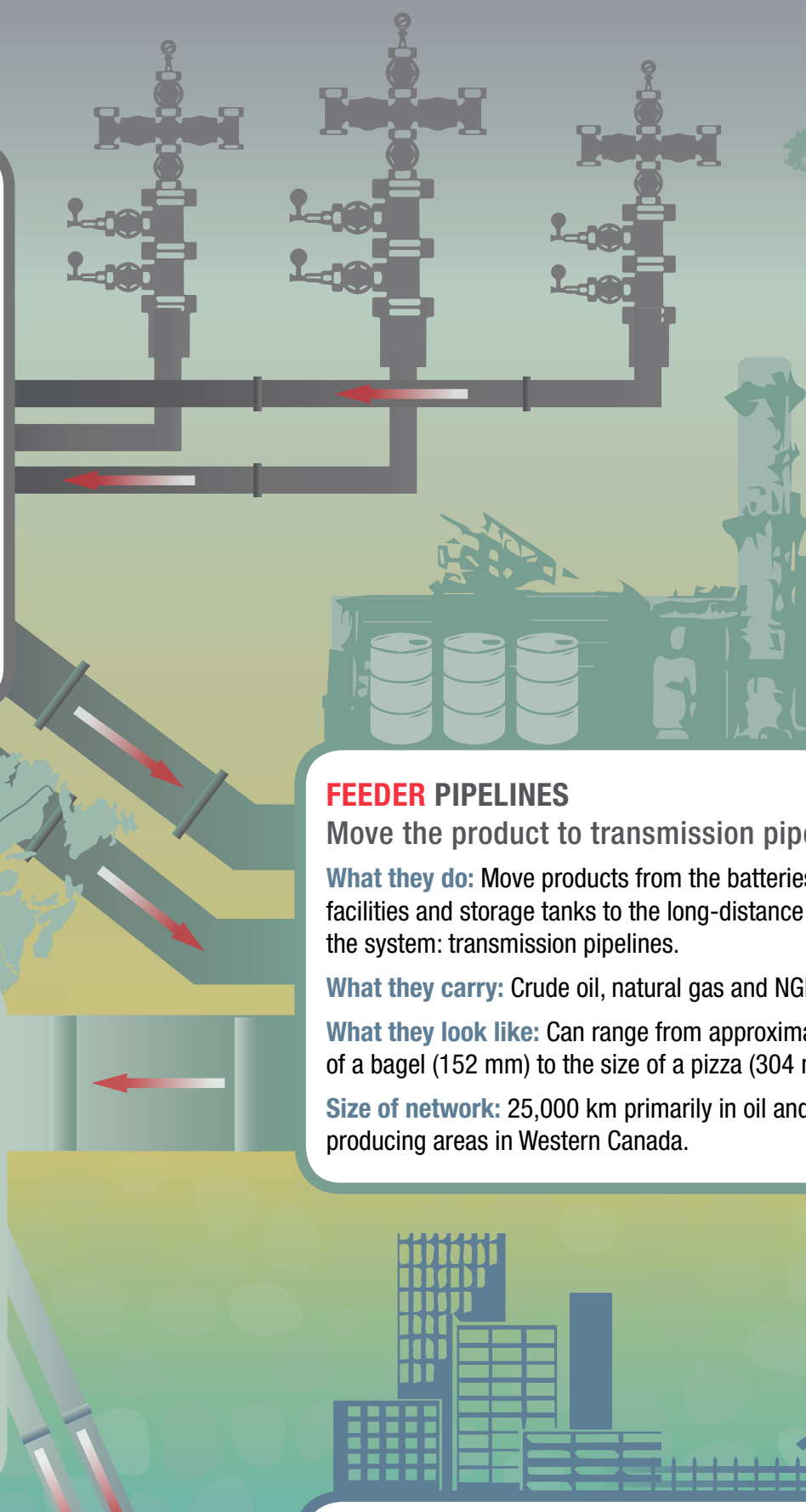
THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIPELINES IN CANADA

canadian energy pipeline association | association canadienne de pipelines d'énergie

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 119,000 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**
- **$1.2 billion - amount spent by CEPA members in 2014 on monitoring and maintenance to ensure the safety of their pipelines**