

Geoscience: A Focal Point for Extraction Economies

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Summary

The Canadian economy is fundamentally rooted in resource extraction: from furs and fish many years ago, to timber, minerals, and hydrocarbon today (with the significance of agriculture and fishery noted, and noted as being extraction industries of a sort). Extraction industries are notoriously cyclical. Extraction industries affect landscape and environment. A large proportion of geoscientists in Canada can be fairly described as applied extraction geoscientists. As such we have a real place in a wide range of areas important to our society – and our overall role is changing. Some of the topics considered will be:

- Industry cycles: These are becoming more complex, perhaps less predictable, and certainly subject to more factors.
- Emerging economies, global trade, global transport and political and fiscal volatility are among the factors that have made the supply and demand balance more dynamic
- The pursuit of tight and self-sourced hydrocarbon changes the specific set of skills we use, and it changes who we talk to and how.
- In the speaker's lifetime the environment has gone from something to be exploited to a treasure to be stewarded. Stewardship and social license will be the single most important part of an applied geoscientist's career.

Biography

Ron Larson is a registered Professional Geoscientist in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan with some 30 years industry experience. Ron was the 2013 President of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and is a member of the CSEG, APEGA and SEG. He delivered the 2013 CSPG SIFT Geophysics Lecture. Ron has worked geoscience projects on all continents except Australia and Antarctica. His industry experience is divided almost equally between oil and gas companies and service companies, and likewise almost equally between conventional hydrocarbon, unconventional hydrocarbon and mining. He is currently employed by RPS Energy Canada Ltd., a broad based E&P and Environmental consultancy, as V.P. Consulting Services.