

Capital Markets

Strategy Spotlight Spotlight on the Canadian Federal Election

RBC Capital Markets, LLC

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Spotlight on the Canadian Federal Election

In a Nutshell

In Strategy Spotlight, we dig into hot topics in the equity market. In this edition, we spotlight the Canadian federal election. As part of our quarterly RBC analyst survey, we recently polled RBC's Canadian analysts on their views on the implications of the Canadian federal election for their industry. The three big things you need to know: First, nearly half of our Canadian equity analysts see the election as relevant or highly relevant to their industry, with Utilities and Energy most in focus. Second, views were most bullish for Energy and least bullish for Utilities on the Conservative Majority scenario and the opposite was true for the Liberal Minority / NDP Opposition outcome. Third, taxes generally and the carbon tax in particular, along with immigration, were the issues most in focus.

Additional Details

Methodology: Once a quarter, we poll RBC equity analysts around the globe on a number of issues. This time, we incorporated a question on the potential implications of the Canadian federal election for Canadian equity sectors. Elections have been a hot topic in the investment community this year around the globe, and we have recently seen increasing focus on the contest in Canada, with a federal election to take place by October 2025. In the survey, we asked our Canadian analysts, and those with global coverage that includes companies based in Canada, to assess three things: the relevancy of the Canadian federal election to the industries they cover, the implications of various outcomes for the outlook of their industries, and what specific policies are in focus as they consider their answers. We included Conservative and Liberal majority and minority leadership scenarios, and Conservative, Liberal and NDP official opposition scenarios. For the first two questions, we asked the analysts to select their answer using a quantitative score with a scale of +/-2 at the industry level, and we then averaged their industry scores by sector, an approach that we use often in our survey work which allows us to quantify and compare their views across sectors. The third answer on policy was a free-form write-in required only for those who see the event as relevant to some degree. The survey was conducted the week of September 16th with 30 teams participating. Analysts covering more than one industry were asked to answer the survey for each one separately.

When we look across all sectors and questions, here's what jumps out:

- Views were somewhat split on relevancy of the event, neutral/mixed was the most popular choice at 37%. Nearly half see the event as relevant (36%) or very relevant (10%), however. The overall relevancy score (an average across all industries) was modest, coming in at 0.3. At the sector level, relevancy scores varied. They were highest for Utilities and Energy, and lowest for Technology. See pages 3-4.
- On the implications of different outcomes for the stocks in their industries, our analysts had the most bullish tilt on the Conservative Majority outcome, and the least bullish tilt on the Liberal Minority / NDP Official Opposition outcome, though it's worth noting these tilts were also modest. Other scenarios had more of a neutral bias. On the Conservative Majority scenario, views were most bullish for the Energy sector and least bullish for the Utilities sector. On the Liberal Minority / NDP Official Opposition scenario, views were most constructive for Utilities and least constructive for Energy. See pages 5-11 for additional details on other sectors.
- In the policy discussion (see pages 12-14 for a rundown by sector), a wide range of issues came up. Taxes generally, the Carbon Tax specifically, and Immigration were the top issues mentioned, though others are also on the radar including a number of specific comments related to Energy policy. As we compiled the results, some of our senior analysts also noted that election uncertainty has the potential to weigh on certain sectors like Energy. They also pointed out that the Conservative agenda in particular hasn't been fully defined, and that implications for sectors have the potential to evolve.

Summary: How Relevant Is the Canadian Federal Election to Your Industry?

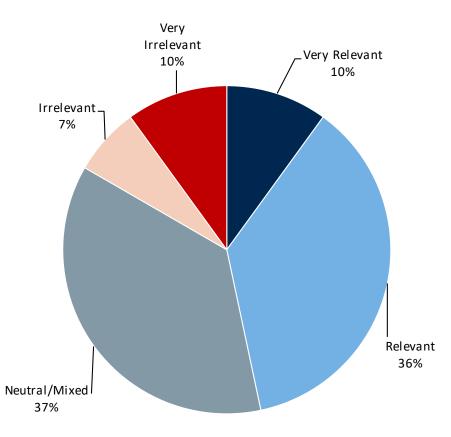
U We asked our Canadian analysts to indicate how relevant the Canadian federal election is for the industries they cover. Generally, they are split.

□ Neutral/mixed was the most popular choice at 37%.

□ Nearly half see the election as relevant (36%) or very relevant (10%), however.

□ A total of 17% don't see the election as relevant, with 7% in the irrelevant camp and 10% in the very irrelevant camp.

Across our Canadian coverage, the upcoming election is seen as most relevant for Utilities and Energy, and least relevant for Technology.



Summary of Responses

A higher number is more relevant in the table below +2 (Very Relevant), +1 (Relevant), 0 (Neutral/Mixed), -1 (Irrelevant), -2 (Very irrelevant)

Canadian Sectors	Average
All industries	0.30
Communication Services	0.50
Consumer Discretionary	-0.33
Consumer Staples	0.00
Energy	1.25
Financials	0.67
Health Care	0.33
Industrials	0.25
Information Technology	-1.33
Materials	0.00
Real Estate	1.00
Utilities	1.50

Source: RBC Equity Strategy, RBC Capital Markets

Breakdown: How Relevant Is the Canadian Federal Election to Your Industry?

GICS Sector	Very Relevant	Relevant	Neutral/Mixed	Irrelevant	Very Irrelevant
Communication Services		Telecom	Media		
Consumer Discretionary		Consumer Discretionary		Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Powersports and Auto Dealers	
Consumer Staples			Consumer Staples		
Energy	Integrated Oil & Gas E&P	Midstream	Oilfield Services (US & Canada)		
Financials		Banks Life Insurance	Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)		
Health Care		Health Care Services	Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals		
Industrials		Industrial Products, E&C	Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Ground Transportation (US & Canada)		
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada)		IT Services (Canada Software
Materials		Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada)	Precious Metals (US & Canada)		Fertilizers (US & Canada)
Real Estate		REITs, Real Estate Management & Development			
Utilities	Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power)	Renewables			

Summary: What Are the Implications of Different Election Outcomes for Your Industry?

U We also asked our Canadian analysts to assess the potential impact to the outlook for their industries under different outcome scenarios.

- They had the most bullish tilt on the Conservative Majority outcome, and the least bullish tilt on the Liberal Minority / NDP Official Opposition outcome. Other scenarios had more of a neutral bias.
- □ On the Conservative Majority scenario, views were most bullish for the Energy sector and least bullish for the Utilities sector.
- □ On the Liberal Minority / NDP Official Opposition scenario, views were most constructive for Utilities and least constructive for Energy.

A higher number is more constructive in the table below

+2 (Very Bullish), +1 (Bullish), 0 (Neutral), -1 (Bearish), -2 (Very Bearish)

GICS Sector	Conservative Majority	Conservative minority, Liberal official opposition	I onservative minority	Liberal Majority	Liberal minority, Conservative official opposition	Liberal minority, NDP official opposition
All Industries	0.27	-	(0.07)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.40)
Communication Services	(0.50)	-	-	0.50	-	0.50
Consumer Discretionary	0.33	-	-	0.33	(0.33)	(0.33)
Consumer Staples	-	-	-	-	-	(1.00)
Energy	1.25	-	-	(1.25)	(0.50)	(1.50)
Financials	0.67	-	(0.67)	(0.67)	-	(0.67)
Health Care	0.33	-	-	-	-	(0.33)
Industrials	(0.25)	(0.25)	(0.25)	-	-	(0.25)
Information Technology	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materials	0.75	0.25	0.25	(0.25)	(0.25)	(0.75)
Real Estate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	(1.00)	-	-	1.00	0.50	1.00

Industry Views: Conservative Majority

GICS Sector	Very Bullish	Bullish	Neutral/Mixed/Not Relevant	Bearish	Very Bearish
Communication Services			Media	Telecom	
Consumer Discretionary		Consumer Discretionary	Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Powersports and Auto Dealers		
Consumer Staples			Consumer Staples		
Energy	Midstream	Oilfield Services (US & Canada) Integrated Oil & Gas E&P			
Financials		Banks Life Insurance	Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)		
Health Care		Health Care Services	Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals		
Industrials			Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Ground Transportation (US & Canada)	Industrial Products, E&C	
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada) IT Services Software		
Materials		Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada) Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada)	Fertilizers (US & Canada)		
Real Estate			REITs, Real Estate Management & Development		
Utilities				Utilities (Electric, Multi- Utilities, Independent Power) Renewables	

Industry Views: Conservative Minority, Liberal Official Opposition

GICS Sector	Very Bullish	Bullish	Neutral/Mixed/Not Relevant	Bearish	Very Bearish
Communication Services			Media Telecom		
Consumer Discretionary			Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Consumer Discretionary Powersports and Auto Dealers		
Consumer Staples			Consumer Staples		
Energy			Midstream Integrated Oil & Gas E&P Oilfield Services (US & Canada)		
Financials			Banks Life Insurance Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)		
Health Care			Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals Health Care Services		
Industrials			Ground Transportation (US & Canada) Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace	Industrial Products, E&C	
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada) IT Services Software		
Materials		Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada)	Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada) Fertilizers (US & Canada)		
Real Estate			REITs, Real Estate Management & Development		
Utilities			Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power) Renewables		

Industry Views: Conservative Minority, NDP Official Opposition

Communication Services Media Telecom Consumer Discretionary Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Consumer Discretionary Powersports and Auto Dealers Consumer Operational	
Consumer Consumer Discretionary Discretionary Powersports and Auto Dealers	
Consumer	
Staples Consumer Staples	
Energy Midstream Integrated Oil & Gas E&P Oilfield Services (US & Canada) Oilfield Services (US & Canada)	
Financials Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada) Banks Life Insurance	
Health Care Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Health Care Pharmaceuticals Health Care Services Health Care Services	
Industrials Ground Transportation (US & Canada) Industrials Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Industrial Products, E&C	
Information IT Services (US & Canada) Technology IT Services Software Software	
Materials Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada) Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada) Fertilizers (US & Canada) Fertilizers (US & Canada)	
Real Estate REITs, Real Estate Management & Development	
Utilities Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power) Renewables Renewables	

Source: RBC Equity Strategy, RBC Capital Markets

Industry Views: Liberal Majority

GICS Sector	Very Bullish	Bullish	Neutral/Mixed/Not Relevant	Bearish	Very Bearish
Communication Services		Telecom	Media		
Consumer Discretionary		Consumer Discretionary	Powersports and Auto Dealers Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU)		
Consumer Staples			Consumer Staples		
Energy			Oilfield Services (US & Canada)	Midstream	Integrated Oil & Gas E&P
Financials			Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)	Banks Life Insurance	
Health Care			Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals Health Care Services		
Industrials			Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Ground Transportation (US & Canada) Industrial Products, E&C		
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada) IT Services Software		
Materials			Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada) Fertilizers (US & Canada)	Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada)	
Real Estate			REITs, Real Estate Management & Development		
Utilities		Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power) Renewables			

Industry Views: Liberal Minority, Conservative Official Opposition

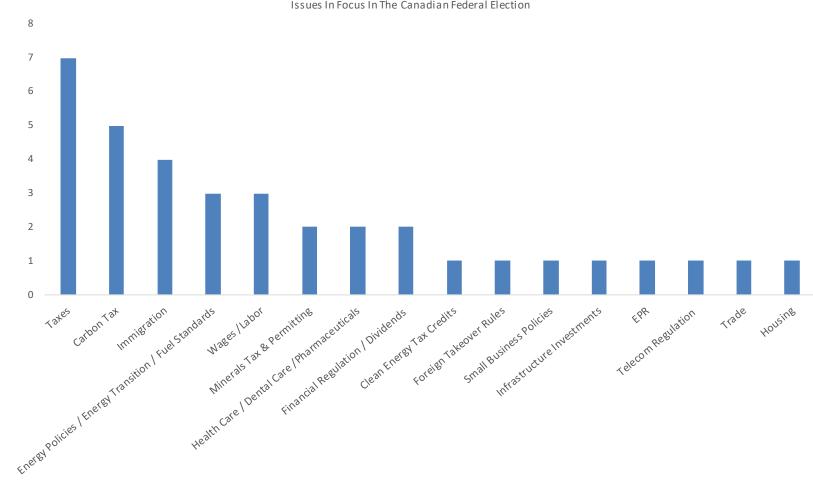
GICS Sector	Very Bullish	Bullish	Neutral/Mixed/Not Relevant	Bearish	Very Bearish
Communication Services			Media Telecom		
Consumer Discretionary			Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Powersports and Auto Dealers	Consumer Discretionary	
Consumer Staples			Consumer Staples		
Energy			Midstream Oilfield Services (US & Canada)	Integrated Oil & Gas E&P	
Financials			Banks Life Insurance Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)		
Health Care			Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals Health Care Services		
Industrials			Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Ground Transportation (US & Canada) Industrial Products, E&C		
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada) IT Services Software		
Materials			Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada) Fertilizers (US & Canada)	Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada)	
Real Estate			REITs, Real Estate Management & Development	t	
Utilities			Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power)	Renewables	

Industry Views: Liberal Minority, NDP Official Opposition

GICS Sector	Very Bullish	Bullish	Neutral/Mixed/Not Relevant	Bearish	Very Bearish
Communication Services		Telecom	Media		
Consumer Discretionary			Autos & Auto Parts (US, Canada & EU) Powersports and Auto Dealers	Consumer Discretionary	
Consumer Staples				Consumer Staples	
Energy			Oilfield Services (US & Canada)		Midstream Integrated Oil & Gas E&P
Financials			Payments, Processors, & Services (US & Canada)	Banks Life Insurance	
Health Care			Health Care Services - Seniors Housing Pharmaceuticals	Health Care Services	
Industrials			Waste (US & Canada) Airlines & Aerospace Industrial Products, E&C	Ground Transportation (US & Canada)	
Information Technology			IT Services (US & Canada) IT Services Software		
Materials			Fertilizers (US & Canada)	Paper & Forest Products (US & Canada) Base Metals & Bulks (US & Canada) Precious Metals (US & Canada)	
Real Estate			REITs, Real Estate Management & Development		
Utilities		Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power) Renewables			

Canadian Federal Election Topics Mentioned in Survey Responses

U We also asked our analysts to specify which policies are in focus for their industry and why/how they would impact their outlook. We asked them to focus on policies articulated by the party leaders in recent months. If those were not available, they could also consider legacy stances from each. Taxes generally, the Carbon Tax specifically, and Immigration were the top issues mentioned, though others are also on the radar including a number of specific comments related to Energy policy. It's worth noting that a wide range of issues did come up, however.



Issues In Focus In The Canadian Federal Election

Source: RBC Equity Strategy, RBC Capital Markets

Thoughts on Issues in Focus by Sector & Industry from RBC Analysts

Sector	Analyst Commentary/Implications
Communication Services	A Conservative majority would likely usher in a more conservative immigration policy (including foreign/temporary workers and students), which would moderate overall market expansion for both wireless and Internet, translating to potentially lower revenue growth for the telecom operators. We see little change to current Canadian telecom regulatory policy in a Conservative or Liberal majority or minority government. <i>(Telecom)</i>
Consumer Discretionary	All policies that ultimately impact consumer discretionary income and size of population (e.g., taxation, immigration, minimum wages) could have an impact on consumers' ability to spend and on demand trends. From a business policy perspective, similar issues would prevail, with industry-specific issues including inter-provincial trade, supply management systems, pharmaceuticals, non-tariff trade barriers, as well as over-riding approaches to competition, taxation, etc. (<i>Consumer Discretionary</i>)
	Autos is too global for Canada to have a meaningful impact. (Autos & Auto Parts, US, Canada & EU)
	We don't believe the election will have a meaningful impact on Powersports stocks/fundamentals. With that said, we noted that outcomes involving Conservatives in power would be at least a directional positive, the magnitude of which is uncertain but likely minimal. Essentially, it boils down to business-friendly policies; many Powersports customers are affluent small business owners who buy "toys" when their industry/business is doing well, so Conservatives would be perceived (and could actually be) a modest positive. (<i>Powersports and Auto Dealers</i>)
Consumer Staples	All policies that ultimately impact consumer discretionary income and size of population (e.g., taxation, immigration, minimum wages) could have an impact on consumers' ability to spend and on demand trends. From a business policy perspective, similar issues would prevail, with industry-specific issues including inter-provincial trade, supply management systems, pharmaceuticals, non-tariff trade barriers, as well as over-riding approaches to competition, taxation, etc. (<i>Consumer Staples</i>)
Energy	Energy policy (mostly for volumes versus price), carbon pricing, fuel standards, corporate tax rates and tax rules, support for energy transition investments. (<i>Midstream</i>)
	A Liberal or NDP majority or minority government could seek to intensify GHG emissions reduction initiatives, including the imposition of emissions caps on certain sectors, including oil & gas. (Integrated Oil & Gas and E&P)
Financials	Under the Liberal government, the Canadian banks and lifecos were impacted by several measures targeted at these companies (Canada Recovery Dividend, a 1.5% surtax, and the elimination of the availability of dividend-received deduction for Canadian taxable corporate dividends). We believe that under a Liberal or NDP majority government, similar measures may again be taken on the Canadian banks and lifecos. (Banks, Life Insurance)

Thoughts on Issues in Focus by Sector & Industry from RBC Analysts

Sector	Analyst Commentary/Implications
Health Care	1) The Federal govt. has launched CDCP (Canadian Dental Care Plan), which was a demand of the NDP in exchange for support to the Liberals. As such, any incremental leverage with the NDP could see incremental programs. This program is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the CDN dental industry over time but has resulted in some headwinds during the program's implementation. There remains risk of lower pricing in these programs that are currently at market prices, as govt. becomes a larger player in the industry. 2) Changes in tax rates especially the capital gains tax could impact the economics of independent dentists/clinics while selling their practice to a large consolidator. 3) Changes to private players' ability to conduct incremental medical diagnostic procedures. (<i>Health Care Services</i>)
Industrials	Not particularly relevant, except perhaps to the extent a Federal party emerges that supports a Federal framework for EPR. (Waste, US & Canada)
	At the margin we would view a Liberal minority, NDP official opposition, as a minor negative for the rail sector, reflecting the potential for more labour-friendly policies, which could be a negative during union negotiations. (Ground Transportation, US & Canada)
	Parties that have shown a propensity to invest considerable sums in physical infrastructure would be viewed favorably (Liberal > NDP > Conservatives, against this backdrop). (Industrial Products, E&C)
Materials	Critical minerals tax and permitting policy. Foreign takeover rules. (Base Metals & Bulks, US & Canada)
	We think Conservatives could be potentially more forceful on the housing file (positive for Canadian wood products demand at the margin) and resolving the softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the US. (Paper & Forest Products, US & Canada)
	Ultimately, the election is not significantly relevant for the broader industry. We do see some minor implications for Canadian-focused miners with domestic production, specifically the possibility of streamlining regulatory processes for mining companies in Canada, potentially simplifying the permitting process. (Precious Metals, US & Canada)
Real Estate	We see the election as relevant, but view potential outcomes as "mixed." While Conservative pro-business/lower tax policies could be positive for the broader economy, a Conservative win could have a modestly negative impact on Canadian apartment REITs in light of the party's indications to reduce immigration levels (i.e., potential softening of demand). (REITs, Real Estate Management & Development)
Utilities	The industrial carbon tax (not the consumer carbon tax) and the clean energy-related federal investment tax credits are important for the utilities to deliver climate change-related objectives, including turning off coal generation and promoting clean energy projects (including CCS, hydrogen production). Status quo under a Liberal government would include the carbon taxes going to \$170/tonne by 2030; however, it's unclear how the Conservatives would decide on this tax and the investment tax credits. Separately, a Conservative government is likely to be more friendly to the energy sector in Canada, which could have a positive knock-on impact on certain Alberta-based utilities' businesses. (Utilities [Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power])
	The Conservatives are against the Carbon Tax and are generally viewed as being more favourable to oil and gas, and less favourable to renewables. The Conservatives have not taken an official stance on the Federal Canadian Investment Tax Credit (30% capex subsidy for renewables), but it would send a negative message to the renewables sector if it were cancelled under a Conservative government. That being said, renewable deployment in Canada (except for Alberta) is driven provincially through RFPs, so it shouldn't matter if Federal subsidies are in place or not. (<i>Renewables</i>)

Note: Additional comments were not required and do not appear for all analysts. Source: RBC Equity Strategy, RBC Capital Markets

Appendix

RBC Analyst List by Survey Industry

Sector	RBC Industry	Regions	Research Analysts
Communication Services			
	Media	Canada	McReynolds, Drew
	Telecom	Canada	McReynolds, Drew
Consumer Discretionary			
	Autos & Auto Parts	US, Canada & EU	Narayan, Tom
	Consumer Discretionary	Canada	Nattel, Irene
	Powersports and Auto Dealers	Canada	Khan, Sabahat
Consumer Staples			
	Consumer Staples	Canada	Nattel, Irene
Energy			
	E&P	Canada	Pardy, Greg & Harvey, Michael
	Integrated Oil & Gas	Canada	Pardy, Greg
	Midstream	Canada	Kwan, Robert
	Oilfield Services	US & Canada	Mackey, Keith
Financials			
	Banks	Canada	Mihelic, Darko
	Life Insurance	Canada	Mihelic, Darko
	Payments, Processors, & Services	US & Canada	Perlin, Dan
Health Care			
	Health Care Services	Canada	Miehm, Douglas
	Health Care Services - Seniors Housing	Canada	Bir, Pammi
	Pharmaceuticals	Canada	Miehm, Douglas

Note: Industry names/groupings are specific to RBC and not based on GICS. Source: RBC Equity Strategy

Appendix

RBC Analyst List by Survey Industry

Sector	RBC Industry	Regions	Research Analysts
Industrials			
	Airlines & Aerospace	Canada	McGarragle, James
	Ground Transportation	US & Canada	Spracklin, Walter
	Industrial Products, E&C	Canada	Khan, Sabahat
	Waste	US & Canada	Khan, Sabahat
Information Technology			
	IT Services	Canada	Trieber, Paul
	IT Services	US & Canada	Perlin, Dan
	Software	Canada	Trieber, Paul
Materials			
	Base Metals & Bulks	US & Canada	Crittenden, Sam
	Fertilizers	US & Canada	Wong, Andrew
	Paper & Forest Products	US & Canada	McKellar, Matthew
	Precious Metals	US & Canada	Wolfson, Josh & Lam, Wayne & Siperco, Michael
Real Estate			
	REITs, Real Estate Management & Development	Canada	Bir, Pammi & Shan, Jimmy
Utilities			
	Renewables	Canada	Ng, Nelson
	Utilities (Electric, Multi-Utilities, Independent Power)	Canada	Choy, Maurice

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