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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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About the initiative

Let's Talk Energy is an initiative under the **Powering Up for the Future** project by the **Canada West Foundation**. It features a series of articles to be produced from February to May 2011, authored by *Nexen Executive-in-Residence Michael Cleland*. Each article proposes a set of ideas to help shape a Canadian energy strategy. The purpose is to contribute to debate which might be of use to energy ministers when they meet in Kananaskis in July 2011.

The articles in this series will be mounted on an electronic discussion forum, www.letstalkenergy.ca. This website is dedicated to providing a means by which Canada's energy future can be openly discussed, debated and commented upon. Let's Talk Energy is designed to drive the discussion of whether Canada needs an energy strategy, if so, why and what ideas should inform such a strategy.

The Let's Talk Energy initiative, including its discussion and debate format, will appeal to energy leaders, the policy community and decision makers with an interest in decisions about a Canadian energy strategy, and discussions taking place in Kananaskis, Alberta this year.

A Little Background

A **Canada West Foundation** document released in November 2010 entitled "*Western Leadership for a Canadian Energy Strategy*" outlined what the Foundation believes are the essential elements of such a strategy including why it is needed and why now. To expand on some of the ideas in that paper, the Foundation created the Let's Talk Energy initiative. The dialogue on energy reached an important milestone in the fall of 2010 when Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed that their energy ministers should meet in Kananaskis, Alberta in July 2011 to consider the issue of an energy strategy. In anticipation of that meeting and the public discussion leading up to it, the Canada West Foundation is endeavouring to encourage further constructive debate through this initiative.

Additional information about the Canada West Foundation, the Powering Up for the Future Project and Let's Talk Energy may be found at www.cwf.ca or www.letstalkenergy.ca

Enquiries about these projects may be directed to Grace Kucey, Communication & Media Strategist at kucey@cwf.ca.