacy a necessary condition of public confidence?
- Will increased energy literacy lead to a different outcome?
- Who needs energy literacy

   the public or government?
- Is energy literacy is a rational solution to an irrational problem?
- Is public confidence based on <u>literacy</u> – or on <u>trust</u>?

