

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

November 2018 • Page 25

Enbridge Line 3 construction progressing

Construction is progressing on Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Project across southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, with the construction now more than half completed in Spread 5, based in Regina, and the work moving into Spread 6, based in Moosomin.

The Line 3 Replacement Program is the largest project in Enbridge history.

The Line 3 Replacement Program, with a C\$5.3-billion Canadian component and a US\$2.9-billion American component, will fully replace 1,031 miles (1,660 kilometres) of Line 3 with new pipeline and associated facilities.

When this year's construction is complete, new 36-inch, Canadian-manufactured pipeline will be in place over 1,097 km—from Hardisty, Alberta to Gretna, Manitoba near the North Dakota border.

A big part of this year's construction runs from Regina to Cromer, Manitoba comprising 380 kilometres of the approximately 600 km of the Line 3 pipeline Enbridge is replacing this year.

"Spreads 5 and 6 are being managed as one project, under our contractor for the area, Banister Pipelines," said Ferlin Koma, construction manager for Spreads 5 and 6 with Enbridge. "What this means is the bulk of construction activity is cur-

rently focused in Spread 5 and we are working our way eastward. Spread 5 runs from southeast of Regina and Spread 6 ends at Enbridge's Cromer Station. "We are now nearing

65 per cent completion of Spread 5, so we are getting closer to the Moosomin area. As of early November, much of the construction activity is concentrated in the Odessa-Montmartre-

Kipling area.

"In Spread 6, we have about 30 kilometres of topsoil remaining to be stripped and have begun stringing pipe. In early November, we anticipate moving bending,

welding and coating into Spread 6. Overall, as of the end of October, Spread 6 is about 10 per cent complete.

"We remain on track, along with the rest of the L3RP, to meet our objective

of completing construction by year-end 2018, followed by reclamation of the right of way next summer and a targeted in-service date of the latter half of 2019."

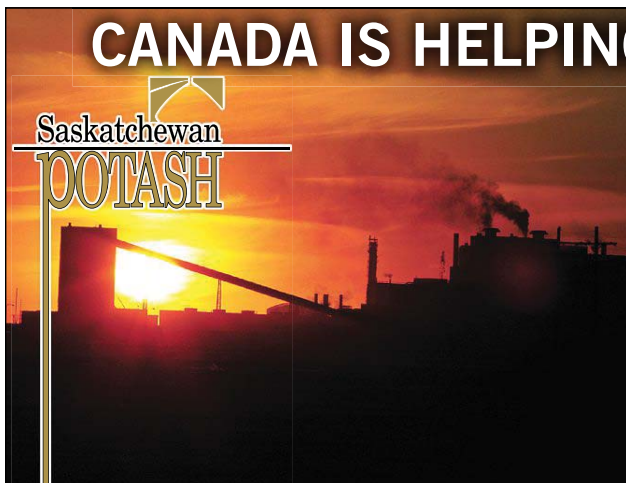
Continued on page 32



Work on the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement along the right-of-way in southeast Saskatchewan recently.

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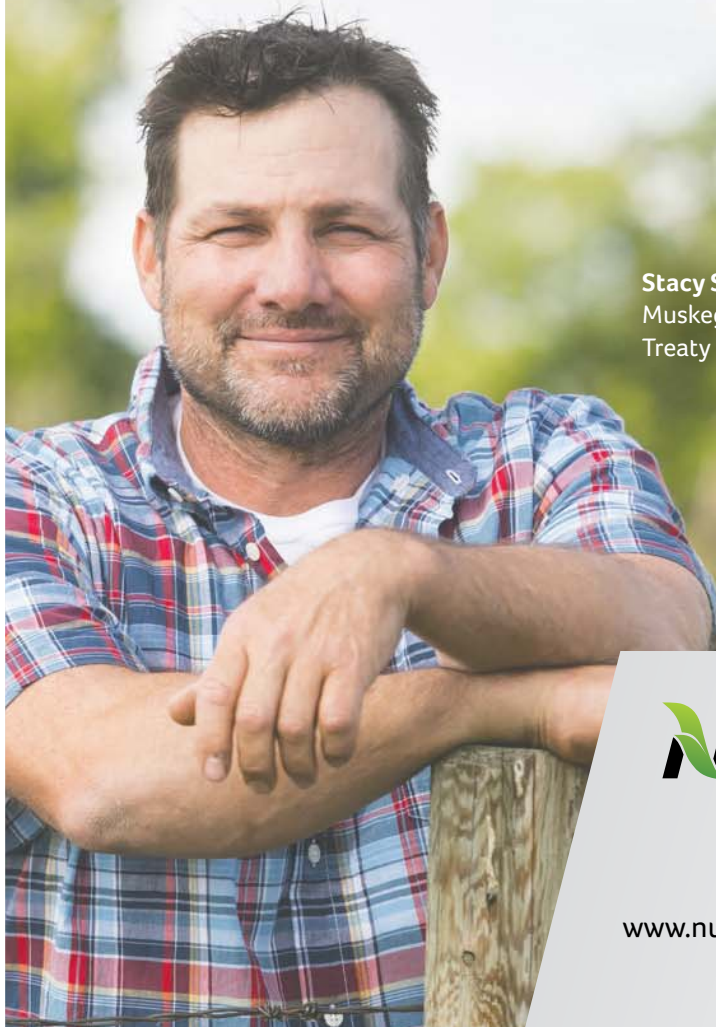
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Stacy Sutherland
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
Treaty 6, Saskatchewan

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Line 3 benefits flow to Indigenous communities

As the final phase of Line 3 pipeline replacement (L3RP) construction in Canada nears its peak, the economic benefits are beginning to add up in a big way for many Indigenous individuals and businesses, as well as the communities to which they belong.

"The economic benefits flowing to Indigenous communities from Line 3 pipeline construction are no accident or happy coincidence," says Enbridge's Dave Lawson, Vice-President, Major Project Execution, Canada. "Rather, they are the direct result of our comprehensive and proactive engagement program and the joint commitments between Enbridge and numerous Indigenous communities or groups."

One such community is the Birdtail Sioux First Nation, 50 km north of Virden.

"When Enbridge approached us about replacing the Line 3 pipeline, some of our people were apprehensive," says Chief Ken Chalmers. "We shared our concerns about safety, our traditional land and the water, and about maintaining our way of life. But instead of digging in our heels, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. With support from Enbridge, we created our own company. It's called Birdtail Inclusive and we're providing electrical installation and commissioning services to Enbridge across multiple geographies."

"I've been engaged with Enbridge for 15 years," he adds. "We've got 22 young men and women who are now being mobilized to go to work, so we're very happy. That income coming back home creates self-esteem and they are now off those welfare rolls and they are now contributing to their families. That's huge for us."

Another Indigenous community benefiting from the L3RP is



Chief Evan Taypotat from Kahkewistahaw First Nation speaking at the kickoff to Line 3 construction for the 2018 construction season.

Kahkewistahaw First Nation near Broadview, in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

"I stand here as a chief today that supports this pipeline, based on the fact that Enbridge came to my Nation, we went back to them in Calgary and we worked out a deal that is good not only for Enbridge but for my people as well," says Chief Evan Taypotat.

"Kahkewistahaw chose to get in front of the industry as opposed to standing off to the side. Enbridge Line 3 is kind of a springboard for our people and we have approximately 20 band members now working on the project."

At \$5.3 billion for the Canadian segment alone, the L3RP is the largest capital project in Enbridge's history. Not surprisingly, it also represents the largest and most successful community

engagement effort the company has ever undertaken—including more than 150 Indigenous communities, as far as 300 kilometres from the pipeline right-of-way.

This approach has led to 58 co-operative project agreements with Enbridge, representing the participation of 98 Indigenous communities or groups.

"From the outset, we've made a concerted effort to ensure Indigenous communities understand our project, specifically how they can participate and benefit economically," explains Kim Brenneis, Director of Community and Indigenous Engagement. "I think the results we're now seeing speak to Enbridge's strong commitment to inclusion as well as to building mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous communities."

Execution of these agreements, which include more \$30 million in capacity funding, has supported Indigenous contracting and labour spending of approximately \$198 million to the end of September 2018.

This number is expected to be around \$250 million upon completion of the L3RP.

Beyond engagement success, there are three major reasons for the strong Indigenous project participation and spending profile, says Barry Horon, Director of Supply Chain Management for Liquids Pipelines and Major Projects.

"First, we're tapping into a much greater capacity within Indigenous communities along with a greater desire to participate in pipeline contracting and employment opportunities; sec-

ond, Enbridge has adopted a progressive supply chain process that, among other initiatives, requires prospective contractors to include detailed Indigenous participation plans in their bids; and third, we've implemented a labour strategy to enhance communication between Indigenous job seekers and our primary construction contractors through an online portal and the use of Indigenous labour brokers."

As of early November, more than 1,100 Indigenous persons have been employed on the L3RP, representing nearly 20 per cent of the construction workforce. These numbers include 27 monitors and nine liaisons that provide an Indigenous perspective and advice to the project construction team and help ensure the environmental mitigation strategies are implemented.

Another key component of the labour strategy was the now-completed Line 3 Pipeline 101 training-to-employment program. Over three years, more than 260 Indigenous men and women graduated from the program, many of whom have secured work on the L3RP.

"The training, the employment and business development—those are realized benefits at the First Nations level," says Chief Todd Peigan of Pasqua First Nation.

"The benefits that the First Nations receive, we use those resources to enhance programs and services in education, youth, recreation and elders' programs—that is what Enbridge has done for a number of First Nations."

"So I encourage First Nations to sit down with Enbridge and work out processes; if you have conflicts, work them out. Because we all need to be benefit from this pipeline, we all need to be involved with that."

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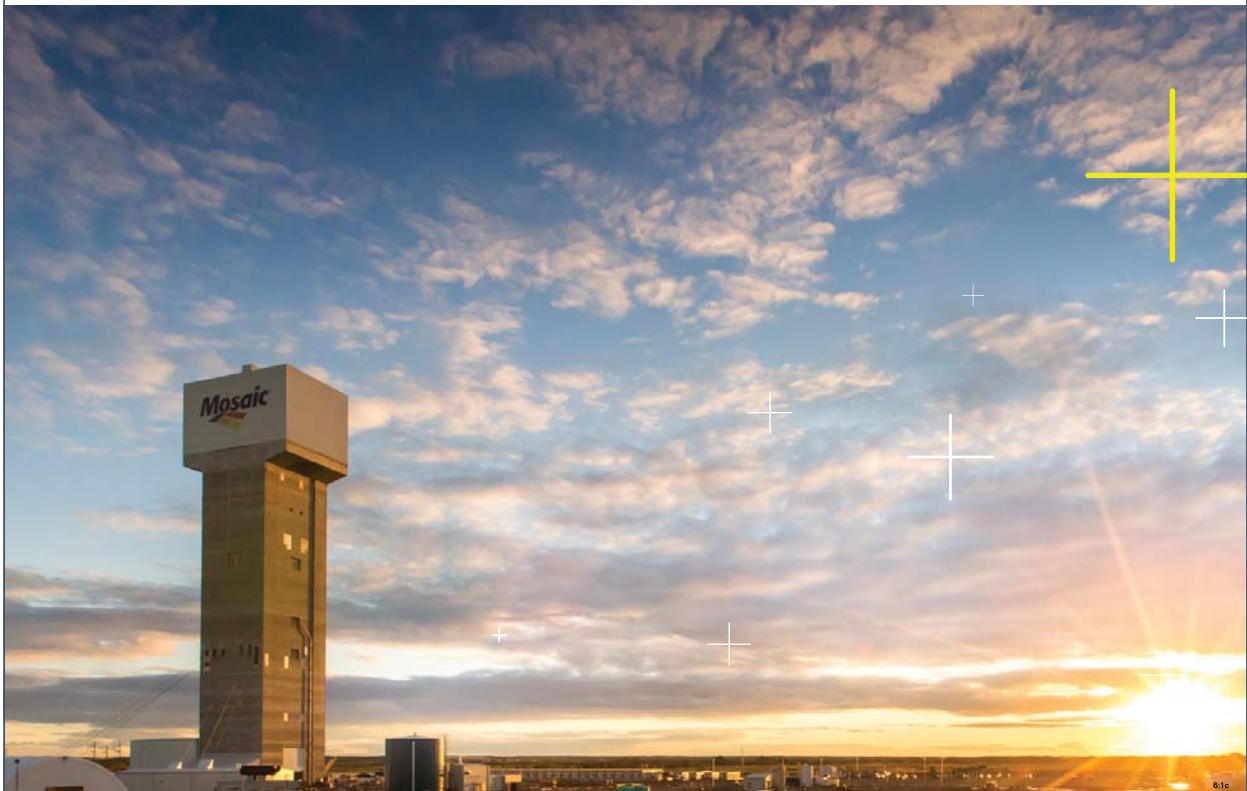
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Eyre sees bright future for resource industries

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke to Saskatchewan Minister of Energy and Resources, Bronwyn Eyre, about the future of Saskatchewan's resource industries. Following is the interview:

How important is potash to the provincial economy?

As you probably know, and you'll have seen the numbers, that the Saskatchewan sales in 2017 reached a new record, 12.2 million tonnes, and they were driven by excellent movement throughout almost the entire year, and the reserves continue to be very substantial.

By conservative estimates you know the province could supply world demand at current levels for several hundreds of years.

But the long term prospects also are very, very good for the industry, and so we are very optimistic about that and those prospects. In Saskatchewan, the potash industry typically accounts for 30 per cent of world production and employs about 5,000 people, and it certainly contributes to the livelihoods of thousands more, and communities who are directly impacted know that very well. And so the prospects are good and the numbers are good, and so we're in a pretty optimistic place I think in that regard.

We have seen some major investments in the potash mines in Rocanville and Esterhazy. What role will the provincial government play in encouraging that kind of investment in the future?

Just in terms of those expansions, the expansions of that productive capability have been competed in every Saskatchewan mine in the past nine years so that the total capital cost of those expansions, the current project at Mosaic in Esterhazy, which you've mentioned, the new K+5 Bethune mine, is all together estimated at \$17.6 billion. And there are a number of companies that are considering constructing new Saskatchewan potash mines, including BHP, and there are economic conditions that come into that with decreased potash prices that have caused some companies to push pause on those projects for a while.

All we can try to do, and continue to do as a province is just to hang the 'open for business' sign and do everything we can in terms of a stable royalty structure and a pro-investment environment, to work with them, to make sure that they can make the investments that they are



MINISTER OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES BRONWYN EYRE

willing and able to make.

It has been pretty positive considering some of the volatility we have seen over the last few years. There are other companies that are looking and that have been involved in developing projects in Saskatchewan—Western Potash, YanCoal, CanPacific, GenSource Potash, and a number of other ones. Several of these projects are looking at innovative new technologies for extraction in the province, and that's all good news for us.

Do you see a lot of room for further expansion of the potash industry in the province?

It's always hard to tell the future. In terms of some of those I've just listed, that's an indication that there is room for further investment.

Is the province doing anything to encourage investment in other areas of mining in Saskatchewan?

One of the most notable things is the Mineral Development Strategy. That was announced in last year's throne speech, and the way it works is it covers a portion of costs associated with ground based exploration for base metals, precious metals, and diamonds, to try to expand beyond uranium and potash.

Twenty-five per cent of eligible direct drilling costs up to a maximum of \$50,000 per company will be rebated and will be prorated if it exceeds that \$50,000.

We had the sense by companies that some projects maybe were bypassing us. Other provinces have incentives such as this in place.

This is intended to promote new discoveries. It's not for drilling on mining leases. That would not be eligible, but we just feel that around that Creighton Denare Beach area and so on that there is room there and call for some new exploratory drilling, and this is made to order that way and we hope it will incentivise companies. We've had a lot of interest on it, so that is something else that we are doing in another space.

Is it limited to certain minerals?

It's limited to the base metals, precious metals and diamonds.

Where do you see the mining industry in Saskatchewan 10 years from now?

That's difficult. It's difficult always to speculate, but there are a lot of positive developments that we hear of as a ministry around the whole energy and resources space. Some of this gets into such things as helium and other areas, and more into the oil and gas sphere.

But really there is a lot of innovation that is still happening, a lot of interest by companies and junior mining companies in the province. And as I say, we hope this mineral development strategy will incentivise them a little bit more. But I think that it is positive. Overall we would say it is a positive outlook for the sector.

Continued on Page 40

Congratulations to the continuing expansion at Mosaic and completed expansion at Nutrien - Rocanville.

Thank you for your support!

SaskEnergy Network Member

Greg Schentag, Owner • tags@sasktel.net

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'More of a trick than a treat'

Ed Fast says federal carbon tax just a tax grab

Ed Fast is a senior member of the federal Conservative caucus who was Minister of International Trade under the Stephen Harper government. On Thursday, World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark interviewed him just before he headed into Question Period to question the Liberal government on the carbon tax.

What is your take on federal carbon taxes that will be imposed on provinces? What is your take on what the government is trying to accomplish here?

Well my take is that it must be Halloween because this carbon tax announcement was more of a trick than a treat.

It was dressed up as an emissions plan but in fact right at its essence it's a tax plan.

It's a plan to raise taxes on Canadians and here is the irony of it: There is no evidence whatsoever that this carbon tax that is being levied against four provinces is going to have any measurable impact on Canada's carbon emissions.

What sort of reaction are you hearing from people across the country about this announcement?

I must say there is much more negative comment on it than I would have expected because once people look into what is actually involved—by 2022 the tax bill for the average Canadian family that is subject to this tax it's going to be around \$650 and with no measurable impact on our emissions.

But here is the kicker—and I think more and more people are realizing this—when Justin Trudeau announced this measure yesterday I listened very carefully and he used the words 'we will be returning all revenues from this carbon tax to Canadians.'

Then when we looked at the backgrounders that were issued it said we will be returning 'most' of the revenue to Canadians. We dug more deeply and suddenly realized that they will only return 90 percent.

The rest will be spent on other priorities that they have.

So effectively the prime minister is admitting in his own written materials he is going to take a dollar out of the taxpayer's pocket and then return .90 cents and say you guys are getting a really, really good deal.

Now, that is a trick not a treat.

Some business groups have been talking about the impact of this carbon tax coming in at the same time as the increased rates for CPP and worrying that's going to impact their competitiveness. Have you heard much from the business sector?

Very much so. In fact in a few minutes I will be getting up in Question Period and asking a question of the minister which addresses that very same issue,

which is small businesses who will have to increase their prices, pay their bills because of this tax and it will make it even more difficult for them to survive because they're competing across Canada and in the United States and around the world to try and grow their businesses and every time they try to they realize there was a Liberal government in Ottawa that's adding more and more and to their tax burden.

Some are a very evident taxes, others are hidden taxes that creep their way through the supply chain.

All of them impact our small businesses and I can tell you I have not spoken to one small business person that welcomes this decision.

I'm looking at a study by Canadians for Affordable Energy that concludes the tax will add 31 per cent to the cost of natural gas in Saskatchewan. Has anyone raised the question couldn't the same aim be reached as the carbon tax in increasing oil prices and natural gas prices by finding new markets for our natural gas and our oil products so that they are not subject to a discount? Wouldn't that raise the price to consumers and have the same effect as a carbon tax, but with the funds going to energy producers, not the government?

Absolutely, and that is another point we are making and probably in a different context, but that is that Canada's natural resources are effectively stranded right now because we have a government in place that has imposed onerous regulations both on the oil and the natural gas side to actually get our product to market. We cannot access international markets, we don't have a pipeline to tidewater, and when you look at Kinder Morgan, the TransMountain pipeline it has badly stalled.

I don't think there is a prospect of it moving forward any time soon and then we've got the former Energy East project which was cancelled because of new regulations that Justin Trudeau imposed on the sector, so now they have to count for upstream and downstream emissions when foreign oil coming from places like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela don't have to comply with those regulations and requirements.

It is just such a double standard, which is hurting Canadians.

The town and RM of Moosomin are trying to reopen the debate on Energy East. Do you think there is some possibility of that in the long term?

There is, although I'm not sure it's going to be the original proposal because my understanding is that TransCanada has gone back to the drawing board and is looking at an alternative option that will garner the support of Quebec as well as the other



Conservative MP and former Minister of International Trade Ed Fast.

provinces through which it passes.

I don't talk about Energy East specifically because I think that pipeline is now dead.

I think we need to be talking more generally about an energy corridor leading from western Canada to eastern Canada which allows us not only to serve our own needs and displace Saudi oil, but allows us to get our energy to foreign markets, where we get a market price rather than a hugely discounted price.

Energy East 2.0?

Well we're not calling it Energy East 2.0 for obvious reasons. You can figure that out. But we obviously want to have a broad Canadian consensus on whatever project goes forward and I understand that the folks at TransCanada are actively re-evaluating exactly how this could be done but it won't happen under a Liberal government.

We can be sure it won't happen under a Liberal government.

It will take a new Conservative government to get that built.

The two largest potash mines in the world are within the area we cover—Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy. The Saskatchewan Mining Association is raising concerns about the carbon tax. I have a quote from Pam Schwann, president of the mining association: "Saskatchewan's mining sector, which employs 30,500 people in all corners of the province, cannot afford bearing additional costs that competitors in countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Niger, China and Brazil aren't subject to, particularly against a backdrop of sustained low commodity prices."

How big of an impact do you think this could have on some Canadian export industries?

Huge. It's not only potash—there are dozens and dozens of industries that are now in a position

established.

That is very unfair to Canadian industry.

It completely undermines our competitiveness as a country and effectively results in carbon leakage.

Carbon emissions are just going elsewhere in the world and quite frankly I think we need to recognize that our industries are among the cleanest in the world no matter what industry it is, whether it is oil, natural gas, whether it's potash.

We deploy some of the best environmental technology in the world and we have a strong compelling case to make that the world should buy our product, not Russia's product, not Saudi Arabia's product, not Nigeria's product, not Venezuela's product.

In terms of international competitiveness, do our regulatory systems take into effect the entire picture on projects like the LNG export terminal, where you might increase natural gas production in Canada, ship Liquefied Natural Gas to China, and displace coal burning plants in China in favor of cleaner natural gas?

In our regulatory system, does that offsetting reduction in carbon emissions elsewhere ever play into the calculation or is that simply seen as an increase in carbon produced in Canada?

There is something called

Article Six under the Paris agreement which deals with countries making arrangements with other countries to transfer technology and receive credit for that, and Article Six is the only tool available to actually achieve what you're suggesting should be achieved which is when we ship natural gas from Canada which has already been extracted in a very environmentally responsible way, and when we ship that abroad and displace coal fired plants in a place like China why would we not get credit for that?

If we ship the CCS technology (Carbon Capture and Storage) that's developed in Saskatchewan at Boundary Dam and will over time get cheaper and will become more commercially viable—if we ship that technology to China and it gets used there, why should we not receive credit for that?

I can assure you that our environmental plan that we will be putting forward is going to look very, very closely at that opportunity.

What will happen to this federal carbon tax being imposed on these provinces if the Conservatives form a government in the future?

The carbon tax will be gone.

We will cancel it. It likely will be one of the first things we do when we get elected.



From Your Legislature

Honourable Warren Kaeding Pq

MLA for Melville-Saltcoats

Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Metis & Northern Affairs



The mining industry is extremely important to the people and the economy of our province. The industry provides about 30,500 jobs in Saskatchewan with mineral sales in 2017 valued at nearly \$6.7 billion.

Saskatchewan is the largest potash producer in the world, possessing almost half of the world's potash reserves, and is the world's second-largest primary uranium producer, with a catalogue of other minerals such as gold, base metals, clays, coal and diamonds.

Saskatchewan is currently ranked second in the world, and first in Canada, by the Fraser Institute of 91 global jurisdictions for mining investment attractiveness. The Mining Journal—one of the industry's most established international publications—recently ranked Saskatchewan third out of 96 jurisdictions for favorable investment risk. Natural Resources Canada indicated that Saskatchewan ranks second nationally in exploration expenditures, also reported was national mineral exploration spending intentions of \$2.2 billion for 2018 with an estimated \$170 million invested in 2017. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Energy and Resources estimated expenditures of \$193.5 million are planned for mineral exploration programs in 2018.

Our government continues to work for the people of Saskatchewan by investing in our mining industry. The Ministry of Energy and Resources' budget includes a new four-year Mineral Development Strategy to create an incentive to increase the amount of mineral exploration in Northern Saskatchewan. The development strategy will focus on base metals, precious metals, and diamond commodities, which have significant, unrealized potential to help grow and diversify Saskatchewan's mining sector.

Ottawa is currently threatening to legislate Bill C-69 (The Impact Assessment Act), which the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association has said would make building any new, major pipeline in Canada difficult to imagine. According to the Saskatchewan Mining Association, "Bill C-69... Will increase uncertainty, time and cost... As well as decrease investor confidence."

The proposed legislation unfairly targets the natural resource industry with new assessment criteria, while major industrial developments like auto manufacturing plants continue to be excluded from reviews, except in narrow circumstances. The government will continue to stand up for the jobs and positive economic impact that the energy industry brings to Saskatchewan.

Innovation Saskatchewan is funding research for new genomics technologies that will advance the mining sector, improve mineral processing and water treatment, and reduce environmental impacts from closed mines.

Thank you to many people who contribute to the growth and success of Saskatchewan's mining sector.

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Churchbridge: Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - 117 Rankin Rd.

Esterhazy: Tuesday (By Appointment) Town Office, interview room

Melville: Wednesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - 113 3rd Ave. W.

“It’s a great thing for Saskatchewan”

What does the Line 3 replacement mean for Canada?



Steve McLellan
CEO, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

“This is Canadian product, Canadian pipe going into the ground and Canadian people coming to work in Saskatchewan. Everyone is impacted and the biggest benefit of all is that our product is going to market much more safely and productively than it did in the past, so the benefits are absolutely endless.”

> Enbridge is replacing its Line 3 pipeline near your community. Here are some ways communities are benefiting:

Job Creation

Over the life of the project, an estimated 9,175 (full-time equivalent) jobs and \$652.3 million in labour income will be generated in Saskatchewan.

Boosting Local Businesses

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Enbridge Line 3 construction progressing

Continued from page 25

Much of the construction activity was concentrated in the Odessa-Montmartre area at the end of October and early November, with stringing (laying out the sections of pipe) approaching Kipling, with track boring taking place near Mary-

field, and soil stripping taking place near Cromer.

From a business perspective, replacing Line 3 enables Enbridge to meet the growing demand for Canadian crude oil across North America, bringing economic benefits and even greater energy security

to the U.S. while unlocking the value of Canada's most valuable export.

And that 'driver' brings with it benefits for local communities, explains project director Guy Krepps. "Replacing Line 3 will significantly reduce the need for future maintenance activities that would other-

wise occur to maintain its safe operation," says Krepps. "And towns, villages and rural municipalities also benefit—from the presence of work crews during construction to the investments we've made in community projects and initiatives that they themselves have identified."



Track boring under the rail line between Fairlight and Maryfield.



Pipe laid out on the right of way before bending and welding.



Pipe being unloaded along the right-of-way near Kipling. This crew was advancing at about 4.5 km per day, getting the pipe laid out.



Above: Two joints of pipe come together before being welded.

Above right: Pipe is transported into place after going through the pipe bender.

Kevin Weedmark photos



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A welding shack is lifted into place over one of the weld spots.



Right: Buffing one of the welds.

Left and right: Using ultrasound to check the integrity of the welds.



The pipe is laid into the trench.



Workers watch for rocks and debris in the trench as the pipe is laid in.

Kevin Weedmark photos



We value and appreciate those involved in the various mining, energy and manufacturing industries and the contribution they make to our economy and the communities of Souris-Moose Mountain.

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Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy:

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2017 Muriate of Potash Capacities and Locations

('000 metric tonnes of KCl per year)

	Company	Site	Capacity
Canada	Nutrien	Allan, SK	4,000
	Nutrien	Cory, SK	3,000
	Nutrien	Lanigan, SK	3,800
	Nutrien	Patience Lake, SK	300
	Nutrien	Rocanville, SK	6,500
	Nutrien	Vanscoy, SK	3,024
	Nutrien	Sussex, NB	2,000
	Mosaic Company	Belle Plaine, SK	3,400
	Mosaic Company	Colonsay, SK	2,600
	Mosaic Company	Esterhazy, SK	6,600
Total Canada			35,224
United States	Intrepid Potash	Carlsbad (West), NM	390
	Intrepid Potash	Carlsbad (HR), NM	165
	Intrepid Potash	Cane Creek, UT	100
	Intrepid Potash	Wendover, UT	90
Total United States			735
Total Canada and United States			35,959

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
 Many people realize that Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy are two very large mines and two very stable anchors for the economy in southeast Sas-

katchewan and southwest Manitoba. But a lot of people might not realize just how big the two mines are. They are not only the two largest potash mines in Saskatchewan.

They are not only the two largest potash mines in Canada.

They are not only the two largest potash mines in North America.

They are the two largest potash mines in the world.

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ROCANVILLE THE LARGEST NUTRIEN MINE

Production at Rocanville doubled with the completion of the \$3 billion expansion. The Rocanville mine produced 2.48 million tonnes of KCl in 2015, 2.72 million tonnes in 2016, and 4.86 million tonnes in 2017.

In 2017—before the merger that created Nutrien—Rocanville produced about half of the 9.8 million tonnes of potash produced by the five PotashCorp mines in Saskatchewan.

ESTERHAZY THE LARGEST MOSAIC MINE

Mosaic Esterhazy is the largest of the three Mosaic potash mines in Saskatchewan.

Mosaic has a nameplate capacity of 6,600 tonnes of potash, more than the other two Mosaic mines in Saskatchewan combined.

ROCANVILLE, ESTERHAZY HAVE MORE POTASH PRODUCTION CAPACITY THAN MOST COUNTRIES

Between Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy, this area has more potash production capacity than any country outside Canada.

Between Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy, this area has 13.1 million tonnes per year of potash production capacity, helping make Canada the world's largest producer of Potash.

The number two country in the world for Potash production is Russia, which produced 7.2 million tonnes in 2017, less than the capacity of the two potash mines in this area.

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Moosomin area sees impact of Line 3 construction

The Moosomin area has seen a mini-boom with the impact of the Enbridge Line 3 construction, with Banister setting up its field office for Spread 6 at Moosomin.

MOTELS BUSY

Josef Tesar owns the Motel 6 in Moosomin. He says the pipeline work has been a boon to the area.

"It has been extremely good for all the southeast of Saskatchewan in every aspect of business," he said, "not only in our industry but in every industry it's very good."

"I hope something similar happens in the future with Energy East and in the potash industry because it has been an extreme boom for southeast Saskatchewan."

"Our occupancy is the highest in three years—since the mine expansion. We have had to hire extra staff, so in our industry it creates extra full-time employment."

He said occupancy varies but the local hotels are generally close to full.

"Some days it's 100 per cent, some days 90 per cent," he said. "Some pipeliners would like to stay continuously for two or three months, but sometimes that's not possible because of weekend bookings for sports tournaments and other functions. Some of those bookings were made a year ago."

"There are other nights we call for our customers, try to accommodate them, and there are no rooms available until Brandon, and the other way right to Regina."

He said some of the pipeliners are booked right through to March.

STORES BUSY

Stores such as Pharmasave Pharmacy and Glasser's TV Service have extended their hours to accommodate the pipeliners, staying open until 9 pm Wednesdays.

Darcy Rambold, owner of the Pharmasave, said he is seeing a lot of pipeliners in his extended hours.

"Anybody who does come in, in those hours is not local people, three quarters of them are the pipeliners," he said.

"It's a service to those guys because for a lot of them that's the only time that they can shop, and it gives them that opportunity to come in, and I don't mind doing it because when companies like Enbridge or Banister are working in the area, that's just good for the community as a whole."

"I don't mind extending what I do to help them out a little bit."

MLA SEES HUGE IMPACT

Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk says pipelines have a huge impact on the economy of the province.

"The pipeline industry is extremely important to Saskatchewan. The oil and gas sector, the energy sector in Saskatchewan is a huge part of our economy," he said.

"It's the hope of our government that we do see more pipeline projects in our future. As you know, we are currently taking quite a discounted price for our products because we don't have market access. We don't have enough pipeline capacity. We would sure like to increase that, on the part of the government of Saskatchewan, what we are trying to do to increase investor confidence is to have stable, predictable regulation so that businesses know this is a good place to invest."

"Most of the headwinds we're facing right now are external headwinds. They're not really generated in the province, so our province is very busy advocating, and I would say reasonably effectively, on behalf of private industry, with the federal government and the NEB for instance so pipelines can be built and regulations can be simplified and streamlined."

He said he has heard a lot of positive comments about the Line 3 replacement and its impact.

"I hear nothing but support for the project," he said. "I think people realize it's a huge part of our economy and we need to get our product safely to market. That's been a concern and problem for far too long."

"The oil and gas sector adds just under \$1 billion of revenue to our province each year, so it's quite a driver in our economy. That's just royalties and crown lease sales."

"There is over \$4.5 billion in new exploration in Saskatchewan, so it's a lot of money circulating in the economy because of the oil and gas sector, so we will do anything we can to support it."

Bonk grew up near a pipeline, so the current Line 3 construction is nothing new to him.

"Two hundred yards north of our farmyard is the main TransCanada line, so growing up, I saw the process up close and personal many times. It's amazing to see—there's a lot to it."

HOUSING AUTHORITY MAKES ROOM

To help accommodate pipeliners in Moosomin, the Moosomin Housing Authority has made some units available to them.

The units made available for pipeliners are in addition to any units needed for social housing, after a request from the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce.

As of June 1, the housing authority had 20 vacant units and decided to make 10 of them available for pipeliners. With additional demand, a total of 13 units are now occupied by pipeliners. The board agreed that they have to look after social housing first, but because the authority had some units that were sitting empty, the board decided that if they can offer these to pipeliners and fill them, it helps them by keeping the pipeliners in the local area, it helps the authority by keeping our units full, and it helps the taxpayers because of the income from those units.

The income from the pipeline rentals will help the housing authority's bottom line.

The Moosomin Housing Authority often makes a profit, and returns the income to its owners—the local and provincial governments.

From July to December of 2018, the housing authority estimates it will take in \$40,000 in additional income because of the pipeliners.

The Moosomin Housing Authority is run by a local board of directors made up of Ron Farkas, Ray Norgan, Kevin Weedmark, Darcy Rambold, and Don Middleton.

POSITIVE IMPACTS WIDESPREAD

Kevin Weedmark of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce says the positive impacts of having the Line 3 replacement project construction in the area are widespread.

"People see the obvious impacts of having the pipeliners in town—the restaurants are full, the guys are filling up with gas, they're taking their trucks for oil changes, the food stores are very busy when the pipeliners get off work, the hotels are full. Then there are the less obvious business impacts that people wouldn't see. In my own business, the newspaper and printing business, we have seen a lot of additional printing business—everything from landowner agreements to construction maps of the right-of-way because of the pipeline."

"Then there are the other impacts. So many people have rented rooms or suites to the pipeliners, and all those people have that extra income, which circulates through the local economy. Some people spent a little bit earlier this year fixing up rooms getting them ready to rent out. Everything like that has an impact on the economy of a community like Moosomin."

"Besides all those economic impacts that help individuals and businesses, we see the pipeliners coming out to some of our local fundraisers, and we see contributions like sponsorships of local events and the major donations that Enbridge made to communities throughout the area."

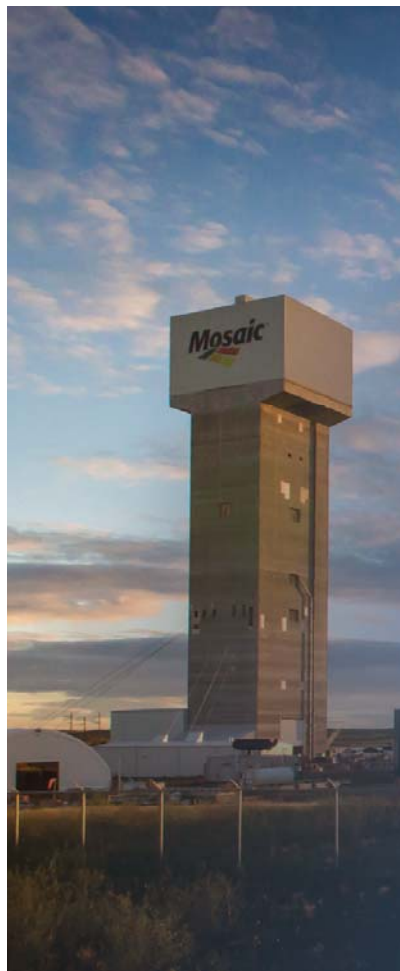
Weedmark said the local business community realizes that Moosomin is fortunate to have the Spread 6 field office set up in town.

"We know that we are very fortunate to have the pipeliners in this area—we know the impact it has."

PIPELINER APPRECIATION EVENT

To thank the pipeliners, the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce and the town of Moosomin recreation department are planning a Pipeliner Appreciation Day for Grey Cup Sunday.

Pipeliners will be invited to the Nutrien Sportsplex for a free afternoon of full use of the Sportsplex, from billiards to sports simulators. There will also be a free barbecue and Grey Cup Party featuring the game on a 30-foot screen at the Conexus MCC Centre. "This is our way of saying thanks for making our community home for a few months—and hopefully helping them feel at home," said Weedmark.



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Dennis McConaghy on Energy East

Dennis McConaghy might be the person who knows more about the Energy East proposal than anyone else.

He was the Executive Vice-President of Corporate Development at TransCanada Corporation. Previously, he was Executive Vice-President, Pipeline Strategy and Development, when Energy East was proposed.

He joined TransCanada in 1998, and held senior positions in Corporate Strategy & Development, Midstream/Divestments, and Business Development. He has more than 25 years experience in oil and gas, including responsibility for Energy East and Keystone XL. He spoke with World-Spectator/Plain and Valley editor Kevin Weedmark recently about the town and RM of Moosomin's efforts to revive Energy East.

What was your involvement with the Energy East plan when you were working with TransCanada?

I was part of the senior management team that developed the project.

I was involved with getting the requisite board approval for the project and some of the elements of the commercial underpinning for the project.

The project was going to be put together commercially between 2011 and 2013.

It was 2013 when they lined up the shippers?

That's right and that was when the first public disclosure was made that the project was really going forward. The first application could only occur in 2014. Of course that ended up taking a much longer period of time than people expected.

Why did Energy East make sense for TransCanada at that point?

Well of course one thing that you might remember is that Energy East was a project that we believed could be commercially supported at a point in time where it was still somewhat unclear whether or not Northern Gateway would proceed, and even for that matter our own KXL (Keystone XL), and so the project of course had very special attributes that were very constructive for TransCanada—pretty simply the fact that we were using un-gas lines basically all the way to Alberta to essentially North Bay, Ontario.

So it had special synergies for TransCanada and of course the fact that we were able to gain commercial shipper support for it. That additional option was something that the shippers wanted.

It would be basically an additional option to achieve market access for Western Canadian shippers.

Even though when you look at the map it's going all the way from Alberta to even to St. John, New Brunswick, and that's a lot of geography, it needs to be remembered that well over half of it was utilizing existing pipe.

At that time was that a pipe that was totally unused? Was there one pipe in the right-of-way that wasn't being used at all and that was the plan to switch it over to oil?

Basically that pipe was not being used. Because of the evolution of gas markets in North America there was significant idle gas capacity, some of which had already been converted to oil use for base Keystone—the portion of Keystone pipeline that today runs from



The proposal for Energy East included a tank farm at Moosomin.

Alberta to essentially Winnipeg and then due south down to the Gulf Coast.

But there was more idle pipe. These are gas pipelines that were part of the traditional TransCanada mainline system. You could take any gas line that was in service for gas out of that purpose and convert it to crude oil.

In 2013 you held the open season, you got the contracts and the shippers' interest at that point. Based on the way things had gone in the past, what sort of time line were you thinking that you had for regulatory approval?

I can tell you back in 2013 people still had a fair amount of confidence in the Canadian regulatory system, so the expectation was that within somewhere between 24 and 36 months we could complete the regulatory process and get on with building things after that.

Keep in mind it's very difficult to do a regulatory process on the scale of Energy East or even Northern Gateway or even TransMountain given that to do the regulatory process you have to spend one year really doing a whole amount of field work to ensure that you have a baseline to measure potential environmental impacts from.

You have to make that assessment, collect that data, put it together, submit it and then start the hearing process. But two to three years was the approximate time line that you're looking at.

Before it ever got to the point of the parameters being changed again, was that process starting to drag much longer than it had in the past?

It was kind of a series of problems. In late 2014 TransCanada decided to change the scope of the project by eliminating the terminal that had been planned for Cocouna at the mouth of the St. Lawrence in Quebec.

That was because of an assessment on the impact on the beluga whale population, especially in terms of their breeding because of the construction that was going to occur at that point.

Because of the issue with the Belugas, TransCanada started to worry that they would not actually be able to achieve regulatory approval while including that terminal in Quebec.

Because of that, there was a fundamental change in the scope of the project going into 2015, in which the terminus of the project was going to go all the way to St. John. There was some delay that was necessitated because of that rescoping.

Then of course there was the unfortunate situation that occurred after 2015 where the NEB panel had a conversation with one person who at that time had some affiliation with TransCanada as one of their political lobbyists.

That caused the panel to have to be recused and another panel appointed in its place. That added time.

There were other complications about the NEB's demands for not only translation of the application but also some other issues related to its complexity, because there was also not only Energy East pipeline, but there were also filings related to impacts on gas consumption in the province of Ontario. Because we were taking a gas line out of service there were questions about how gas supply for distribution to customers in Ontario might be impacted.

All of that added to the complexity.

It caused the actual acceptance of the filing to get pushed out in time.

Then there was a fiasco in the opening of one of the hearings in Montreal with inadequate security, and that hearing had to be delayed.

A new panel was installed into late 2016 and then that panel decided in 2017 to engage in a fundamental rescoping, that is to say a new consideration of certain issues principally related to carbon effects.

Adding those new considerations, by 2017 it made the prospect of TransCanada persevering with the project untenable.

So that is the litany of kind of a regulatory disfunction that kind of happened from the end of 2014 onwards.

In your opinion, having been involved in the process, was the final nail in the coffin that change in scope where they started to look at the upstream and down stream carbon emissions?

I believe it was, and I was on the record having said so. I think if I could just make one other general comment here.

When the Trudeau government came into office in late 2015, just as they were virtually elected, Barack Obama had officially rejected the KXL pipeline. Even though that was something people might have expected, that actually occurred in November 2015.

Justin Trudeau had been on the record as being against the Northern Gateway Pipeline, which in retrospect today per-

haps he wishes, as Rachel Notley does, that that project was still around.

Nevertheless, as 2016 unfolded, the Trudeau government passed a tanker ban to nullify Northern Gateway.

No one expected until late 2015 Donald Trump could be elected and the KXL pipeline could come back into play, but in fact it did actually happen, and of course we know at the end of 2016 the Trudeau government actually approved TMX and Enbridge line three.

Energy East by that time obviously had a far too long period from 2014 all the way into 2017 getting started with the regulatory process. It had hardly even started because there had been so many pitfalls relating to the rescoping and the recusal.

It was an open question within TransCanada whether to continue with the permitting process because getting the permit had value to them and also had value to those shippers, and of course in today's circumstances when you've got further delays on other projects because of an inadequate consultation it would be a useful

option to have. It is my view that rescoping decision by that second panel—a panel largely of people who were not significantly experienced as energy regulators on the scale that was traditionally associated with these projects—that was the last straw.

What are your thoughts on the town and RM of Moosomin's idea?

I think what has to play out first is where the Keystone XL goes. We still won't know that until one last court case in Nebraska is resolved, and that won't be resolved until early next year.

We also need to see whether or not the federal government can deal with the federal court of appeals issues in respect to the TransMountain approval and get that project back to construction.

Another concern is, I'm not sure any private sector capital will take on the risk of bill C69. It is the federal government's new piece of legislation in which would enshrine some of the same issues that were imposed on the rescoping of Energy East.

That includes up stating carbon effects, subjective measures on sustainability, considerations related to gender, related to Indigenous impacts, alternatives etc.

All of that with a hearing process now that is even more open ended, more inclusive without any real standards on efficiency.

C69 I think is a poison pill for any private sector capital taking on projects at that scale now.

That's not to say that there aren't some entrepreneurs who may want to take that on, but keep this in mind—can you actually do a filing on the scale on an Energy East sized project? You're talking about literally hundreds of millions of dollars that have to be at risk.

And the other question is can you actually get through the Canadian regulatory process?

If KXL and TMX were to actually start construction, Energy East would be needed by the end of the next decade in any case. If one of those projects doesn't go ahead, it would be more important to have Energy East back on the table sooner.

In the long term do you still think it makes sense?

Depending on what happens with some of the other projects, I would conceive there would be some reconsideration potentially of the project, but C69 will be a formidable barrier for private sector capital taking on that risk of project development.



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Shifty Morgan marks 25 years

Continued from front

Anthony: A venue like Casino Regina show lounge is a real top shelf, class venue to perform in. They treated us great and we played a couple openings there, but a highlight Vern's referring to is the Ian Tyson show that we opened for. Getting to meet a country music legend like that is pretty awesome.

How do you make connections and promote yourself in the country music world?

Anthony: I don't know if it has changed very much over the years but basically you play a lot and you just keep knocking on doors.

Vern: You get out there and you plug away.

Anthony: We go to events like the Saskatchewan Country Music Association weekend is kind of where we started it and then you go to industry events like that and the Canadian Country Music Association Awards weekend and get to know folks, get to know the musicians. You get invited to play at things and you just keep knocking on doors.

How busy is life as a band? Most weekends do you guys have a gig or most weekends throughout the summer?

Anthony: Over the last few years we have definitely tapered down—let's put it that way—but there was a time when we were quite busy and we were going all the time.

Vern: In the years after the album was released we were doing a lot of shows. These gigs are fewer and farther between now but the three-night bar and casino gigs—we did a lot of that in that 2003-2005 time frame when the songs were on the radio and we were promoting an album.

Anthony: It also depends a lot on the

time of the year as well your January, February it's usually kind of slow but in the summer months there was definitely times where we were booked every weekend and when this isn't your full time gig that can make things a little hectic juggling family schedules and things like that.

How did that work when you had young kids and were out on the road so much? It must have been a big challenge.

Anthony: Really good wives.

Blake: Well some of the gigs like the festivals we were at Craven and things like that the wives came along and that made it a getaway for all of us not just the band members so I'm sure my two youngest my daughter Megan when she was less than a year old was tenting at Craven behind the beer gardens and my son was in a camper we were changing his diaper another year at Craven so I mean if you got the support of the family then it makes it that much easier.

Is it a lot of work to keep up your skills as a band? Do you do a lot of rehearsals?

Anthony: There certainly was a time when we rehearsed very regularly especially in the early years right we were still learning musicians and building our skills and weekly rehearsals were the norm for the first few years for sure but after you get playing enough the playing kind of becomes the rehearsals and you end up you know kind of learning songs on the fly and rehearsing at sound check a little bit and that's the great thing about playing at three night shows like what Vern was talking about in a casino or a bar you get three nights in a row to play that tune and maybe a matinee in the afternoon and the sound check and so you can learn songs pretty quick once you get playing lots but these days the set list we

still like to add in a few tunes now and then but we are doing pretty good if we get together once a year for a practice these days.

What do you hope that people take away from your shows?

Anthony: It all just depends on the show I mean obviously if you're hired for a private event like a wedding for instance you just want to make sure that they're getting the music that they want for there event so you to that but if it's a Shifty Morgan performance show really what we want the audience to come away with is just the enjoyment of listening to skilled musicians playing music that they enjoy playing and hopefully they through us feel some of that joy and go away humming a melody that stuck with them.

Vern: Yes especially the original material.

What has kept the bank going for 25 years? What is your motivation? I know that there are a lot of bands that play for a few years then think you know what I don't have time for this or what ever. What keeps you guys going? What makes you guys want to keep the band together?

Blake: As a musician you always want it is part of your creative outlet for one thing to perform and there still is that high I guess from playing to a receptive audience when the audience is into it I mean we just did a show in Lemburg as our first anniversary show and it was a very small venue with only about 50 people there but we could tell that they enjoyed it and at the end of the night we were looking around at the rest of the guys in the band and yeah great show that was lots of fun really glad that we did it. Really we play for free and we set up and tear down what we get paid for. I mean the playing we do is what we do for our personal enjoyment.

Vern: Playing with good friends too. I mean that's what keeps it together. We all get a long we are all in similar situations we get a long well and that makes it that

much easier.

Anthony: Yeah I don't think we would be doing it 25 years later if we weren't all getting along.

Have you guys done a lot of original music over the years?

Anthony: We put out an album in 2003, so at the time, you bet we were doing lots of that original music. And prior to that our first sort of recording of original music came out and about in '97. It was a four-song recording at that time, and so that is when we kind of started doing our original music. The album came out in '03, and then I had an album that came out in about '05, '06 somewhere in there, and so the band did some of that original music too. We have always tried to keep some of the original music in the sets.

What is more fun to play—the original songs or the covers?

Vern: That depends on the crowd. If the crowd is there to hear original music like that Lemberg show or some of the festival gigs we did like that main stage at Craven or being an opening act for another recording act, then that is what we'll play.

It really depends on what the crowd is there to see.

If you are playing a rodeo they are not quite as receptive to the original stuff, they are just more of a party crowd.

Anthony: Like Blake mentioned, when the crowd is into it that stuff is fun to play too.

Basically anything that is on our set list now we have fun playing, that is why it is still there.

If we are not having fun playing it, it pretty quickly slides off the set list.

What does the future hold for Shifty Morgan?

Anthony: I think we've got no reason to stop taking bookings at this point.

We're not out there really promoting it but we are quite happy to play any shows as long as people are happy to keep coming and listening. We will be taking on any bookings that come our way.




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Eyre sees bright future for resource industries

Continued from Page 29

Another big industry around here is the pipelines. Does the province have a role in encouraging other pipeline projects to move forward. Is there a role for the province there?

Well absolutely, and we've tried to do everything we can to get other projects online. As you know Northern Gateway was something that died on the order on paper as it were, and Energy East I know there has been some movement around trying to get that going again in terms of the National Energy Board queue. It is a little further back I guess in terms of that project, and there is some further distractions in terms of other projects that they've got going on that maybe will take slight priority. But certainly we as a province have tried to do everything that we can with former premier Wall of course and the current premier, and I am certainly trying in my role to do everything we can to lobby for these projects to get product to tide water. If the federal government can't build pipelines—I mean we lost over \$200 million in royalties last year alone and that would be \$500 million if the current differential continued for a year, industry cost to industry would be \$7.4 billion. So this differential is unsustainable, it was unsustainable before. Just in the sense of economic impact it's very substantial, and of course that is money for hospitals and roads and social services and people in jobs and investment, and so we need to do everything we can to continue to try and get those projects built, but of course it's not only up to us,

that's the terrible dilemma.

What would be your advice to the Town of Moosomin and RM of Moosomin, and a local committee trying to bring Energy East to national attention again?

I've spoken on this before. I know Moosomin and the former reeve has been active, and again all these on the ground efforts are to be commended and everything we can do and anything anyone can do to mobilize and lobby for a pipeline project, we completely support. As I say there, are in terms of Keystone XL and on other projects on the go for them, and the National Energy Board, my understanding is that was withdrawn by them simply because I think they were daunted by all the headwinds that they were facing. But still, absolutely by all means, no one should never say never, we have a new government in Ontario, we have a new government in Quebec, and political winds can change and the views about projects can change, and so of course we are supportive. It would be very significant if we could get some of our other provincial partners interested in looking at that project again, and it is all good—pipelines in any direction.

The oil industry around here in southeast Saskatchewan from here right down to Estevan is much quieter than it was two and three years ago. What do you think all of the issues are there and how do you think those could be addressed?

Well we are looking a lot of different things, potential incentives. I was on a tour of the southwest in August

and down in the southeast in September and I've talked a lot to operators on the ground, in industry, in corporate Calgary, but also as I say on the ground in some of these communities, and I've tried to canvass from them what might incentivize things, and we've got some good ideas from people.

We know there are issues with getting some of the junior oil companies back in the game and getting people who are previously involved in this sector and employed by this sector, in some cases reattracted back to the sector. And no wonder, because of the down turn and being a bit spooked—reattracting them to the center.

But we are looking at everything we possibly can. It is a perfect storm in terms of not being able to build a pipeline, and that's the federal government and the deregulation that we're seeing south of the border, and all the regulatory threats that we're also seeing from our federal government that hurt our industry and hurt the sector. So in the midst of all of that and despite all of that, we have got to try and stay positive and do absolutely everything we can just to reincentivize the sector and to retain our competitive edge in Saskatchewan.

Do you have anything specific in mind for reincentivizing sector?

Well as I say, we are looking at a number of options now just in terms of potential incentives and that sort of thing, and so I will leave that for now just because there are a number of things we're doing and considering at the moment.

SaskEnergy rate reduction to lowest level in 19 years could be wiped out by federal carbon tax

Starting Nov. 1, Saskatchewan homeowners and businesses will see their natural gas rates reduced. However, the savings may be only temporary if the federal carbon tax is imposed on SaskEnergy customers.

SaskEnergy's commodity rate drops from \$3.65/Gigajoule (GJ) to \$2.95/Gigajoule (GJ) today, which is the lowest rate offered to customers since 1999. SaskEnergy has applied to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel for an even lower rate of \$2.65/GJ, which would come into effect on April 1, 2019. The government of Saskatchewan approved SaskEnergy's request for an interim November 1 rate to allow customers to take advantage of lower rates during the peak winter heating season.

"One of the largest commodity rate reductions in SaskEnergy's 30-year history could be short-lived, due to the Trudeau government's plan to impose a fuel levy this spring on every home, farm, and business served

by natural gas," Minister responsible for SaskEnergy Bronwyn Eyre said. "While SaskEnergy has been able to pass along savings this winter, the corporation could be forced into several years of large, uncalled-for increases due to the federal carbon tax."

Eyre said the total SaskEnergy rate reduction is designed to save customers about \$80/year, while the federal carbon tax will see a \$1/GJ increase April 1, 2019. This would increase an average residential natural gas bill by approximately 12 per cent or \$100-\$120 annually.

SaskEnergy's rate application includes both the commodity rate reduction to \$2.65/GJ, as well as a modest delivery service rate increase of 3.7 per cent, which will fund safety and system integrity programs.

SaskEnergy is currently analyzing the impact of the federal carbon tax on its internal operations to determine whether it will need to amend its delivery service rate application.



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26 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
28 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
30 FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11:30 A.M.
DECEMBER 2018		
3 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
5 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
10 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
12 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
14 FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11:30 A.M.
17 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
19 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
24 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
26 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
28 FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11:30 A.M.
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Organic experts offer tips to get into robust sector

BY OWEN ROBERTS

A new era of opportunity dawned for organic producers in the late summer, when the federal government and industry announced an unprecedented \$12-million commitment to organic agriculture research and development.

The support is expected to help producers ramp up on-farm management for the growing domestic and export interest in home-grown organic food.

That's now prompting questions from producers who want to know how they can get ready to take part in a more robust, research-based sector.

Organic consultant Joel Aitken says that starts with understanding the current market and growth areas, both of which are vibrant.

"Millennials are buying a lot of organic products

as are people across all income and education brackets, so the demand looks to only be growing at this point," Aitken says. "As our Canadian organic sector matures there is plenty of domestic demand and not enough domestic supply of just about everything."

COMMODITY PRICES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER

According to Pivot and Grow, a program of the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative, premiums for organic commodities can be substantial.

For example, in September, premiums for all but one of the two-dozen organic grains grown on the Canadian Prairies exceeded at least 100 per cent of the conventional equivalent price.

For some crops, the dif-

ference was exceptional. At 98 cents per pound, black lentils were fetching a 582 per cent premium over their conventional counterpart.

Gold flax, at \$38 a bushel, commanded a 304 per cent premium. The price for durum wheat was \$19.25 a bushel, a 335 per cent premium over conventional. And organic soybeans, depending on whether they were feed grade or food grade, sold for a 200 to 300 per cent premium on the Prairies and in Ontario.

STRONG BUSINESS CASE FOR ORGANIC CROPS

"The business case in terms of strong demand and profitability has been pretty consistent," says Rob Wallbridge, organic specialist at Thompsons Limited.

Continued on Page 42

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Organic experts offer tips to get into robust sector

Continued from page 41 Eastern Canada is seeing significant expansion too, in import replacement such as corn and soy, as well as in organic processing vegetables.

Wallbridge says advances in mechanical weed control and reduced tillage technologies, along with the introduction of new soil amendments and biological inputs, are giving organic growers more effective management options than ever before.

On a smaller scale, he points to growers experimenting with niche crops like sunflowers, flax and camelina, along with malting barley and hops.

ery aspect of your operation.

For example, timing in organic production is more important for everything from planting through weed control and harvest, he says, so monitoring field conditions is critical.

And unfortunately, good data and price discovery mechanisms are rare. That means marketing is more work. Wallbridge advises working out a plan that addresses equipment requirements and fertility needs over a three- or four-year rotation as a good first step in the transition process.



ORGANIC COMPLIANCE REQUIRES HOMEWORK Laura Northey, communications and membership manager for the Organic Council of Ontario,

urges producers to read and understand the Canadian Organic Standard as it applies to their opera-

tion, or hire a consultant to make sure they're compliant.

An unexpected non-compliance - the term used to indicate that an operation has departed from the organic standard - can be hard to recover from, she adds, but is usually completely avoidable.

She suggests producers check in regularly with organic grower organizations in their province or region, as well as the national Canadian Organic Growers. Most groups offer courses and webinars to help organic producers succeed.

And, she says, keep diversity in mind.

"Diversity is not only a principle of ecology that makes for healthier ecosystems; it's also a smart business move," she says. "Diversifying the crops you cultivate can mean the difference between survival and overwhelming loss when you are faced with crop failure."

BOTTOM LINE

Supply, demand and knowledge mobilization is working in favour of producers interested in delving into organic.

DEMAND FOR ORGANIC LIVESTOCK DRIVING FEED SECTOR

Organic consultant Aitken likewise sees increased markets for organic vegetables for processing, as well as wine grapes, hogs and poultry.

"With the increase in livestock, there is a huge need for feed grains, and not just corn and soybeans," Aitken says. "I'm seeing people screen their crops to sell the best portion for the human market, and then still get very good prices for the screenings into the feed market."

So what should producers considering organic production expect?

ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS MORE 'HANDS ON'

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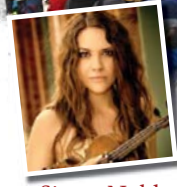
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