# THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIPELINES IN CANADA



Canada has a large network of pipelines – over 830,000 km – but they're not the same. Different types of pipelines are used for oil and gas transportation, and each varies in its size and function.

### **GATHERING PIPELINES**

Move oil and gas from the source to processing facilities

**What they do:** Deliver oil or gas products from the wells in the ground to oil batteries or natural gas processing facilities.

What they carry: Natural gas, crude oil and combinations of these products sometimes mixed with water; and natural gas liquids (NGLs) such as ethane, butane and propane.

What they look like: Can range from about the size of an empty paper towel roll (101 mm) to the size of a large pizza (304 mm).

**Size of network:** 250,000 km located primarily in oil and gas producing areas in Western Canada.

### **FEEDER PIPELINES**

Move the product to transmission pipelines

What they do: Move products from the batteries, processing facilities and storage tanks to the long-distance haulers of the system: transmission pipelines.

What they carry: Crude oil, natural gas and NGLs.

What they look like: Can range from approximately the size of a bagel (152 mm) to the size of a pizza (304 mm).

**Size of network:** 25,000 km primarily in oil and gas producing areas in Western Canada.

### TRANSMISSION PIPELINES

Carry oil and gas across Canada

What they do: Transmission pipelines are operated by CEPA members and transport 97% of Canada's daily natural gas and onshore crude oil production from producing regions to markets throughout Canada and the U.S.

What they carry: Liquids, like crude oil and NGLs, or natural gas.

What they look like: Can range from an empty paper towel roll (101 mm) to about the size of a large bale of hay (1,212 mm), with the majority being between 254 mm and 457 mm

Size of network: Over 117,000 km in Canada.

## **DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES**

Get natural gas to the customer

What they do: This network is used by local distribution companies to directly deliver natural gas to homes and businesses.

What they carry: Natural gas

What they look like: Can range from smaller than a dime (12.7 mm) to 152.4 mm, which is about the diameter of a pop bottle.

Size of network: 450.000 km across Canada

# **PIPELINE FACTS**

- If laid end-to-end, there are enough underground natural gas and liquids pipelines to circle the Earth approximately 20 times at the equator
- 4,200 The number of rail cars needed to transport the 3 million barrels of crude oil transported each day by pipeline in Canada
- 30 to 35 Number of days it takes for oil to travel by transmission pipeline from Alberta to southern Ontario
- \$1.5 billion amount spent by CEPA members in 2014 on monitoring and maintenance to ensure the safety of their pipelines

