

Why You Should Be in the Room at the Next Alberta Next Event

I'll be honest, when I moved to Canada, I didn't expect to end up sitting in a room where the Premier of Alberta is talking about billions of dollars in energy investment and what it means for the future of this province. But that's exactly what happened at the Alberta Next: Energy event hosted by the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. And it will leave me thinking about it for days.

If you're a Chamber member and you haven't attended an Alberta Next event yet, let me tell you why you should change that.

It's not a generic conference. It's a strategy session.

The conversation at Alberta Next: Energy wasn't about theory. It was about Alberta's very real, very urgent moment, the world is literally asking for what this province has, and the question on the table is: are we ready to deliver? The energy, the resources, the talent; it's all here. What Alberta needs now is clarity, a plan, and the willingness to act. Hearing that framed so directly, in one room, by people who are actually making decisions? That's rare.

The scale of what's being discussed is hard to wrap your head around.

We're talking billions of dollars moving through oil and gas, money that touches every industry, every community, every supply chain in this province. Whether energy is your sector or not, this is the economic foundation that everything else in Alberta sits on. As a business owner, you need to understand that foundation.

They're not pretending. They're being real.

One of the things I appreciated most was the honesty in the room. Nobody was selling a perfect green future that doesn't exist yet. The reality is that the grid will stay as it is for now, because that's what's economically viable, and building pipelines and infrastructure has to come first. That kind of pragmatism, combined with a genuine commitment to including Indigenous communities in the process, told me that the people leading these conversations are actually thinking long-term.

They're also talking about supply chain, and that matters to all of us.

Prioritizing the supply chain isn't just an energy industry problem. It's a business problem. And hearing it discussed at this level, alongside everything else, made it clear that these conversations are bigger than any one sector.

And if you needed any more proof that this isn't just talk, look at what happened just days after the event. Premier Smith and Prime Minister Carney signed an agreement to move forward on a new

west coast oil pipeline, set to transport over one million barrels per day, with construction potentially starting as early as 2027. The world is not waiting. Alberta is moving.

Here's my biggest takeaway, as someone who chose Alberta as my home: this province has everything it needs to become a major global energy contributor. The demand is there. The resources are there. What's needed now is coordination, and events like Alberta Next are where that coordination starts.

If you want to understand where Alberta is going and position your business accordingly, be in that room next time.

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce hosts Alberta Next as part of its commitment to shaping a competitive, forward-looking province. Keep an eye on upcoming events at calgarychamber.com.