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Release Of Alberta Royalty Review Report Could Be Delayed Until The New Year

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Alberta oil and gas producers may have to wait a few more weeks before they see the results of the Alberta government's royalty review panel, a spokesman for Energy Minister **Margaret McCuaig-Boyd** said this morning.

"The aim was to have it out before the end of the year but it might not be until the new year," said **Brad Hartle**, adding that the government hasn't yet set a date for the release of the report of the panel chaired by **Dave Mowat**, chief executive officer of **ATB Financial**.

Interested people have until 4 p.m. today to submit their comments to the panel through its [website \(https://letstalkroyalties.ca/\)](https://letstalkroyalties.ca/).

In a speech to the **Canadian Association of Petroleum Land Administration**, McCuaig-Boyd said Thursday that the royalty review panel is working to ensure the royalty system serves Albertans' best interests by providing optimal returns to the owners of those resources — Albertans themselves.

The review, she said, also will consider methods of generating fresh investment as well as promoting responsible development and value-added diversification. "Our government has no desire to make things difficult for producers," she said. "The panel is taking into account current economic conditions and cost pressures."

McCuaig-Boyd also emphasized that the government didn't launch the royalty review process with any preconceptions. "There is no assumption that rates should rise."

Regardless of what the panel recommends, the government will make no royalty changes to the royalty system before the end of 2016, she said. “And when we do make decisions, you and all Albertans will know well before that date.”

In her speech, the energy minister, promised that her government will support the energy industry and the good jobs it creates for families. “Our government will speak up for you and partner with you to defend your interests,” she said.

The government’s new climate change strategy, which puts a price on carbon, is an opportunity for Alberta to rehabilitate its image on the international stage and help it finally get a new pipeline to tidewater, said McCuaig-Boyd. “The opposition to [pipelines] has always been something of a proxy war and it was one Alberta wasn’t addressing in a meaningful way—it wasn’t just pipelines being opposed, it was our way of doing things.”

By addressing concerns about greenhouse gas emissions head-on with a real plan, the government is hopeful it can put the issue to rest and finally get a pipeline built, she said. “In addition to getting a pipeline built, addressing climate change is the right thing to do.”

The energy minister said she and Premier **Rachel Notley** are determined to work with companies and other provinces to move pipeline projects forward, and the Canadian Energy Strategy, which Canadian premiers finalized this past summer, will be the mechanism to do so. “Through the strategy, we will help Alberta’s energy producers secure improved market access and return to growth.”

The Canadian Energy Strategy “stems from a recognition that Canada is rich in energy, that we ought to develop our resources responsibly and that failing to do so is failing to ensure Canadians benefit from the resources they own,” said McCuaig-Boyd.

Governments now have a strong framework to collaborate and overcome the challenges associated with energy development — market access for Alberta oil is one of those challenges, she said. “And we are committed to productive and drama-free discussions on pipelines with the new federal government and the other provinces and territories.”

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