



Sponsor a child now
plancanada.ca



ADVERTISEMENT

CBCnews | Politics

IN THE NEWS

- The Shower Posse
- U.S. campaign blog
- Public sharing
- Facebook breast ban

Politics Inside Politics Blog Photo Galleries

Harper says pipeline debate should be left to Canadians

Canada not 'giant national park' for U.S., prime minister says

CBC News Posted: Jan 16, 2012 9:01 PM ET | Last Updated: Jan 17, 2012 7:16 AM ET

Any decision on developments such as the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline should be left to Canadians, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

"It's one thing in terms of whether Canadians, you know, want jobs, to what degree Canadians want environmental protection. These are all valid questions," Harper said in an exclusive interview Monday with CBC chief correspondent Peter Mansbridge.



MAP
Canada's crude oil pipelines

"But just because certain people in the United States would like to see Canada be one giant national park for the northern half of North America, I don't think that's part of what our review process is all about."

The \$5.5-billion Northern Gateway project is a proposal by Canadian oil and gas company Enbridge to build two pipelines stretching 1,177 kilometres between the Alberta oilsands and the West Coast. The Northern Gateway would have the capacity to transport 525,000 barrels of oil per day.

Just before hearings on the project began, Harper and Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver raised the issue of foreign money going to environmental groups earlier this month. The groups say they get a small amount of funding from outside of Canada and that the government is trying to refocus the debate when much of the investment in the oilsands comes from outside of Canada.

"I don't object to foreigners expressing their opinion," Harper told CBC News. "But I don't want them to be able to hijack the process so that we don't make a decision that's timely or in the interests of Canadians."

Harper said news the Obama administration would delay a decision on whether to approve extending TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline was a wakeup call about the degree to which Canada is "held hostage" to U.S. decisions. He has since pressed for Canada to seek out new markets in Asia.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the task of finding a balance between jobs and environmental protection is one that should be left to Canadians. (CBC)

But while the government has made a case for Canadian oil as being more ethical than fuel produced in countries with poor human rights records, Central and Eastern Canada tend to buy oil from outside the

Related Links

- Community reaction to Harper's stance on pipeline debate, Iran, healthcare
- Northern Gateway pipeline: benefits vs. concerns
- P.O.V. | Should the Northern Gateway oil pipeline be approved?
- MAP | Proposed pipeline routes
- Radicals working against oilsands, Ottawa says
- Attack on 'radicals' sign of tougher federal strategy

Stay Connected with CBC News



ADVERTISEMENT

Inside Politics Blog »



Headgear and politicians don't mix

by **Rosemary Barton** Jan. 19, 2012 5:25 PM

There are a couple of good rules to live by in politics: don't eat on camera and don't wear headgear.

Top News Headlines



■ Russian diplomats leave Canada over spy case

- Freestyle skier Sarah Burke dies
- Mexico arrests 2 in slaying of B.C. tourist
- Fiery debate caps wild day for Republicans
- Cruise ship captain's actions defended by woman

Watch Listen

Most Recent

Web2PDF

converted by Web2PDFConvert.com

country rather than from the oilsands.

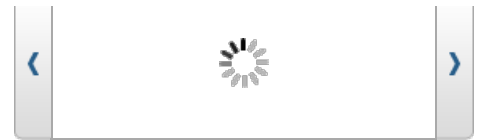
Harper said that is odd, but there's nothing the government can do about it.

"We're really the only supplier that is secure and is increasing its production. So I think [being market-driven has] served the country well. It's served government revenues well. It's served creation of jobs well. But it is fundamentally a market-based decision. We don't dictate pipelines go here or there."

The wide-ranging interview covered a number of issues, including:

- **Public sector pension plans:** Harper says the government is looking at ways to bring them closer to private sector norms. "As an employer, we have to have a pension plan that is reasonable and attractive to get people into the public sector, but it should not be significantly more generous than what would be available in the private sector." The government also has to look at the pensions of parliamentarians, he said.
- **Iran:** Harper says it's "beyond dispute" that the country is trying to develop nuclear weapons, and that Iran frightens him. "These are people who have a particular, you know, fanatically religious world view, and their statements imply to me no hesitation of using nuclear weapons if they see them achieving their religious or political purposes."
- **Aboriginal Canadians:** Harper says significant change needs to happen, but it will be gradual. "My own experience is that it will not be grand visions and declarations that achieve these things. It will be moving forward one step at a time, as we've been trying to do on things like water, investments in education, obviously building of trust, you know, as we've done through the residential school apology, and endorsement of the Declaration of Indigenous Rights."

[Report Typo](#) [Send Feedback](#)



Latest Politics News Headlines



■ [Russian diplomats leave Canada over spy case](#)

- [EI financing agency spends millions doing nothing](#)
- [Growing income gap generates little blame, poll suggests](#)
- [Historic First Nations summit may not yield concrete outcomes](#)
- [Sex-trade workers make their case in top court](#)

On Tonight's National

- [Check in on Stories](#)
- [Watch the Best of the Show](#)
- [Stay Connected](#)

[See more stories from The National](#)

The House

Premiers gear up for health talks, Liberal party faithfuls gather in Ottawa

Jan. 17, 2012 12:29 PM

Evan Solomon looks ahead to the upcoming Premiers meeting in Victoria, B.C with Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter and BC Premier Christy Clark. From the site of the Liberal party convention in Ottawa, Evan also speaks to former PM Paul Martin and current interim liberal party leader Bob Rae.

[Most Viewed](#) [Most Commented](#)

- [Google, Canadian groups join Wikipedia protest](#)
- [Bank of Canada says Europe will drag on growth](#)
- [Liver and thyroid cancer rates rise](#)
- [Fiery debate caps wild day for Republicans](#)
- [Cruise ship captain's actions defended by woman](#)
- [Russian diplomats leave Canada over spy case](#)
- [Winter storm warning issued for Metro Vancouver](#)
- [Langley man guilty in B.C. road rage death](#)
- [Massive pileup near Samia, Ont., kills 2](#)

Get peace of mind for today and tomorrow.

Open your RSP or TFSA and we'll get you started with a \$25 Bonus.








Open an Account



ING DIRECT
save your money®

ADVERTISEMENT

Don't Miss

 POLITICAL TRACTION						
TRANSCRIPT Peter Mansbridge's interview with Stephen Harper	TRACKING ISSUES This week: Liberals, Northern Gateway, same-sex marriage	FIRST NATIONS Crown-First Nations Gathering: What they'll talk about	CONVENTION WRAPUP 5 things that had the Liberal convention buzzing	SERVICE CANADA Inside Canada's battered EI system	GLACIAL MELT Time-lapse images reveal 'epochal change'	Q&A 'Haiti sustains charity'

CBC.ca

Aboriginal
Books
Contests
Digital Archives
Documentaries
Kids
Kids' CBC Preschool

Kids' CBC Wonder World
News
Parents
Program Guide
Radio
Sports
Television

CBC Member Centre
CBC Player
CBC Shop

CORPORATE

About CBC
Transparency and Accountability
Jobs
Visit the Canadian Broadcasting Centre
Production Facilities
Mobile Production Rentals
Ombudsman
CBC: Get the Facts

Independent Producers
Pitch a Radio or Audio Program
Program and Content Sales
Archive Sales
Educational Sales
Tapes, Transcripts and Image Assets
Digital TV

STAY CONNECTED

MOBILE | RSS | PODCASTS | MEMBER SERVICES: NEWSLETTERS & ALERTS

Terms Of Use | Reuse & Permissions | Advertise | Privacy | Site Map | Contact Us
Copyright © CBC 2012

CBC  Radio-Canada

cbc.radio-canada.ca | cbc.ca | radio-canada.ca