



MEET MARG MCCUAIG-BOYD, ALBERTA'S NEW ENERGY MINISTER

Cabinet member has much more experience in education than energy. She's not a household name, but Marg McCuaig-Boyd is now one of the most important cabinet ministers in Rachel Notley's new NDP government in Alberta.

McCuaig-Boyd was named energy minister on Sunday and has a big job ahead of her.

She lacks any direct experience working in the oil and gas industry. By profession, she was a teacher and administrator with the Peace River School Division. After decades in the school system, she worked as a vice-president with the Grande Prairie Regional College in the town of Fairview, about 80 kilometres west of Peace River in northern Alberta.

Before her successful election campaign for the NDP in the riding of Dunvegan-Central Peace, McCuaig-Boyd was semi-retired, running her own consulting company.

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real nice person," said former colleague Debie Knudsen.

The two have known each other for more than a decade, working together in several different capacities as teachers and at the local chamber of commerce, where Knudsen is now executive director.

"I thought she would be in for

something with education because of her background," Knudsen said. "But then I thought about it and energy is what's really driving northern Alberta and she is from the north."

Geography may have been the reason why McCuaig-Boyd was given the energy portfolio. It's no secret oil and gas is the predominant economic driver in

the northern part of the province, followed by agriculture and forestry.

"So exciting that it is someone from the north," Knudsen said. "A lot of people from Calgary and Edmonton have no clue who we are or what we are up here."

McCuaig-Boyd is well known in her community, as is her

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- * Exhibitor Setup - All Day
- Golf Tournament - Exhibitors & Platinum Sponsors**
- 6:30 AM Morning Golf Registration & Breakfast
- 7:30 AM Morning Flight Shot Gun Start
- 12:00 PM Afternoon Golf Registration & Luncheon
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Flight Shot Gun Start
- ** Courtesy Rides for Golfers - Sponsored by Baker Hughes**
- 7:00 PM Steak or Lobster Dinner - Sponsored by Gilliss Casing Services
- 11:00 Grounds Closed - Security Sponsored by ARC Resources Ltd.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD, 2015

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM SHOW HOURS

- * 12:00 PM Luncheon Sponsored by Grimes Sales & Service - A Schlumberger Company
- * 12:30 PM Guest Speaker - Hon. Bill Boyd - Minister of the Economy
- * 1:00 PM 2015 Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Recognition Awards Oilman of the Year & Hall of Fame Inductees - Presented by the Board of Governors
- * 7:00 PM Prime Rib Dinner - Sponsored by the City of Weyburn
- * 8:00 PM Opening Ceremonies - Guest Speakers Hon. Ken Krawetz and Mayor Debra Button
- * 8:30 PM SE Sask. Oilman of the Year Awards - Presented by Weyburn Oilshow Board
- * 11:00 PM Grounds Closed Sponsored by ARC Resources Ltd.

THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, 2015

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM SHOW HOURS

- * 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Barnstorming Breakfast Sponsored by PSAC
- * 10:30 - 11:00 AM - PSAC Information Session by Invitation Only
- * 12:00 PM Industry Luncheon Sponsored by Crescent Point Energy
- * 12:30 PM Industry Guest Speaker - John Gormley - Sponsored by ALCHEM Drilling Fluid Services



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husband — a farmer in the area. The NDP ran on a platform to raise corporate taxes from 10 per cent to 12 per cent and conduct a review of oil and gas royalties. The change in government created immediate fear and uncertainty in the energy sector. But several CEOs have said they look forward to working with the new government. After she was sworn in on Sunday, McCuaig-Boyd told reporters the energy industry has nothing to worry about. "My door's going to be open. It's all going to be open and transparent as we move along," she said. During her time at Grande Prairie Regional College, McCuaig-Boyd worked with the local energy industry to ensure students were

properly trained to meet the needs of employers, according to college president Don Gnatiuk. "I was surprised," said Gnatiuk about McCuaig-Boyd being named energy minister. "But in terms of competency and a brilliant mind, I bet she'll do just fine." Gnatiuk has known McCuaig-Boyd for about six years and describes her as a champion of education and her community. Another colleague offering praise was Anita Luck, who got to know the new MLA when McCuaig-Boyd taught her sons 30 years ago. "She's a hard worker and has lots of integrity," said Luck, who believes McCuaig-Boyd will be successful in her new position. "This is a clean slate so to speak. There isn't a whole lot of experience in the cabinet, so I

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think we will all have to wait and see." During the election campaign, McCuaig-Boyd voiced her opinion about some issues facing the province. During a debate, she said she would be an advocate to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and she is in favour of bringing in a progressive tax, as well as looking at corporate tax structures, according to the Fairview Post. When asked how she would diversify the province, she responded by admitting it's a question she had not been briefed on. In March, when she became the NDP candidate in her riding, she spoke about the need for Alberta to wean itself off oil and gas revenues. "I think we have to come up with a system where it's not going to be fluctuating every time the oil

and gas prices go up and down," she told the Fairview Post. "In my whole lifetime, that's all I remember, I've been through these things a few times, the up and down and I think it's just wrong."

ALBERTA FOREST FIRE FORCES EVACUATION OF OILSANDS FACILITIES

Cenovus and CNRL shut down operations as precautionary move. Cenovus Energy and Canadian Natural Resources Limited have evacuated their facilities within the Cold Lake Air Weapons range, close to Alberta's eastern border, due to an out-of-control forest fire in the area. "Yesterday, CNRL evacuated their plant facilities in the Primrose area and then, last night at 11 o'clock, we

advised Cenovus in Foster Creek that it would be a good precautionary move to evacuate their personnel as well," said Leslie Lozinski, spokeswoman for the provinces environmental and resource ministry.

Cenovus evacuated their facilities at Foster Creek because the fire threatened the only road out, which would have made any evacuation of the facility difficult.

Rhona Delfrari, spokeswoman for the company, said there were approximately 1,800 staff on site last night before the evacuation started early Saturday morning. By the afternoon, only a handful of staff were left over to shut down the plant before escaping by helicopter.

"As far as we know right now, there is no threat from the fire to our facilities, it was more about the road being blocked off from the fire," said Delfrari.

CNRL's operations in the area are closer to the fire.

Scott Stauth, the company's vice-president for North American operations said they have shut down "almost all of our operations, but we still have our main facility, which is not in the weapons range, we still have it manned and operating."

Some staff was moved on Friday night and others followed suit on Saturday.

Stauth said none of the facilities are directly threatened by the fire at this time but the company is monitoring the situation.

As for an entire facility being engulfed by flames, Stauth says it's unlikely. The facilities are built far from the

tree lines, Stauth said. "So we're not anticipating that our facilities would get taken over by flames, just because there's no vegetation anywhere near the facilities."

Ministry officials are in contact with all companies operating in the area of the fire, but Lozinski could not provide a number on how many facilities could be affected.

The fire, engulfing 4,000 hectares as of Saturday afternoon, is currently categorized as "out of control" thanks to hot, dry conditions. It is heading in both a northwest and southerly direction.

BIG OIL TO RACHEL NOTLEY: BRING ON A CARBON TAX

Industry and green groups are talking to Alberta's new government. Turns out they want the same thing

Big Oil is urging Alberta's new government to toughen up the province's environmental policies.

To hear an oil industry chieftain advocate for a carbon tax, as Suncor's Steve Williams did in front of a downtown Calgary crowd on Friday, may feel incongruous, but consider who those comments were directed to — the NDP — and the situation takes on a tinge of the surreal.

It's the latest sign of how much the political landscape has shifted in Alberta, as well as the global discussion about climate change.

"We think climate change is happening," Williams, Suncor's

chief executive, told reporters. "We think a broad-based carbon price is the right answer."

On its own, an NDP election win would seem to imply that Alberta's environmental policy is about to grow some real teeth. Line that up with a panel discussion — involving an environmental think-tank, voices from Suncor and Cenovus, two of Canada's largest oil companies, and former Tory finance minister Jim Dinning — that was described as a "love in" by the moderator and serious reform in Alberta looks to be a fait accompli.

Alberta's current carbon strategy includes charging large industrial polluters \$15 a tonne for emissions over a set amount, through a plan known as the specified gas emitters regulation (SGER).

Adopted in 2007, the regulation made the province the first North American jurisdiction to set a price on carbon. More recently, the specifics of the plan have been roundly criticized for being too lax to make a meaningful dent in overall emissions.

The question now is whether premier-designate Rachel Notley's new government will choose to make the plan more stringent or, perhaps, move toward a broad-based carbon tax that would start charging everyday Albertans for emissions, alongside industry.

The emissions regulation is set to expire at the end of June. Whether the new government is ready to take more aggressive policy steps at that time or if it opts to proceed more

methodically, a consensus is forming that the timing of an overhaul will be marked in months, not years.

In backing the idea of a carbon tax, Suncor's Williams repeatedly noted that since 80 per cent of emissions come at the point of combustion, any strategy trying to take on climate change must include end users — people turning ignition switches and flipping on lights at home.

It's a message that puts the oilsands giant on the same page as green groups such as the Pembina Institute. Although aligned with the environmental lobby, however, Suncor has different stakes to consider.

Whether it's a carbon tax in British Columbia or the cap-and-trade system adopted by Ontario and Quebec, each province is taking its own approach to the climate change fight based on its emissions profile.

As Williams notes, globally 80 per cent of emissions may come from the end user, but that's not so in Alberta.

The province's large industrial base, which includes power generators and oilsands mines, accounts for half of greenhouse gas emissions. It's why Alberta is responsible for more than a third of Canada's emissions, despite having only 11 per cent of the country's population. The current emissions regulation may be flawed, but it was tailored to target Alberta's large industrial emitters.

Should a call for a broad-based carbon tax from Suncor, itself a large industrial emitter, raise any eyebrows? While the company isn't

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a disinterested third party, Chris Ragan, an economist at McGill and chair of Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, which organized the panel, doesn't think so.

"I don't see a conflict, a conflict would be if someone heading up an oil and gas company were to say do this to consumers, not on me at all, that would be a conflict," Ragan said. "He's not saying that at all. He's saying do this on all of us. Get us but get everybody because we're all the same."

Rare as it is for an oil company to call for a carbon tax, rarer still in this age of partisanship is hearing the oil industry, the environmental lobby and business groups sing from the same song book about the need for that tax.

"I think it is a good thing when we have messages across the room echoing the same thing," Amin Asadollahi, Pembina's director of oilsands research, said after speaking on the panel. "It should send a clear signal to politicians that industry and environmental groups are ready to move forward on a more effective policy. That's a good thing."

B.C. GOES LONG WITH LNG BID

Opposition politicians were outraged over the B.C. government's latest effort to secure its first major liquefied natural gas deal, announced last week.

Premier Christy Clark, Natural Gas Development Minister Rich Coleman and Finance Minister Mike de Jong signed agreements

with Pacific Northwest LNG for a long-term gas royalty structure that could run for 30 years.

The government says the deal guarantees minimum royalty revenue for the province, while the investors increase their revenue if the spread between gas prices in North America and Asia increases during the term.

Pacific Northwest is a partnership of some of the biggest investors and gas customers: Malaysian state giant Petronas, its Canadian subsidiary Progress Energy, Chinese state firm Sinopec, Indian Oil Corp. and Japan Petroleum.

These corporate giants will review a project development agreement, and if they approve, Clark will convene the legislature to approve changes that would compensate them if the new LNG income tax increases.

Environmental changes such as a "discriminatory" carbon tax increase or greenhouse gas regulations on LNG would also trigger compensation. Future changes to general carbon tax or corporate income tax rates would not.

NDP leader John Horgan warned that "too much lolly" is being offered, with no word of job guarantees for B.C. or a deal with First Nations at the proposed site near Prince Rupert.

"My biggest concern is that we're tying the hands of future governments because a desperate government made commitments that they over-promised on and now they want to get a deal at any cost," Horgan said.

Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver called it "shocking and irresponsible,"

repeating his prediction that the global market is swimming in gas and will never support huge green-field projects across B.C.

For the investors, it's like a mortgage. There are "subjects" to be removed before the deal closes, and this is a proposed \$36 billion mortgage for pipelines, LNG processing and shipping facilities.

This isn't just a political dispute. For example, Progress has drilled about 500 gas wells in northeastern B.C., and Petronas took it over with this development in mind. Without exports, B.C.'s whole gas industry is looking at a bleak future of low prices and demand.

Petronas delayed its investment decision to this year and cited exactly these concerns, certainty on taxation and royalties beyond the election cycle. With that in hand, their obstacles remain federal environmental approval and a revenue sharing deal with a First Nation to host a terminal.

Pacific Northwest CEO Michael Culbert notes that answers to questions posed by the Lax Kw'alaams First Nation were

submitted to federal regulators only days before they started voting on a \$1 billion share of LNG proceeds over 40 years.

The vote was a resounding no, despite a redesign that put pipelines on a suspension bridge over the most sensitive salmon habitat. Culbert suggests that given some time to examine environmental mitigation work, that answer may change.

Does aboriginal title offer a veto over projects like this? According to the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision on the Tsilhqot'in case, the short answer is no. Objections could be overridden if governments determine a project is in the interest of the greater public.

Talks have taken place with 19 First Nations affected by pipelines and facilities, and 14 have agreed. While they continue with Lax Kw'alaams and other Tsimshian Nations on the coast, it's worth recalling that others are not so reluctant.

The Nisga'a Nation has identified four sites as suitable for LNG terminals with a shorter pipeline route to the coast as Prince Rupert.

26-May-15			
PROVINCE	ACTIVE	DOWN	TOTAL
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