

# Tim Curry is making sure it's a win-win situation

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## Facilitation Atlantica Centre for Energy president providing platform to discuss proposed energy corridor

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SAINT JOHN - The Atlantica Centre for Energy is willing to do what it can to help facilitate discussions around major energy investments, such as Irving Oil Ltd.'s proposed North Atlantic energy corridor, to ensure projects benefit all affected parties.

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Tim Curry

"It's not up to us to be presumptuous enough to prescribe solutions for anybody," the energy industry association's president Tim Curry said Tuesday. But he said the centre can meet with various stakeholders as a representative of the energy industry in Atlantic Canada and New England and help governments, companies and communities come together to discuss the issues around the proposed energy corridor and other projects.

"The focus would be on understanding how the project can be economically redeveloped," Curry said. "It's about understanding and respecting the relationship with host communities, and making sure it's a win-win situation."

"There may be an opportunity for us to do some things like host some conferences like we've done before," he said. "Or continue to provide thought pieces or discussion papers or however we can contribute to those discussions."

After the Maine and New Brunswick governments and Irving Oil announced they will study the feasibility of an energy corridor from New Brunswick, through Maine and into other parts of New England, there was some backlash in Maine that led to proposed legislation.

But Curry said there's nothing wrong with Maine's bill 1485, which would temporarily prevent energy transmission developments longer than 120 kilometres from receiving a final building permit, until the state can regulate such investments to further benefit Maine.

"I think it makes real good sense for the government authorities in Maine to do their best to ensure that there are benefits in the community," he said. "(But) I think it is important that the legislators were careful not to send any signals that chilled the potential of investment in the region."

"It's important that projects, that make sense, that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, really have to bring benefits to all of the participants," he said.

Though the Atlantica Centre is based in Saint John, it has been growing into its name since 2005 when it sprouted from Enterprise Saint John's True Growth economic development strategy.

"The name was chosen with some forethought that ultimately this has to be a regional discussion," Curry said. "This has to reach throughout the market area of interest."

Irving Oil was the first major energy company to join the association that now has 17 listed members with interests all over the region. Tuesday the centre announced ADI Ltd., Corridor Resources and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline joined the likes of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., Canaport LNG, Cianbro Corp., Enbridge Inc., Emera Inc., and J.D. Irving, Limited, on the association's board. The centre also has energy consulting representation in its membership such as Jacques Whitford Company Inc. and Deloitte.

"We provide a meeting ground for energy participants to meet and discuss issues of common interest," Curry said, later adding the board of senior representatives meets 11 times a year.

"They don't always line up one hundred per cent on everything," Curry said. "We have some vigorous discussions here on the board. But despite the fact that they are sometimes competitors, sometimes they have different interests - there are a number of common issues that they find it very valuable to compare notes on."