

Canada Brexit Dinner Roundtable

Notes arising from the expert roundtable dinner discussion on the 17th of January 2018 by the Windsor Energy Group (WEG). The meeting was chaired by Lord Howell, chairman of WEG and hosted by Gowling WLG- Canada's leading law firm. The theme of this roundtable was potential Canadian-British relations post Brexit.



Participants included:

- **Mr. Andrew Percy MP**, the Prime Minister's trade envoy to Canada
- **Mr. William Swords (President)**, Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. Howard Drake CMG OBE**, former British High Commissioner to Canada
- **Dr. David Powell (Vice President)**, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy
- **Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG**, former Commercial Secretary in the UK Treasury and Minister for Energy and Intellectual Property
- **Mr. Andrew Rosindell (Chair)**, British-Canada All Party Parliamentary Group
- **Mr. Martin Goodfellow (Strategy & Business Development Manager)**, Rolls-Royce
- **Mr. Richard Parker (Partner)**, PwC
- **Dr. Tetsushi Hino**, Hitachi
- **Lord Balfour (Director & Head of Business Development)**, Virtus Trust
- **Rt Hon Jim Murphy**, Arden Strategies
- **Mr. Alexander Walker (Foreign Affairs Advisor)**, British-Canada All Party Parliamentary Group
- **Ms. Maxine Symington (Director)**, Gowling WLG
- **Mr. Michael Luckman (Partner)**, Gowling WLG
- **Mr. Ian Walker (Director)**, Windsor Energy Group

Commentary:

After eight years negotiations Canada has a comprehensive trade deal with the EU. Some see this agreement as a possible basis for a UK framework post-Brexit. However the Canada arrangements were built on detailed discussions with representative of key sectors in the Canadian economy which do not reflect British interests. The deal also does not include services. In Britain financial services form a key part of the economy. Canada has some of the world's best trade negotiators and there could be some shared lesson as detailed Brexit talks develop.

Sustainable energy is a shared priority for both countries. Canada already has a significant amount of hydro-electricity. By 2035 wind is expected to reach a 6% share of the total Canadian electricity mix.

Developing clean energy is one of the priorities for the G8 that is currently chaired by Canada. Developments will be reviewed when the G7 leaders meet in Quebec from June 8-9. Canada's National Energy Board has regulates major energy pipelines, power lines. Gas and oil imports and exports as well as major oil and gas exploration.

Meanwhile Britain is hosting a major meeting of Commonwealth leaders in London and Windsor when energy cooperation will feature as part of a Commonwealth business forum. During the week of 16th April, leaders will attend working sessions to discuss shared global challenges, attend a dinner hosted by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace and gather at Windsor Castle for the Leaders' Retreat - a day when leaders engage in frank dialogue and set the course for future Commonwealth co-operation.

Key information about British-Canadian trade:

- The key sectors for British Canadian trade are; financial services, energy- particularly nuclear, technology, film and TV, science and clinical research, transportation, agriculture, shipping and manufacturing.
- The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service identifies the UK as Canada's largest export market in the European Union; and Canada's 4th most important source of foreign direct investment worldwide ([link](#)).
- NIBusinessInfo states that the UK is Canada's second biggest world trading partner after the US. Currently UK products benefit from preferential tariffs under Commonwealth agreements ([link](#)).

Understanding The Geo-Politics Of Energy

By Bringing Together Policy-Makers and Energy Practitioners

- Science and innovation underpin the economies of both Canada and the UK. For this reason, to promote international collaboration, the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, as well as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office jointly fund the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN). SIN Canada helps researchers in the UK increase their reach through partnerships with Canadian research organisations. Additionally SIN works with both UK and Canadian governments to exchange policy best practice ([link](#)).
- The dinner discussion was very timely as just the morning of the 17th of January, the Common's Select Committee; Exiting the European Union, was meeting regarding 'Lessons for Brexit from Canada-EU trade negotiations?' ([Link](#)).

These issues will continue to be discussed at the 17th annual WEG Windsor Castle meeting on the 2nd- 4th March, along with other topical energy issues. If you would like more information then please contact the WEG Secretariat on admin@meconsult.co.uk