

Changing Dynamics of the Canadian Coal Industry

A. Wright¹

It is important to recognize that the coal industry is not just about mining per se, but rather includes the complete coal chain - mining, rail, terminals, power and cement plants. The coal industry is about how we use coal better in order to reduce its footprint.

The Canadian industry has seen significant change over the last five years, driven by the high demand for metallurgical coal and advances in clean coal technologies. Coal gasification and coal-to-liquids offer innovative ways to meet our growing energy needs. With the prospect for more reclamation mining and the Donkin mine in Nova Scotia, the role of coal in the province is looking positive.

Biography

Allen, a business professional with over 30 years of experience serving both private and public sector organizations, joined the Coal Association as its Executive Director and CEO in 2001. Prior to joining the Coal Association, Allen was President and a principal of PGA Communications Inc., a full service public affairs consulting practice, which he co-founded in Calgary, Alberta in 1993. Before establishing PGA Communications, he directed the government relations efforts for Dome Petroleum and Amoco Canada (now BP Canada) and was a member of the external affairs team with Imperial Oil. He began his public affairs career in 1975 serving as a senior member on the staff of two Federal Cabinet Ministers in Ottawa.

Coal Association of Canada

The Coal Association of Canada (CAC) headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, represents companies engaged in the exploration, development, use and transportation of coal. Its members include major coal producers and coal-using utilities, the railroads and ports that ship coal, and industry suppliers of goods and services.

As the sole voice for coal in Canada, the Coal Association of Canada helps facilitate the activities throughout the whole coal chain by advocating on behalf of its members with stakeholders and with governments at all levels (Provincial, Federal and Municipal). In addition, the CAC performs a significant role in educating the public on the current and future uses of coal, its value to the Canadian economy and on the realities concerning the environmental impacts of coal.

¹Executive Director and CEO, the Coal Association of Canada, Calgary, AB