

PSAC Responds to 2016 Federal Budget

March 23, 2016

Yesterday the new federal government tabled its first budget, and PSAC was at the table beforehand advocating for the Canadian oil and gas services industry and our member companies. In our meetings with the Prime Minister, Ministers and other government representatives, we focused on:

- Infrastructure Incentives to Stimulate Employment in the Oil and Gas Services Sector, Accelerate Well Decommissioning, and Wellsite Remediation and Environmental Protection in Alberta
- Indigenous Education and Programs Funding to Increase Literacy and Graduation Rates
- Natural Gas Vehicle Infrastructure
- Carbon Offset Duties on Imported Oil and Mined Materials
- Transfer Payments Criteria and Barriers to Internal Trade

While we were disappointed there was no specific recognition of our \$500 million proposal for well decommissioning, we believe our proposal fits into many of the initiatives and priorities talked about in the budget including clean technology and green infrastructure. We will continue to bring the well decommissioning proposal forward to the federal and provincial governments and advocate for its success as it's a win-win for all – benefits to the economy, member companies and their employees, governments and the environment. As the details of specific funding buckets are released in the coming weeks and months, PSAC expects the proposal's recommendations will be addressed.

It is our role at PSAC to advocate on behalf of responsible working energy and we thought there were some bright spots in the budget that will benefit our member companies including:

- Theme of budget "Growing the Middle Class" – we support this idea as we represent the blue collar, in-the-field workers from the oil and gas industry.
- \$120 billion in infrastructure investment over 10 years – investment in oil and gas infrastructure through well decommissioning will put people back to work and benefit the environment.
- Investing in skills and training – we support initiatives that will help support education in the trades and apprenticeship.
- Building Canada as a centre for global innovation – our member companies are on the front lines of innovation in energy development technologies that increase efficiencies and lower environmental impact; within this vision is support for entrepreneurs in growing their businesses.

- \$1 billion over four years to support clean technology – many of our members already tap into green technologies to help power the oilfield such as solar panels and other members are developing new technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Restoring public trust in the environmental assessment system – we support strong, competitive, fair regulation and effective public consultation in order to improve the regulator’s and oil and gas industry’s reputation with the general public.
- Extended support for unemployed oil and gas workers - ultimately our industry does not believe in long-term unemployment insurance but our many unemployed workers need some support during this unprecedented downturn.
- \$2.6 billion for on-reserve education – we advocated for this as Indigenous oil and gas businesses and workers play a major role in the oilfields services business and we advocate for building strong relationships with Indigenous communities as many of our members have done.
- Infrastructure for natural gas fuelling stations – positive development and one that we strong advocated for in our budget submission.

To view a copy of the well decommissioning press release:

- [PSAC Requests Federal Assistance for Oil & Gas Services Sector](#) – March 14, 2016

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