

**SPEAKING NOTES
HONOURABLE ALISON REDFORD
PREMIER OF ALBERTA**

**WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
SCHOLARS KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

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**WOODROW WILSON CENTRE
SIXTH FLOOR DINING ROOM
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Thank you for that introduction Michael (Van Dusen). It's an honour to be here today at the Wilson Center, a part of America's foremost institution for learning and education—the Smithsonian—and itself a locus of excellence in public policy research and reform. I also want to thank the Center's Council of Women World Leaders for generously co-sponsoring this event.

I'm mindful of the leaders, past and present, who have spoken here and I hope I can do justice to the forward-looking ideals they and the Center espouse.

The Wilson Center was created as a living memorial to Woodrow Wilson, America's 28th President and a high-minded thinker who fearlessly held to his convictions in the midst of terrible strife. One particular quote of his has a special resonance for me.

In the spring of 1918, six months before the armistice that ended the First World War, President Wilson publicly declared that, "Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together." Even as he spoke, a generation was making the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of Europe. The confidence, optimism and open borders of the pre-war era were gone, dead and never to return, so most thought at the time.

But they were wrong. A generation later, President Wilson's convictions helped give rise to our modern geopolitical order with the founding of the United Nations.

The challenges western nations face in the early 21st century cannot bear direct comparison to the tragedy of the First World War. But they share a similarity in their effect on our ideals.

We came into this century full of hope, certain that our way of life and political and economic systems were the right ones.

In the aftermath of a terrible recession, from which we are still recovering, this conclusion was weakened. Future projections only add to the gloom.

The world needs more of everything — food, water, fuel and raw commodities. But the spectres of climate change and environmental degradation overshadow efforts to produce them.

Scarcity and rising prices are spurring conflict, resource nationalism and state-led interference in the economy, generating war, greed and mutual suspicion. Many predict disaster and despair.

The world needs a dose of Wilson-like optimism and foresight to look beyond the premonitions of doom. It must remember that mutual respect, born of shared goals and ideals, will allow us to overcome our troubles.

In this regard, nothing has changed in the 94 years since President Wilson spoke. Friendship is still the cement that holds us together.

I believe strongly that Alberta —a province of less than four million— has a critical role to play in keeping this true, now and for many years to come. And that's what I would like to discuss today.

In the oil sands, Alberta has the third-largest proven reserves in the world.

This is an obvious boon for Albertans, but the same is true for our trading partners.

The world is in the midst of a great transformation of energy systems, but this will not happen overnight.

Economies will continue to rely on hydrocarbons for decades. And it's important that they get their energy from regions that produce it responsibly, and treat the resultant revenues with care.

Such suppliers are few and far between.

Oil should be a blessing to the treasury of any country fortunate enough to possess substantial reserves. But the reverse has been so often the case that observers tend to speak of an “oil curse,” and with good reason.

In so many oil-producing nations in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, societies have failed to realize the benefits of their natural wealth, or produce them in a way that respects human rights and the environment. All too often, corrupt and self-serving elites seize resource revenues to further their self-indulgences, leaving everyone else wanting.

Earlier in my career, I spent time supporting judicial reform and human rights work in the developing world and I witnessed this sad state of affairs. In very few of these places have governments proven capable of rising above the demands of the moment, or the lures of their own ideological fantasies, to spend energy money wisely or to develop their resources responsibly. Poverty-stricken people and hard-pressed ecosystems suffer the consequences.

There is an argument to be made that a significant share of energy consumers' money seems destined to end up in the hands of untrustworthy regimes at odds with the international friendship and trust President Wilson knew to be so vital to our collective wellbeing.

It doesn't have to be this way. A free, democratic and oil-rich Alberta far outperforms its competitors in every measure of fairness, good governance, transparency and conservation. And as we expand production, this will only become truer.

Alberta is committed to having a transparent and open conversation about the oil sands and the way we produce energy. We have had successes in the past, but we recognize that innovation will allow us to make further improvements, and we are prepared to be honest about the need. We are always striving to do better.

Our role is to act as a stabilizing alternative, producing energy sustainably, promoting global energy security by increasing production to meet demand, and using revenues in a way that benefits the buyer and the seller.

In this latter area, we have a long track record of success. In fact, we return a lot to you. 90 cents of every dollar the US spends on Alberta's energy comes back in the form of Albertans purchasing US goods. That's almost three times the rate for Middle Eastern oil.

The oil sands positively impact this country in other ways too, through contracts, jobs and revenues for supporting industries.

Among the states, our largest export market is Illinois. Our exports there averaged \$18.3 billion between 2006 and 2010. And future oil sands development should add one to two billion dollars to Illinois' economy on an annual basis and create or preserve as many as 19,000 jobs each year. If completed, Keystone will annually add \$650 million and up to 6,500 jobs to those totals.

I was in Chicago last week and to meet with industry and business, and the excitement over those numbers was palpable.

Tomorrow, I will be visiting New York, which can expect similar benefits. Future oil sands development will add as much from a half to three-quarters of a billion dollars annually to the economy and create or preserve from four to eight thousand jobs.

Even here in DC, development of the oil sands will contribute an average of \$28-\$53 million per year to the economy and create or preserve an average of 240 to 480 jobs on an annual basis to 2035.

When Keystone XL is completed —and I'm optimistic it will be— it will add an additional \$20 million a year to the DC economy and create or preserve 200 jobs annually.

And at home, this government is spending those revenues sensibly. One of our highest priorities is upgrading Alberta's public services to cope with a fast-growing population and provide Albertans with a high quality of life.

For instance, family physicians have trouble keeping up with demand for their services.

We are devoting resources and time to a real solution: community-based centres called family care clinics, each staffed largely by allied health-care professionals like nurses and nurse practitioners. They will handle the bulk of primary care, easing doctors' burden and dramatically decreasing Albertans' treatment wait times.

Alberta's senior population is on the rise too, so our government is increasing home care supports, funding a new assisted living model that lets seniors stay in one place as their care requirements change, and driving up the number of available beds in retirement homes. We will add 1,000 spaces this year alone.

And we are investing billions in infrastructure and redesigning our school systems to produce competitive graduates for the 21st century.

So this partnership brings us both benefits that support the values we share — a far cry from the arrangements the United States maintains with some of its other energy export partners. And it's one that will continue long into the future, to the benefit of everyone involved.

Alberta has the will and desire necessary to use its energy riches constructively on the global stage.

And we are actively seeking new places to do so, for instance through the Gateway project to Canada's Pacific Coast. Accessing fast-growing Asian markets is essential to the long-term viability of the oil sands.

We are committed to working with our trading partners and our neighbours, in Canada and the US, to achieve our export goals in a reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. This partnership accords with our shared values.

With this in mind, I have been actively promoting a Canadian Energy Strategy.

Alberta is not the only energy-rich province. Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Newfoundland have a wealth of resources ranging from oil and gas to hydro. And we all face unavoidable truths.

The infrastructure needed to get our energy to new markets must cross other jurisdictions. The same applies to some extent to the environmental standards, monitoring and best practices that will keep Canada beautiful, and influence how much it costs to build and maintain that infrastructure.

As part of this, we are embarking on a new dialogue with aboriginal groups, and ensuring they are active stakeholders in any future development. Through initiatives like the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships Program, which has invested almost \$25 million to date in aboriginal enterprise and economic partnerships, we will ensure they remain active participants as our economy flourishes.

If we can reach a broad consensus on ways of sustainably expanding production, compensating and benefitting those affected and constructing infrastructure across each other's territory, all without compromising sovereignty over our respective resources, the benefits to the North American economy will run into the trillions.

Obviously a Canadian Energy Strategy will not cross international borders. But it does call for greater collaboration with the Canadian federal government in opening up new markets and attracting other nations as customers.

So in this regard, the strategy is not completely a Canadian endeavour. Countries interested in our energy must commit to building the end-stage infrastructure required to receive it. And since the vast majority of Canada's energy export network is directed toward the United States, it's only natural that we enhance a great friendship and deepen our energy ties.

If we in Canada can settle on such a strategy that achieves our goals, the United States will be able to lock in a dependable energy supply from a reliable ally — no small achievement in an uncertain world.

However, security of supply is not all there is to energy. The global effects of climate change will increasingly make the social license needed to expand production and build new pipelines an issue with worldwide consequences.

Alberta has no shortage of critics on this subject who insist that the environmental costs of the oil sands outweigh the economic gains. Opponents have been running systematic cross-border campaigns built on misinformation and mythmaking in an effort to convince governments and society to bar further development and even shut down Alberta's energy industry on environmental grounds.

Alberta must reframe the debate to focus on the environment — and we are. Going forward, this is a key part of our efforts to position the province on the global stage. We will ensure that other countries understand the issues at stake and that Alberta is not satisfied with the status quo. We are working continuously to improve. Education and engagement are the only way to counter the opposition we face.

The facts are on our side. And I will do everything I can as Premier to make sure those facts are presented and understood.

The oil sands' effects have been exaggerated. But they do exist. And that means that Alberta must continue to improve its performance. It's not enough to play the numbers game. We have a responsibility to be progressive, forward-looking stewards of the environment. It's an issue which Albertans themselves are passionate about, and this government will engage with it through research, conservation and transparency.

We recently opened the Oil Sands Information Portal, a continuously updated website that consolidates information from a wide variety of independent, scientifically credible sources on every aspect of the oil sands. Anyone can see the data and ask tough questions about what we are doing to produce energy responsibly.

Alberta understands that partnerships and openness are necessary for improvement.

We monitor air quality in the region 365 days a year. And 97 percent of the time, that quality is the highest possible.

Oil sands water usage is stringently controlled. All existing and approved projects together take less than one percent of the Athabasca River's annual flow and are allotted a maximum of three percent. And during low-flow periods, we limit them to half that.

Energy firms themselves are working on ways to recycle the water they use, with the best practices reusing up to 90 percent. And more work is being done through research.

For instance, the Alberta government is engaged in a \$15 million partnership with General Electric to find new ways to reduce industrial water use in the oil sands.

And we are exploring the use of solvents, combustion biological processes and electrical heating for in situ recovery processes to reduce water use still further.

More than five million acres of land in the oil sands, much of them boreal forest, are protected from development.

By 2016, energy firms will be required to virtually eliminate all growth of fluid tailings — they have already had success with quick-drying methods that recycle most of the water used and speed up land reclamation.

Canadian Natural Resources has made progress in this area with its Mature Fine Tailings technology, producing dry, solid tailings.

And after 2016, companies will have to process tailings at the same rate they are produced.

We are also tackling emissions. Alberta was the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce mandatory greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for all large emitters.

Our programs include a price on carbon, a regulated offset market, and a clean energy technology fund. Large emitters who breach their limits must pay into this fund at a rate of \$15 per tonne. To date the fund has collected \$257 million and invested \$126 million in clean technology, supporting green solutions like geothermal energy, enhanced water recycling and in-situ oil extraction, which doesn't produce tailings.

Furthermore, between 2010 and 2014, total climate-friendly technology investment in Alberta will exceed \$6 billion — more than in the rest of Canada combined.

We already have more than 800 MW of wind power and our installed capacity is set to triple by 2020.

All these ongoing efforts represent Alberta's move toward an integrated energy economy, one in which, 30 to 40 years on, renewable and alternative sources will play just as big a role as oil does now. The world is changing and we are changing with it.

Sustainably producing the energy the world needs and minimizing the effects of climate change are difficult. But Alberta is ready to assume its share of the responsibility for both.

Albertans want to do more than watch the profits roll in. As scarcity and need affect the strategic value of oil and gas, Albertans want to live up to the obligations our energy riches impose on us.

In the years ahead, some governments will give in to fear and greed, playing selfish games with the basic commodities humanity needs to survive.

I promise you, Alberta will not follow suit. We will do our utmost to use our energy as a stabilizing force, to counteract the doomsayers and the short-sighted.

We will look to the future with confidence and optimism, and partner with the United States, and our other allies, to overcome the obstacles ahead.

Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together. And Alberta will not forget it.

Thank you.

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