



## Passive Income: This Canadian Stock TRIPLED its Dividend!

### Description

It's not very often that you see a stock triple its dividend. When you do, you take notice. Normally, companies hike their dividends incrementally by something like 5-10% a year. Sometimes, they don't increase them at all.

But 2022 isn't any ordinary year. With oil prices soaring, energy stocks are raising their dividends left and right — sometimes, by extremely large percentages. In this article, I will explore one Canadian energy stock that tripled its dividend after its recent earnings release.

### Cenovus Energy

**Cenovus Energy** ([TSX:CVE](#))([NYSE:CVE](#)) is a Canadian integrated energy company. It sells a variety of petroleum products and related goods, including the following:

- Crude oil
- Gasoline
- Petroleum coke
- Natural gas
- And more

The company recently acquired Husky Energy, which provided it with a national chain of gas stations at which it sells gasoline direct to consumers.

After its first-quarter earnings release, CVE [raised its dividend](#) from \$0.14 per share to \$0.42 per share. That's an increase of 200% — approximately [tripling the dividend](#). The \$0.42 dividend gives us a 1.75% yield at today's prices. That might not sound like much, but it could grow even further, and the increase speaks to an enormous improvement in CVE's operating results.

### Fantastic earnings

Speaking of results, Cenovus had a fantastic run in its most recent quarter:

- 800,000 barrels of oil per day (upstream)
- 502,000 barrels of oil per day (downstream)
- \$1.35 billion in cash from operations, up 499%
- \$1.8 billion in free funds flow, up 209%
- \$1.625 billion in net income, up 639%
- \$8.4 billion in net debt, down 12%

Those are incredible results across the board. Not only did earnings and cash flows go up, but debt went down as well. Cenovus not only delivered a great quarter, but through its debt reduction, it paved the way for great future quarters, as the lower debt level will lead to lower interest expenses in future quarters.

## Where does CVE go from here?

After booking as good a quarter as CVE did in Q1, it's logical to ask where the company will go from there. Certainly, CVE is a solid company that beat on earnings and upped its dividend. But can the progress continue?

If the price of oil remains strong, then yes, it can. And by "strong" I don't mean it has to keep rising, it just has to remain around \$100. There are plenty of ways oil companies can boost earnings, even with oil prices just staying flat:

- Produce more oil
- Reduce costs
- Buy back shares
- And more

As long as the price of oil is well above breakeven, then a company like Cenovus Energy can do well. Truly, the sky is the limit. The only question is whether you'd prefer to invest today or wait for a dip in the future. Energy stocks are doing quite well this year, and it is possible that they are getting overheated. I don't personally think they are, but many analysts hold that opinion. Perhaps, then, the best bet is to gradually dollar-cost average in over time, so you don't buy the top.

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## **Date**

2025/07/01

## **Date Created**

2022/05/02

## **Author**

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