

Lots going on

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Re: "Ottawa needs to take lead on natural gas file," Deborah Yedlin, Opinion, July 5.

The government is working closely with industry and our provincial colleagues to develop these important new markets.

The proposed new Kitimat Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility would be an important step forward. This project is well advanced and has received all major environmental approvals.

There is still the need for the issuance of minor operating and development permits.

The project is before the National Energy Board seeking a long-term export licence. If granted, this would be the first new export licence for natural gas destined for a market outside of the U.S. The NEB hearings resumed July 13 and a final decision is expected in the fall.

Natural Resources Canada, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade recently led a trade delegation to Asia to promote liquefied natural gas exports.

More than 200 participants, representing more than 100 organizations, attended the Canadian delegation's seminars.

We are also working with key sectors to further the use of natural gas in new applications, particularly transportation, to develop new domestic and international markets.

Last year, we led the development of the Natural Gas Use in Transportation Deployment Roadmap, to focus on better understanding the conditions for expanding the use of natural gas in this major market.

The development of new domestic uses and exports are important steps we are taking to ensure the expansion of markets.

Joe Oliver, Ottawa
Joe Oliver is the Federal Minister of Natural Resources.