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**Petroleum potential and exploration activity for  
onshore western Newfoundland (Anticosti Basin)**

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The Anticosti Basin of Western Newfoundland lies at the northeast terminus of the Appalachian Structural Trend and like counterpart basins to the southwest, a working petroleum system appears to be in place and capable of generating commercial quantities of both oil and/or gas. This is evident in the hundreds of live and dead oil shows observed in coastal exposures and within mineral and petroleum drill holes between Port au Port and Pistolet Bay. In addition to surface shows, historical records attest to limited production approximately 100 years ago at both Shoal Point and Parson's Pond. Rough estimates place production somewhere in the range of 5000

to 10,000 barrels, with the bulk of this derived from the Parson's Pond wells.

Today exploration geoscientists have a better understanding of Anticosti Basin geology, basin stratigraphy, tectonic, subsidence and thermal histories plus an appreciation for the character and distribution of petroleum source rocks. This increased level of understanding translates directly into exploration confidence and ultimately leads to further seismic programs and drilling in the basin. This has certainly been the case since the mid-1990s and this exploration round continues at present with drilling activity taking place at Garden Hill and Shoal Point on the Port au Port Peninsula and at Parson's Pond on the Northern Peninsula.