



FACT SHEET

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Founded in 1963, the Ontario Petroleum Institute Inc. (OPI) is a non-profit industry association which represents explorationists, producers, contractors, geologists, geophysicists, petroleum engineers and other professionals, individuals or companies directly related to the oil and gas, hydrocarbon storage and solution mining industries of Ontario.

OPI publishes an annual directory, bi-monthly newsletters, annual magazine, and hosts seminars and technical meetings and social events throughout the year. Proceedings from OPI's Annual Conference are published and are sold to libraries and companies throughout the western world.

OPI has committees active in the following areas: Taxation and Assessment, Oil & Gas Producers, Environmental, Drilling Practices, Forward Planning, Public and Government Relations, MNR Liaison, Pooling & Unitization, Provincial Standards, Thesis Awards, Orphan Wells, and Health & Safety.

OPI provides annual monetary awards for undergraduate and graduate students whose scholastic achievements and written theses are judged as valuable contributions in the fields of the oil and gas, hydrocarbon storage or the solution mining industries.

In 1997, under Bill 52 – The Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, OPI began administering the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Trust on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. As Trustee, OPI operates the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library, which specializes in the collection, generation and distribution of information on the subsurface geology, and petroleum and salt resources in Ontario.

OPI Objectives

- To foster and advance the interests of those who are directly or indirectly connected with the oil and gas hydrocarbon storage and solution-mining industries in Ontario;
- To encourage responsible exploration and development of the oil, gas, hydrocarbon storage and solution-mining industries;
- To engage in the study, research and communication of matters relevant to industry;
- To operate as a forum for industry to furnish

it with knowledge of important developments concerning governmental activities pertaining to laws, orders, rules and regulations, interpretations and decisions;

- To coordinate with government, industry stakeholders, and the public in the development of legislation and regulations affecting the oil and gas industries;
- To inform and educate government, industry stakeholders, and the public on the significance of the industry in Ontario.

In the Beginning...

OPI is proud to have its roots where the industry began. North America's first commercial oil was produced at Oil Springs in 1858, when James Miller Williams dug a discovery well. The first integrated oil company, processing oil through Williams' refinery, was formed in 1857. Fairbank Oil Properties Ltd. at Oil Springs have been producing crude oil continuously since 1861. In 1913, the first offshore well was drilled in Lake Erie. Since the discovery of the first commercial oil well, exploration for oil and gas in Ontario has continued by large and small companies, utilities and independents, resulting in the discovery and development of many oil and natural gas fields in various geological formations.

OPI currently has over 350 Members, located across Canada and throughout the USA. Membership categories include Oil & Gas Producers, Utilities, Drilling Contractors, Field Supply & Service, Leasing & Land Companies, Consultants (Geological, Petroleum Engineers, Geophysical), Trade Associations, Government Agencies, Financial, Insurance and Legal Services.

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