

Robert Skinner

Dr. Robert Skinner's career in energy spans more than four decades in government, industry and academia.

He was with Canada's Energy department in the seventies involved in geological research, energy and environment policy and oil and gas market regulation and their eventual liberalization in the mid-eighties. He was Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy Commodities from 1985 to 1988. He was then Director of the Policy Office of the International Energy Agency at the OECD in Paris, France where he was actively involved in the Agency's response to the first Gulf War and led teams to advise eastern European countries and South Africa on their energy policies and structural reform; he also led the Agency's policy analyses of the energy dimension of Climate Change.

He left public service in 1995 and joined TOTAL's downstream gas and power group where he advised on strategy and business development and the business implications of the European Union's energy directives opening the European grid industries. In 1998 he opened TOTAL's Canadian office in Calgary to gain entry to the oil sands.

From 2003 to 2006 he directed the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies in Oxford, England. On return to Canada he advised Statoil on their entry to the oil sands; he remained with Statoil Canada as a Sr. VP until mid-2011. Since then, he has been advising governments, industry and universities on strategy and is an occasional commentator on Canada's energy challenges. He is associated with several energy and economic think tanks in North America and Europe.

Dr. Skinner has advanced degrees in geology from Queen's University (Hon BSc, 1968) and the University of Washington, Seattle (PhD, 1971).

Research/interests:

- 1) History of Canadian energy policies and strategies
- 2) Oil price routes past and present
- 3) Reserves and Resources
- 4) Aboriginal communities and resource development