# CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED



For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2000

### MESSAGE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Canadian Natural Resources Limited ("Canadian Natural") reports record levels of cash flow and earnings for the second quarter and first half of 2000. Second quarter cash flow amounted to \$400.3 million (\$3.55 per common share), a 219% increase over the comparable period in 1999 and a 17% increase over the first quarter of this year. Net earnings attributed to the second quarter amounted to \$175.5 million or \$1.55 per common share, representing 6.5 times the corresponding 1999 second quarter earnings.

For the first half of the year Canadian Natural's cash flow reached \$743.6 million or \$6.61 per common share, representing a 229% increase over the comparable period in the prior year. Canadian Natural's net earnings for the six months ended June 30, 2000 amounted to \$317.8 million (\$2.82 per common share) which is an 839% increase from net earnings for the first six months of 1999.

The increases in cash flow and net earnings are attributed to higher levels of production and realized netbacks for both oil and natural gas. The prices received by Canadian Natural for its oil and natural gas production in the second quarter of the year were \$29.48 per barrel of oil and \$3.55 per thousand cubic feet of natural gas. The sales price per barrel of oil is similar to the first quarter of the year while natural gas prices increased 33% from the first quarter of the year. Both oil and natural gas prices in the second quarter of 2000 increased over 65% from the second quarter of 1999. For the first half of the year realized oil prices have increased by 98% and natural gas prices have increased by 49% over the first half of 1999. The prices realized by Canadian Natural in the first half of the year were reduced as a result of arrangements made to fix the price received for a portion of Canadian Natural's oil and natural gas sales. Oil prices were reduced by \$1.67 per barrel (\$0.95 in the prior year period) while natural gas prices realized \$0.22 less per thousand cubic feet (\$0.04 in the prior year period).

Second quarter cash flows of \$16.10 per barrel of oil equivalent (using a conversion factor of 6 thousand cubic feet of natural gas to 1 barrel of oil) represents a 107% increase over the comparable 1999 period and an 11% increase from the first quarter of 2000. Operating cost increases on oil producing properties in the second quarter of 2000 compared to the second quarter of 1999 reflect, in part, the higher cost of natural gas to generate steam used in the oil production process at Primrose. Natural gas operating costs have remained constant over the latest three quarters but have increased over the first half of 1999 as a result of increased production from Canadian Natural's higher cost core production area of Northeast British Columbia/Northwest Alberta.

During the second quarter of 2000 and as previously forecasted, Canadian Natural's cash flow exceeded its capital expenditure program such that \$170 million was applied to reduce the Company's net indebtedness from \$2.231 billion at the end of the first quarter to \$2.062 at June 30, 2000. The strong second quarter results also lowered Canadian Natural's debt/book capital ratio to less than 50% at the end of the second quarter.

#### **OPERATIONS**

Production of oil during the second quarter of 2000 averaged 145,519 barrels per day, a 125% increase from the second quarter of 1999. Average natural gas production in the most recent quarter of 766.2 million cubic feet per day is a 14% increase over the second quarter of 1999. Overall average production in the second quarter of this year amounting to 273,220 barrels of oil equivalent is a 5% increase over the first quarter of this year and a 55% increase over the second quarter of 1999.

Canadian Natural's capital program in the second quarter of 2000 included \$68 million of strategic property acquisitions and a drilling program which did not result in any dry or abandoned wells. This program continued Canadian Natural's focused drilling for heavy oil both in its conventional areas in eastern Alberta and the oil sands leases at Pelican Lake in north central Alberta together with an earlier than expected start on shallow natural gas drilling in southern Alberta.

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

	Th	ree m	onths ended Ju	ne 30		Six m	onths ended June	e 30
(\$ thousands, except per share amounts)	2000		1999	% Change	2000		1999	% Change
FINANCIAL								
Gross revenue	\$ 637,435	\$	231,770	+175	\$ 1,187,809	\$	434,181	+174
Cash flow	\$ 400,281	\$	125,349	+219	\$ 743,561	\$	226,031	+229
Per share	\$ 3.55	\$	1.25	+184	\$ 6.61	\$	2.26	+192
Net earnings	\$ 175,510	\$	23,497	+647	\$ 317,757	\$	33,849	+839
Per share	\$ 1.55	\$	0.24	+546	\$ 2.82	\$	0.34	+729
Net oil and natural gas property								
expenditures	\$ 246,966	\$	108,161	+128	\$ 714,205	\$	247,910	+188
Net indebtedness					\$ 2,061,978	\$	1,368,754	+ 51
COMMON SHARE DATA (thousands of shares)								
Weighted average					112,545		100,186	+12
Outstanding					113,431		100,100	+13
Outstanding					113,431		100,309	+15
OPERATING								
Oil and natural gas liquids								
Daily production (barrels)	145,519		64,746	+125	142,127		66,207	+115
Netback per barrel								
Sales price	\$ 29.48	\$	17.36	+70	\$ 29.47	\$	14.88	+98
Royalties	\$ 2.91	\$	1.91	+52	\$ 2.99	\$	1.76	+70
Operating costs	\$ 5.10	\$	4.53	+13	\$ 5.05	\$	4.55	+11
	\$ 21.47	\$	10.92	+97	\$ 21.43	\$	8.57	+150
Natural gas								
Daily production (million cubic feet)	766.2		672.0	+14	750.1		676.0	+11
Netback per thousand cubic feet								
Sales price	\$ 3.55	\$	2.12	+67	\$ 3.12	\$	2.09	+49
Royalties	\$ 0.81	\$	0.35	+131	\$ 0.67	\$	0.32	+109
Operating costs	\$ 0.42	\$	0.34	+24	\$ 0.42	\$	0.33	+27
	\$ 2.32	\$	1.43	+62	\$ 2.03	\$	1.44	+41

#### OUTLOOK

In July, 2000, Canadian Natural completed its previously announced acquisition of Ranger Oil Limited ("Ranger") and Ranger became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian Natural. The results reported in this quarterly report do not include any results of Ranger operations. Canadian Natural acquired Ranger by the payment to Ranger shareholders of \$650 million cash and the issuance of approximately 7.5 million common shares of Canadian Natural. We are pleased to report that the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") has authorized the continued listing of Canadian Natural as the successor company to Ranger and Canadian Natural's common shares now trade on the NYSE under the symbol CED.

The acquisition of Ranger provides Canadian Natural with significant additional Canadian oil and natural gas properties, the majority of which fit strategically with Canadian Natural's property base, together with a low risk platform of properties in the International arena. The International areas which will be focused on to provide additional short and longer term growth opportunities to Canadian Natural will be the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea and offshore west Africa.

The oil and natural gas industry continues to generate record levels of cash flow as the commodity prices for both oil and natural gas remain strong. Canadian Natural will continue to focus its operations on its Canadian core areas while ensuring that the International operations focus only on areas which can provide profitable production growth to Canadian Natural. Canadian Natural's budgeted capital expenditure program for 2000 of approximately \$1 billion will not be increased. The properties acquired from Ranger will be allocated a capital expenditure budget of \$150 million over the balance of the year for a total combined net capital budget of approximately \$1.15 billion, excluding the cost of acquiring Ranger. The anticipated total capital expenditure for the remainder of the year will be approximately \$435 million and any excess cash flow will be directed towards repayment of long term debt. Canadian Natural's production operations are in line for it to meet its operating cost and production volume targets for the year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

John G. Langille President August 10, 2000

Allan P. Mark Chairman

# **NETBACK ANALYSIS**

	Thr	ee m	onths ended Jur	ne 30	S	ix ma	nths ended Jun	ie 30
(per barrel of oil equivalent)*	2000		1999	% Change	2000		1999	% Change
COMBINED								
Daily production (boe)	273,220		176,746	+55	267,145		178,870	+49
Sales price	\$ 25.64	\$	14.41	+78	\$ 24.43	\$	13.41	+82
Royalties	3.81		2.04	+87	3.46		1.88	+84
Operating costs	3.90		2.95	+32	3.86		2.94	+31
Netback per boe	17.93		9.42	+90	17.11		8.59	+99
Administration	0.25		0.27	-7	0.23		0.26	-12
Interest	1.36		1.19	+14	1.36		1.19	+14
Capital taxes	0.22		0.17	+29	0.23		0.16	+44
Cash flow per boe	\$ 16.10	\$	7.79	+107	\$ 15.29	\$	6.98	+119
*(6 mcf of natural gas = 1 barrel of oil)								
(per barrel of oil equivalent)**								
COMBINED								
Daily production (boe)	222,139		131,946	+68	217,137		133,805	+62
Sales price	\$ 31.53	\$	19.30	+63	\$ 30.05	\$	17.94	+68
Royalties	4.68		2.73	+71	4.26		2.51	+70
Operating costs	4.79		3.95	+21	4.74		3.94	+20
Netback per boe	22.06		12.62	+75	21.05		11.49	+83
Administration	0.31		0.36	-14	0.28		0.34	-18
Interest	1.68		1.60	+5	1.67		1.59	+5
Capital taxes	0.27		0.22	+23	0.28		0.21	+33
Cash flow per boe	\$ 19.80	\$	10.44	+90	\$ 18.82	\$	9.35	+101

<sup>\*\*(10</sup> mcf of natural gas = 1 barrel of oil)

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

	Three months ended June 30 Six months ended June 30				∋ 30			
(thousands of dollars)		2000		1999	% Change	2000	1999	% Change
Net property acquisitions	\$	68,304	\$	20,588	+232	\$ 254,280	\$ 48,483	+424
Land acquisition and retention		11,387		8,407	+35	20,240	16,182	+25
Seismic evaluations		1,094		1,245	-12	12,189	9,643	+26
Well drilling, completion and								
equipping		107,712		56,163	+92	266,687	119,088	+124
Pipeline and production facilities		58,469		21,758	+169	160,809	54,514	+195
Total oil and natural gas								
property expenditures	\$	246,966	\$	108,161	+128	\$ 714,205	\$ 247,910	+188

### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	June 30 (unaudited)	December 31	
(thousands of dollars)	2000	1999	
ASSETS			
Current assets	\$ 450,756	\$ 297,010	
Capital assets (Note 1)	5,225,716	4,553,541	
Deferred unrealized foreign exchange loss	6,690	299	
	\$ 5,683,162	\$ 4,850,850	
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Current liabilities	\$ 413,369	\$ 260,568	
Long-term debt	2,099,365	2,156,850	
Deferred credits (Note 1)	919,811	541,415	
Shareholders' equity	2,250,617	1,892,017	
	\$ 5,683,162	\$ 4,850,850	

#### NOTE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Effective January 1, 2000, the Company adopted the liability method of accounting for income taxes as recommended by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA"). Under the liability method, the Company will record future income taxes for the effect of any difference between the accounting and income tax basis of an asset or liability. The Company has adopted the CICA recommendations retroactively without prior period restatement by recording additional capital assets of \$204.1 million and increasing the future income tax liability by \$204.1 million. The additions to capital assets and future income taxes will be amortized over future periods.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

For the six months ended June 30 (thousands of dollars) (unaudited) 2000 1999 INCOME Oil and natural gas \$ 1,187,809 434,181 168,433 Less: royalties 60,762 1,019,376 373,419 **EXPENSES** Production 187,469 95,401 8,269 Administration 11,225 65,945 Interest 38,518 Unrealized foreign exchange loss 522 1,213 Depreciation, depletion and amortization 255.886 162.152 521,047 305,553 Earnings before taxes 498,329 67,866 Capital taxes 5,200 11,176 Future income taxes 28.817 169,396 Net earnings 317,757 33,849

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	or the six mon	ths ended June 30
(thousands of dollars) (unaudited)	2000	1999
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net earnings	\$ 317,757	\$ 33,849
Non-cash items		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	255,886	162,152
Future income taxes	169,396	28,817
Unrealized foreign exchange loss	522	1,213
Cash flow provided from operating activities	743,561	226,031
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operating activities	(25,781)	(36,732)
	717,780	189,299
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
(Decrease) increase in long-term debt	(64,398)	8,563
Issue of capital stock	40,831	8,403
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to financing activities	1,912	46
	(21,655)	17,012
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Expenditures on property, plant and equipment	(722,845)	(253,242)
Expenditures on abandonments	(1,143)	(2,340)
Net proceeds on sale of property, plant and equipment	4,939	6,711
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to investing activities	22,946	42,591
	(696,103)	(206,280)
Increase in cash	22	31
Cash – beginning of period	66	92
Cash – end of period	\$ 88	\$ 123

<sup>1.</sup> Change in accounting policy

### **NET INDEBTEDNESS**

		June	e 30
(thousands of dollars)	2000		1999
Current assets	\$ 450,756	\$	185,525
Current liabilities	413,369		133,511
Working capital surplus	(37,387)		(52,014)
Long-term debt	2,099,365		1,420,768
Net indebtedness	\$ 2,061,978	\$	1,368,754

### DRILLING PROGRAM

Six months ended June 30

	2000		1	1999	
(number of wells)	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	
Oil	204	192.0	40	38.8	
Natural gas	292	263.4	190	178.4	
Injection/strat tests	26	26.0	7	7.0	
Dry	24	22.1	31	29.4	
Total	546	503.5	268	253.6	
Success rate		96%		88%	

### UNDEVELOPED LAND

		June 30	
(thousands of net acres)	2000	1999	
British Columbia	965	838	
Alberta	3,964	3,063	
Saskatchewan	453	539	
Other	387	365	
Total undeveloped land	5,769	4,805	

# **ACTIVITY BY CORE REGION**

	Undeveloped Land 2000 Drilling A		g Activity (net wells)
	(thousands of net acres)	First Half	Remaining
NE British Columbia/NW Alberta	1,208	80.1	19
North Central Alberta	2,299	145.5	71
Eastern Alberta/Western Saskatchewan	867	119.6	74
South Central Alberta	527	146.2	113
Williston Basin	403	12.1	0
Other	465	0	5

### CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RATIOS

The following financial ratios are provided in connection with the Company's continuous offering of medium term notes pursuant to the short form prospectus dated February 22, 1999 and as supplemented and amended. These ratios are based on the Company's consolidated financial statements that are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Canada.

The interest coverage ratios are for the 12 month period ended June 30, 2000.

Net earnings	7.6	(1)
Cash flow	11.7	(2)
The asset coverage ratios are calculated as at June 30, 2000.		
Asset coverage (times)		
Before deduction of future income taxes and deferred credits	2.5	(3)
After deduction of future income taxes and deferred credits	2.1	(4)

- (1) Net earnings plus income taxes and interest expense; divided by interest expense.
- (2) Cash flow plus current income taxes and interest expense: divided by interest expense.
- (3) Total current and capital assets minus current liabilities; divided by long-term debt.
- (4) Total current and capital assets minus current liabilities and long-term liabilities excluding long-term debt; divided by long-term debt.

#### CORPORATE INFORMATION

### Officers

Allan P. Markin *Chairman* 

John G. Langille *President* 

Brian L. Illing

Senior Vice-President, Exploration

Steve W. Laut

Senior Vice-President, Operations

Allen M. Knight

Senior Vice-President, Corporate
Development & International

Gregory G. Adams

Vice-President, Finance

Réal M. Cusson

Vice-President, Marketing

Tim S. McKay

*Vice-President, Production* 

Lyle G. Stevens

Vice-President, Exploitation

### **Board of Directors**

N. Murray Edwards

James T. Grenon

John G. Langille

Keith A.J. MacPhail

Allan P. Markin

James S. Palmer, Q.C.

Eldon R. Smith, M.D.

# Registrar and Transfer Agent

Computershare Investor Services, Inc. (formerly Montreal Trust Company)

## Stock Listing

The Toronto Stock Exchange Symbol: CNQ

New York Stock Exchange Symbol: CED

# Corporate Office

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