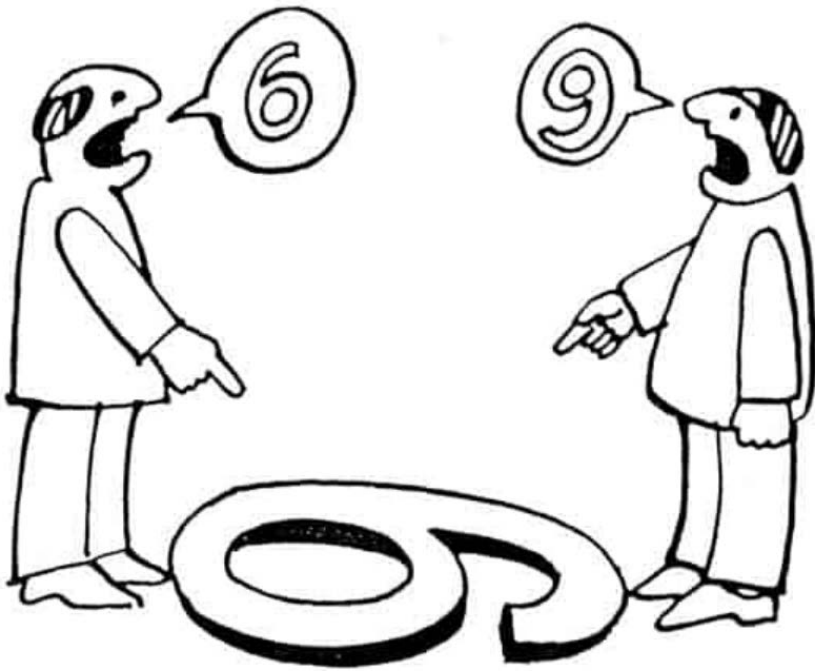


Public trust amid policy changes: diverse reactions from different groups



IAIA26
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Pesca

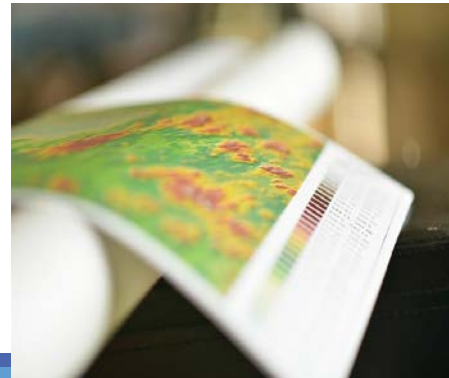
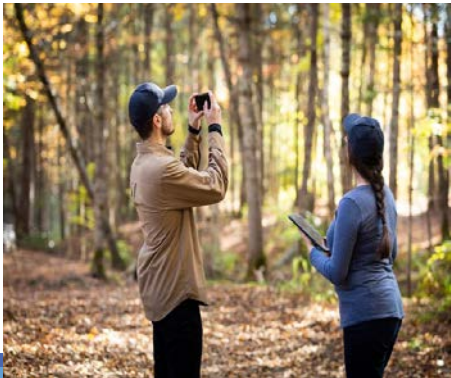
1991

Founded in
Québec

80+

Employees
across Canada

- Environmental consulting company founded in 1991 in Québec
- Focus on renewable energy projects, expanding to industrial projects
- Multidisciplinary expertise:
 - ✓ Environmental Impact Assessment
 - ✓ Regulatory advice and permitting process
 - ✓ Environmental management
- Support to clients throughout the project life cycle (prospection, development, construction and operation)



CONTEXT - Alberta's Renewable Energy Landscape

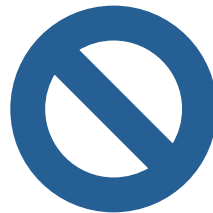
221%

Renewable capacity
growth
2010–2023



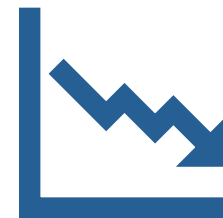
August 2023

Alberta government
pauses
new approvals



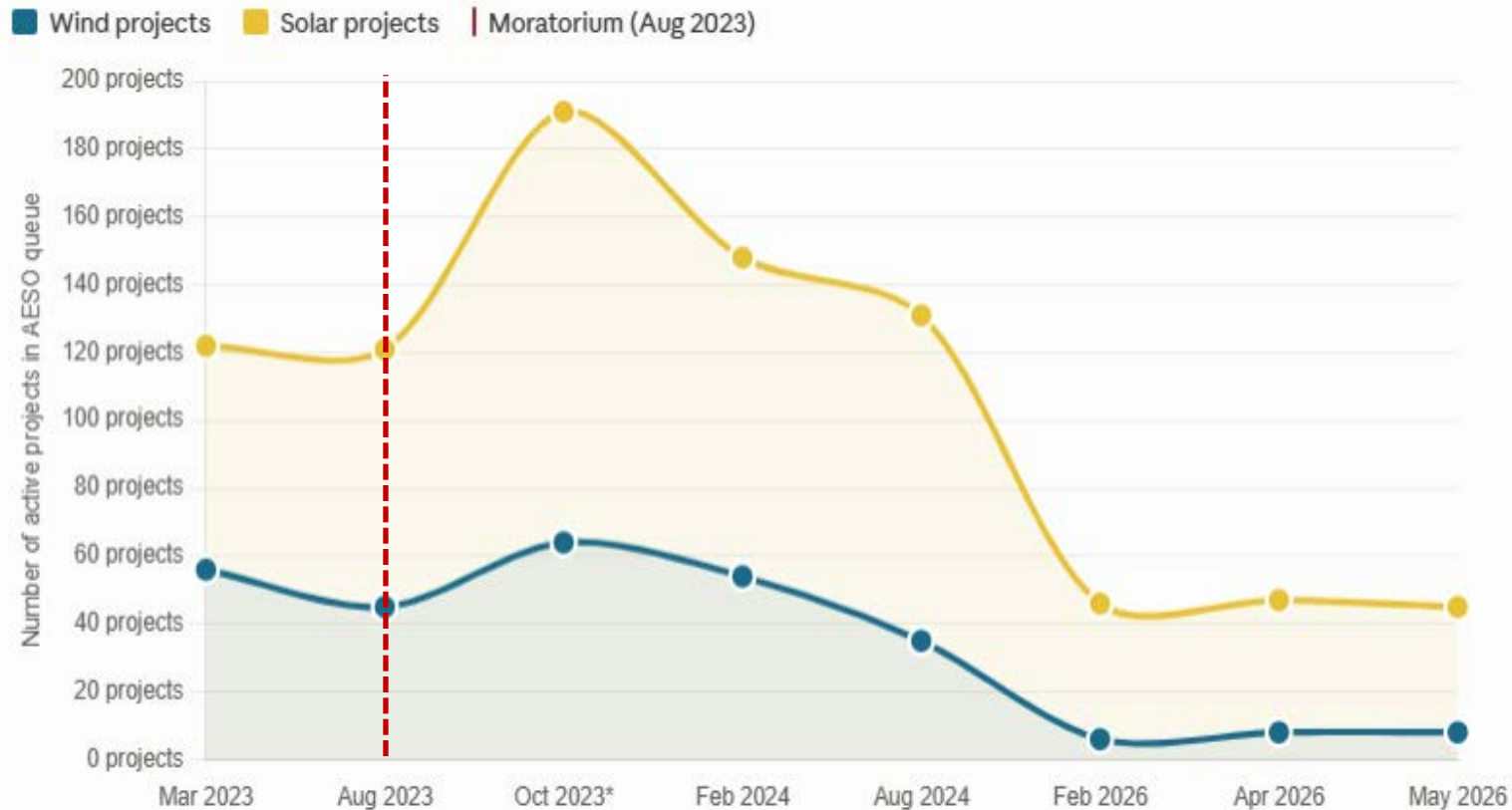
Scenario change

2023–2025



Eroded Confidence - Developers Pull Back

AESO connection queue - active wind and solar projects, Mar 2023 to May 2026



Wind - Mar 2023

56

8 by May 2026 (-86%)

Solar - Mar 2023

122

45 by May 2026 (-63%)

Oct 2023 peak

255

Wind+solar - grandfathering rush

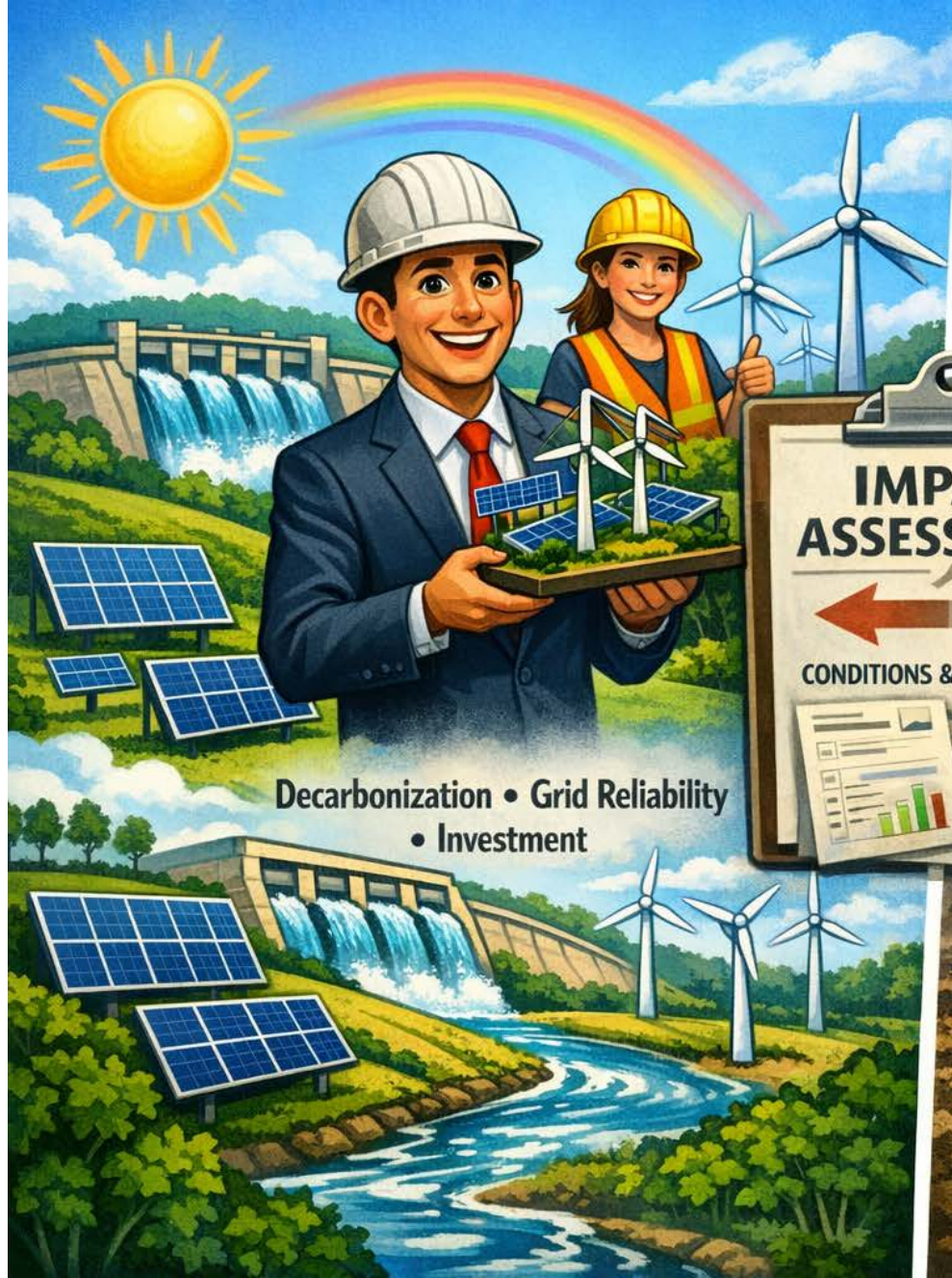
Wind+solar - May 2026

53

Down from 178 in Mar 2023 (-70%)

Why Trust Declined

- Approval moratorium - sudden, unexpected halt
- New reclamation security requirements, including retroactive obligations
- Unpredictability for projects already in operation
- Available land reduced:
 - ❑ "Agriculture first" approach restricting Class 1 & 2 land use
 - ❑ 35 km buffer zones around pristine viewscapes



Decarbonization • Grid Reliability
• Investment



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONDITIONS & REGULATIONS

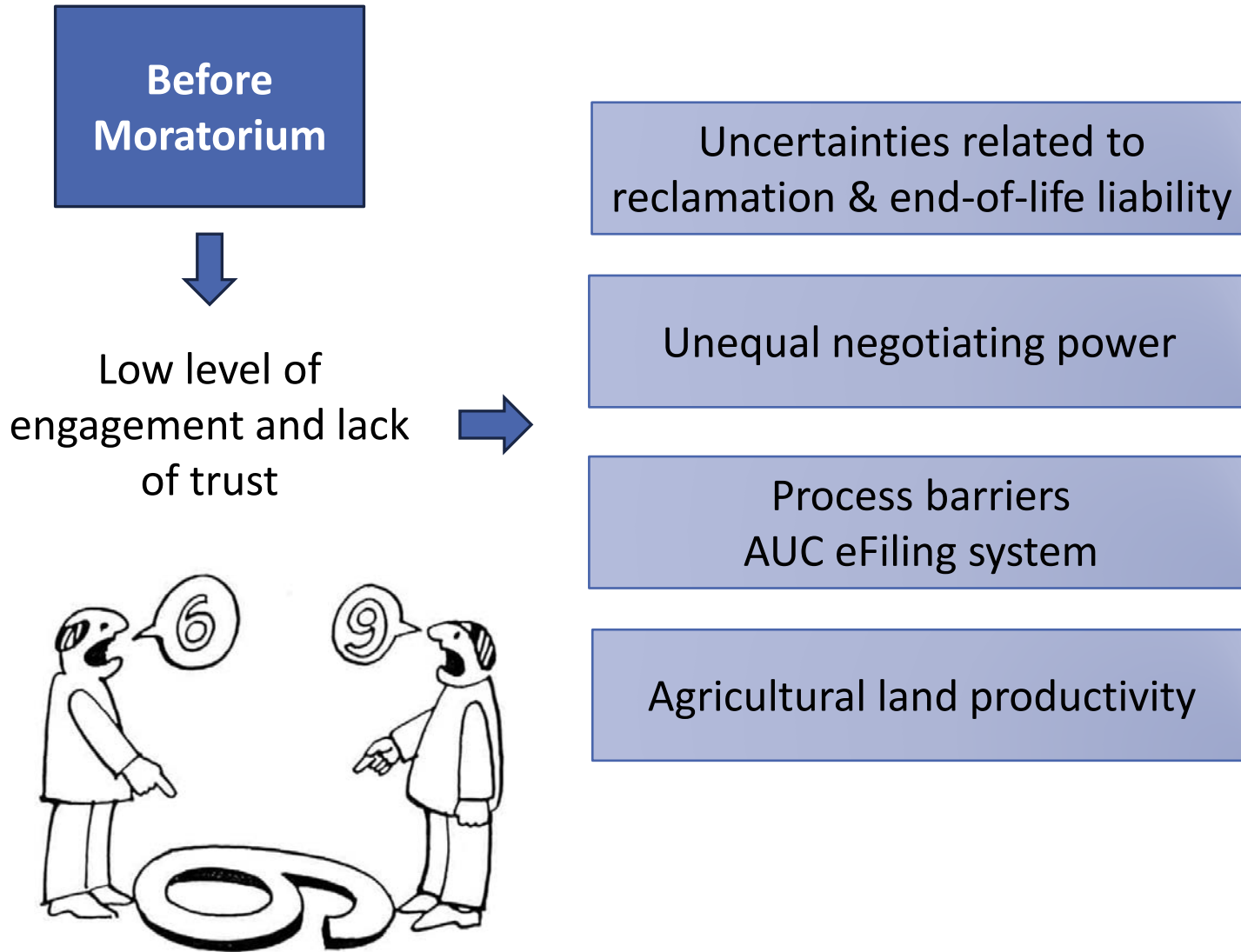


Soil
Productivity

Lease vs.
Land Value

Decommissioning
Concerns

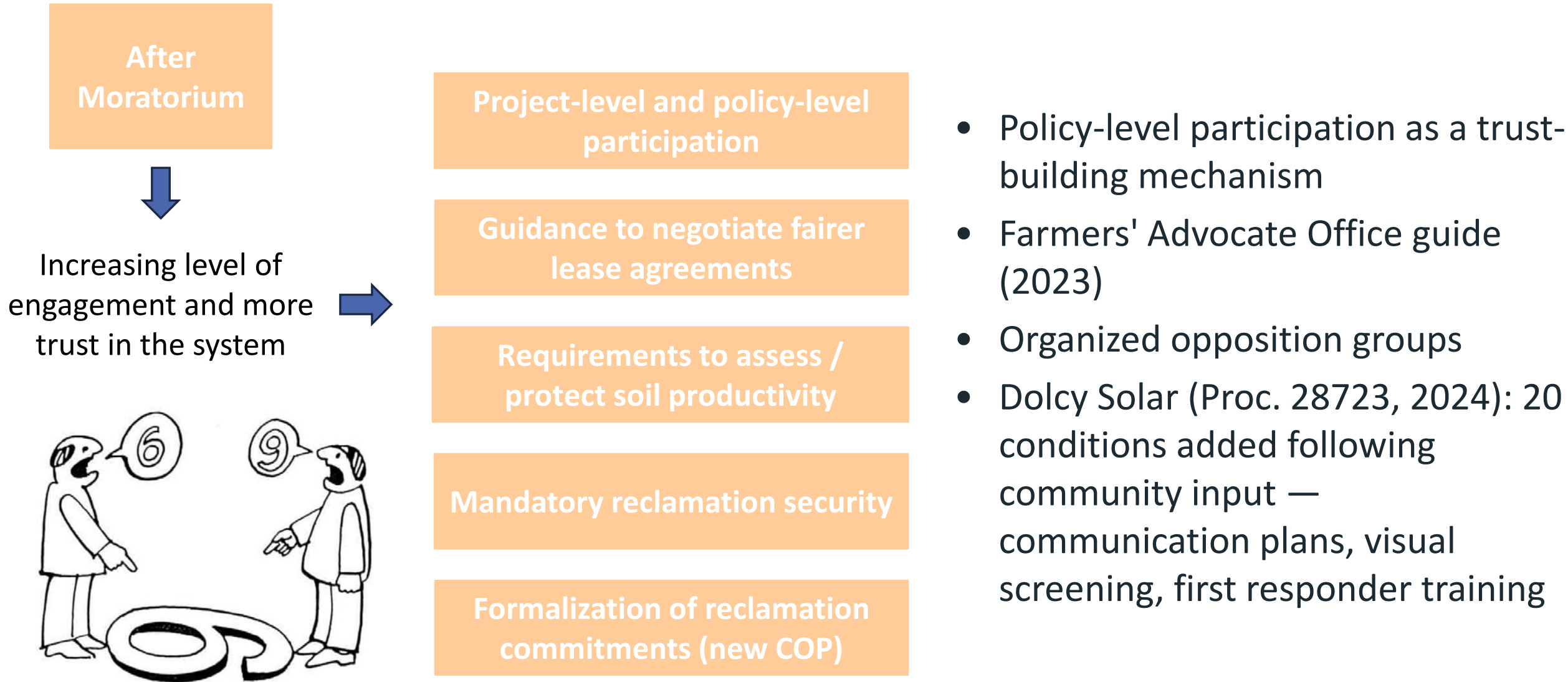
What about “public” trust? Landowners’ perspectives



Historical mistrust on how Alberta handled oil and gas projects

Landowners’ trust in Alberta's energy regulatory system has been shaped by decades of negative legacy related to oil and gas orphan wells, which directly informed how rural communities approached renewable energy regulation

What about “public” trust? Landowners’ perspectives





What about “public” trust? Municipalities’ perspectives

From Bystanders to Active Participants - A Structural Shift

Pre-2023: Limited Role

- Municipalities had no automatic right to participate in AUC hearings
- AUC responses ranged from limited to more fulsome participation
- No intervener funding available to municipalities (only adjacent landowners)
- Rapid proliferation of projects outpaced municipal land-use planning capacity

2023 Moratorium Response

- Moratorium discussions considered municipal concerns over project pace
- Cypress County and others publicly opposed rapid wind/solar expansion
- AB Association of Municipalities filed submission calling for broader municipal role
- Open houses held in Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Pincher Creek (Nov 2023)

Post-2024: Expanded Rights

- AUC automatically grants municipalities participation rights in all renewables’ proceedings
- Municipalities can now make cost recovery requests for their participation
- Rule 007 review: AUC to clarify municipal submission & consultation requirements
- AUC setback consultation targeting municipalities specifically

Conflicting reactions in AB — what they tell us

Trust is stakeholder-specific

The same regulatory change can simultaneously erode trust for developers while building it for landowners and municipalities. One-size metrics miss this.

Predictability matters most to industry

Retroactive requirements and sudden moratoria undermine investment confidence more than the substance of individual rules.

Historical context shapes reception

Landowners' caution — not outright opposition — reflects legacy oil & gas liabilities. New reclamation rules are seen through this lens.

Public process design is key

AUC's eFiling system and Module A consultation model (written + oral + comment matrix) enabled broad participation — a template for future inquiries.

Conclusions



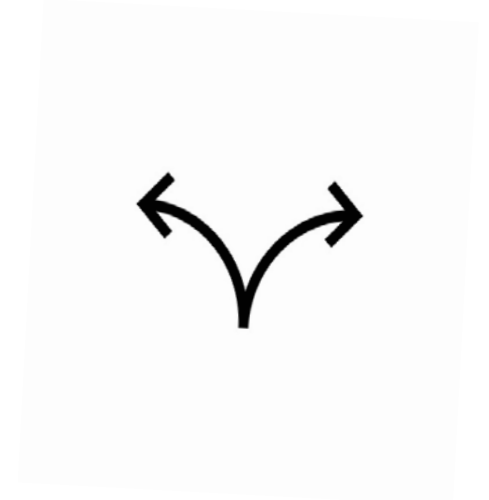
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Alberta's 2019–2025 policy changes created divergent trust effects across stakeholder groups

Developer confidence declined sharply post-2023; landowner and municipal reception was largely cautious-to-positive

A 'trust decline' narrative focused only on industry overlooks a more nuanced, stakeholder-specific reality

AUC eFiling proceedings document conflicting perspectives across groups and over time





Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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