Oil Sands
Facts and Stats

Alberta's Oil Sands

- Underlie 142,200 square kilometres of land in the Athabasca, Cold Lake and Peace River areas in northern Alberta.
- 3% of the oil sands area can be mined.
- 97% of the oil sands covers reserves that are too deep to be mined.

Pace of Oil Sands Development

- Land-use planning:
  - setting regional environmental limits for air and water;
  - conserving lands; and,
  - developing new environmental policies.
- Three regional plans:
  - Lower Athabasca Regional Plan
  - South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
  - North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (in planning stages)

Integrated Resource Management System

- Across government to ensure responsible development of energy resources are balanced with environmental standards and economic expectations.
- The Alberta Energy Regulator is piloting a new play-based regulation project to oversee unconventional oil and gas development.

Oil Sands and Price Shocks

- Conventional and tight oil production is more impacted by low prices and more likely to have lower capital expenditure in 2015.
- Oil sands projects are long-term and positioned to weather periods of low prices.
- There is 900,000 barrels per day of oil sands production capacity under construction. (as of Dec. 2014).

Oil Sands Development

- Significant benefits to Alberta and Canada through inter-provincial trade.
  - Alberta imports from Ontario: from $13.1 billion (1997) to $27.6 billion (2011)
  - Alberta imports from Québec: from $3.5 billion (1997) to $8.4 billion (2011)

Eastern Canada (reliance on foreign oil exports and displacing domestic exports)

- Ontario receives 90% of crude oil from Western Canada.
- Québec receives 4% of crude oil from Western Canada, 12% from Eastern Canada, and balance from offshore sources.
- Québec and Atlantic provinces receive majority of imports from foreign offshore sources due to limited ability to receive Western Canadian crude.
- In Atlantic Canada, 98% of oil demand is served by offshore sources.
- Québec: Reversal of pipeline (Line 9b) to provide 140,000 barrels per day from Sarnia to Montreal.

Capital Spending Estimates for 2015 (Source: CAPP)

- 2015 capital investment is forecast at $25 billion compared to $33 billion last year.