

## Canada's Major Projects Office (MPO) to Support LNG Development Hiroshi Hashimoto\*

### Introduction

The Government of Canada announced in late August 2025 the launch of the Major Projects Office (MPO)<sup>1</sup>. The MPO's mandate is to serve as a single point of contact to get nation-building projects built faster. It is expected to do so in two principal ways: (1) By streamlining and accelerating regulatory approval processes; and (2) By helping to structure and co-ordinate financing of these projects as needed.

The MPO is supposed to work with provinces and territories to achieve a "one project, one review" approach for environmental assessments. The MPO is supposed to help structure and co-ordinate financing from the private sector, provincial and territorial partners, and government initiatives, including the Canada Infrastructure Bank, the Canada Growth Fund, and the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program. The government says it intends to announce the first set of nation-building projects (or Projects of National Interest<sup>2</sup>) in the coming weeks.

The launch of the MPO is expected to have a significant impact on speeding up LNG export projects in Canada, based on the following observations:

1. **Explicit Mention and Government Support for LNG:** The MPO's mandate is to fast-track "nation-building projects", the first set of which are expected in the coming weeks. Statements from government officials and industry leaders have named LNG export facilities as a key type of project that the MPO will target. Canada's Prime Minister has emphasized the importance of speeding up energy exports, including LNG. The Prime Minister has identified the Port of Churchill in northern Manitoba as a key project under the MPO<sup>3</sup>. The port is being considered for LNG export capacity, which would open up new routes to European markets. This marks a shift from previous government positions that questioned the business case for LNG exports to Europe. Canada's Natural Resources Minister has stated that the MPO is part of a broader strategy to ramp up energy exports, including LNG. He emphasized that Canada is

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<sup>1</sup> "Prime Minister Carney launches new Major Projects Office to fast-track nation-building projects" August 29, 2025, <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2025/08/29/prime-minister-carney-launches-new-major-projects-office-fast-track-nation-building-projects>

<sup>2</sup> "Projects of National Interest: The Process" <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/major-projects-office/info.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Touting 'enormous' LNG opportunities, Carney says Canada to unveil new port infrastructure investments within two weeks" August 26, 2025, CTVNEWS, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/article/touting-enormous-lng-opportunities-carney-says-canada-to-unveil-new-port-infrastructure-investments-within-two-weeks/>

placing a strong emphasis on speed and infrastructure development to meet international demand, particularly from Europe<sup>4</sup>.

2. **Changing Political Will:** The current government has reversed its stance from the previous administration, which was sceptical about LNG exports to Europe. The current Natural Resources Minister has noted that German companies are actively seeking Canadian LNG, and the government is apparently committed to meeting that demand.
3. **Addressing Key Obstacles:** The MPO's two principal methods - streamlining regulatory approvals and coordinating financing - directly address the major hurdles that have historically slowed down large-scale projects like LNG export projects. The office's goal of a "one project, one review" approach for environmental assessments, with a target of a two-year maximum for federal decision-making, is a direct response to the long, complex, and often duplicative regulatory processes that have plagued such projects in the past. Coordinating financing from federal programs like the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program is important for LNG projects, which often face complex financing needs, in addition to long approval cycles.
4. **Industry Support:** The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) has publicly applauded the launch of the MPO and highlighted that there are more than USD 100 billion worth of planned projects in the natural gas and oil industry, many of which are waiting for investment decisions<sup>5</sup>. The industry sees the MPO as a crucial step in unlocking investment and moving projects forward.
5. **Location of the Office:** The MPO is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, a major hub for the natural gas and oil industry, further signalling the government's intent to focus on energy projects.

While the government has yet to announce the first specific list of nation-building projects, the clear rhetoric and strategic focus of the MPO suggest that the MPO is designed to fast-track nation-building projects, and LNG exports are among the top priorities. The combination of political will, infrastructure investment, and regulatory reform suggests that LNG projects are expected to benefit from the new office.

As Canada started exporting LNG in the middle of 2025, hopes are high that more LNG projects may be coming.

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<sup>4</sup> "Natural resources minister presses case for Canadian LNG exports to Europe" August 27, 2025, CBC, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tim-hodgson-lng-port-european-markets-1.7619474>

<sup>5</sup> "Canada Launches New Major Projects Office", August 31, 2025, MARINE LINK, <https://www.marinelink.com/news/canada-launches-new-major-projects-office-529468>