

Intro Music

Hello and welcome to the first episode of Nattering About Natural Resources, your one stop podcast for political analysis related to Canadian natural resource sectors. I'm your host, Brenton Chesko.

Today we're going to be discussing an interesting topic, that being who is the greatest Canadian since 1982, and the facts behind that choice.

The Canadian who we would like to argue did the most, is the Right Honourable Stephen Harper. There are several reason for this, and I will be discussing them with my guest today.

Stephen Harper was born in a Toronto suburb in April 1959. He went through the school system, than went to university, where he ended up dropping out after a couple months. He then went to work in a mail room, before going back to university and getting two economics degrees. He then went to work for the Progressive Conservative Party, but became disillusioned with them and helped found the Reform Party of Canada. He then ended up becoming the party's chief policy officer. He was elected as an MP in 1993 but didn't run for re-election. He became the Canadian Alliance Party leader in 2002, and returned to parliament.

He led a merger between the two main right wing Canadian parties in 2004, and then won a minority government in 2006. He went on to serve 9 years as prime minister, and during that he got Canada through the Great Recession, was fiscally responsible, built up Canadian natural resource sectors, with projects like building several pipelines, and helped free trade with the US, like negotiating the softwood lumber agreement.

And now for an interview with our guest. today we have Edison. Hello and welcome to the show. Would you like to introduce yourself?

Hi my name is Edison Liu, I am an active member of the CPC and the BC Liberals.

How important do you think natural resource sectors are to Canada and it's economy?

I think that they are very important to Canada, especially in the west and in northern Canada, which heavily rely on them. While Ontario may have other industries to support their economy, much of Canada doesn't, which is why we should have laissez affair policies to support natural resources, and allow all areas of Canada to prosper.

What effect did the Stephen Harper government have on you?

I think the biggest effect of the Harper government wasn't necessarily on myself, rather on western Canada. That being the growth under his administration, and similar aspects. Things like the median hourly wage drastically going up under his administration, unemployment going down, thereby fostering a greater life for every Canadian.

What would you say Stephen Harper's greatest achievement is? Does it relate to the financial crisis of 2007-2008

I would say that it does relate to the financial crisis and his handling of it. His ability to maintain the Canadian dollar's value, stimulate the economy, run a budget surplus in the 2007 budget, and a minor deficit in 2008. When compared to the deficits of other governments in times without major economic issues, it was remarkable.

What do you think of the assertion that Harper was the greatest Canadian in recent history?

It's a fairly bold claim, but there is a basis for it. His response to the recession was obviously far less costly than that of the current prime minister for Kung Flu and that of some other countries in the 2008 recession, he built some critical infrastructure, and created over 1.3 million jobs. This obviously carries a continuing legacy into the future.

We know that in his years in office, Harper completed many natural resource projects like the Anchor Loop Project, Alberta Clipper, Embridge Southern Light Pipeline, several phases of the Keystone pipeline, and several other projects that were started, and he also negotiated the softwood lumber agreement and agricultural trade agreements. Which individual thing do you think had the greatest effect on the economy?

I'm not sure about which individual project had the greatest effect, however I do believe that his commitment to oil and gas has had a positive effect on the Canadian, and especially for the western Canadian economy. You can see this if you look at unemployment in Alberta and Saskatchewan under his administration. Obviously these projects still affect us today, and have been quite significant since their completion.

Thank you so much for coming on the show today.

Thank you for having me.

As you have just heard, Stephen Harper is the greatest Canadian for the aforementioned reasons. His legacy lives on in many forms, many related to peoples identity, specifically the west's identity. From how people may reminisce about the days of his economy, to how all Canadians think of the economy of the west, it's obvious that he's an important figure for the history books.

Thank you for listening to my podcast, and please consider subscribing. If you wish to contact me for any reason please email natteringnaturalresources@gmail.com. Hope to see you next time.

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