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Published By: NEWS COMMUNICATIONS since 1977

Saturday November 21st, 2015

MADD CANADA AND IRVING OIL LAUNCH PROJECT RED RIBBON TO PROMOTE SOBER DRIVING IN THE ATLANTIC REGION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With travel and celebrations plentiful over the holiday season, risks caused by impaired drivers are higher than normal. To help make the holidays safer, MADD Canada and Irving Oil are teaming up to promote safe and sober driving through the 2015 Project Red Ribbon campaign.

Between November 1 and January 4, Canadians in the Atlantic Region will be encouraged to don a red ribbon as a symbol of their commitment to sober driving, and as a tribute to the thousands of Canadians who are killed and injured in impairment-related crashes each year. MADD Canada's Atlantic Region Chapters and Community Leaders will be out in their communities handing out red ribbons as a reminder to motorists and the general public of the importance of planning ahead for a sober ride home.

Every year, between 1,250 and 1,500 Canadians die in impairment-related crashes. Every one of these crashes is completely preventable. MADD Canada and Irving Oil are urging Canadians to make this holiday season free of impaired driving crashes and encourage all Canadians to follow these life-saving tips:

- Plan ahead when you know you'll be drinking.
- Take a cab or bus, arrange a designated driver or plan to stay over.
- Never drive impaired or ride with an impaired driver.
- If you see a driver you suspect is impaired, call 911 to report it to police. The call you make could save a life.

"For 28 years, MADD Canada's red ribbon has been a simple, yet powerful, symbol of the fight against impaired driving," said Susan MacAskill, MADD Canada Chapter Services Manager, Atlantic Region. "We will be out again this year, asking people to tie on a red ribbon and make a commitment to drive safe and sober this holiday season."

"Our red ribbon reminds everyone that they have the power to stop impaired driving," Ms. MacAskill said. "With Irving Oil's help, we will reach many more people with that message this holiday season."

As Official Sponsor of Project Red Ribbon, Irving Oil plays a crucial role in helping to spread the sober driving message. Irving Oil fleet vehicles, which cover between 4 to 5 million miles every year throughout Atlantic Canada and New England, feature the MADD Canada logo and red ribbon decals. Irving Oil, as a sponsor of MADD Canada for the last five years, also trains its drivers to identify and report suspected impaired drivers.

"One of the most important parts of the holidays is spending time with friends and family, and we should do everything we can to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our communities safe," says Johnny Grant, Manager of Sales and Operations for Eastern Canada at Irving Oil. "Tying one of MADD Canada's red ribbons is a small gesture that can lead to meaningful, lifesaving decisions when it comes to impaired driving

and we're proud to display the red ribbon throughout our entire fleet."

Red ribbons are available through the MADD Canada web site, Chapters and Community Leaders and select coin box partners that can be found on the MADD Canada web site. For a full list of coin box partners, please visit: http://www.madd.ca/madd2/en/services/awareness_campaigns_red_ribbon_sponsors.html. Watch for the red ribbon on social media as well, as MADD Canada encourages volunteers, members, supporters and the general public to share photos of their red ribbons with online friends and followers using #projectredribbon.

MADD Canada and Irving Oil hosted the Atlantic Region launch of Project Red Ribbon today at RCMP Headquarters in Halifax. The event welcomed several special guests, including: Halifax Deputy Mayor Matt Whitman, Halifax Regional Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais, RCMP Assistant Commissioner Brian Brennan, and other Project Red Ribbon sponsors, Allstate Insurance Company of Canada and McLeod Safety.



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"Having a driver's license is a privilege and driving while impaired is a choice," said Assistant Commission Brian Brennan, Nova Scotia RCMP Commanding Officer. "Making the choice to drive while impaired is a serious threat to road safety across Atlantic Canada. The RCMP is extremely proud to work with MADD Canada to educate and empower Atlantic Canadians to make the right choice by driving sober."

Those who wish to support Project Red Ribbon financially can donate through MADD Canada's web site. A text donation option is also available for cell phone users; simply text "MADD" to 45678 to donate \$5. The one-time donation is added to the user's cell phone bill.

The 2015 Project Red Ribbon campaign is being sponsored by: Allstate Insurance Company of Canada, Irving Oil, McLeod Safety, RTL-Westcan Group of Companies, BMO and #TAXI.

The Atlantic Region Project Red Ribbon launch also offered an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch host Chapter, MADD Halifax Regional.

"MADD Halifax Regional is very proud to reach this milestone," said Anissa Aldridge, who is a long-time Halifax Regional volunteer and former Chapter President, and currently the Atlantic Region Director on MADD Canada's National Board of Directors. "We are incredibly fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers, past and present, who

have worked hard to share the sober driving message and support victims of impaired driving. We offer our heartfelt thanks to our outstanding police partners, our generous sponsors and donors and, most especially, the people of Halifax who have supported our efforts and shared our message for 20 years."

OPEC TARGETS U.S. SHALE, BUT HITS CANADA INSTEAD

OPEC took a swing at U.S. shale and knocked down Canada.

Threatened by surging production from North America, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has been pumping above its quota for 17 months as it seeks to take market share from higher-cost regions. The resulting 60 percent price crash is hitting Alberta harder than Texas.

Canadian producers are struggling to cut the cost of extracting bitumen from the oil sands, and their other wells are failing to match the efficiency gains of U.S. rivals, a Bloomberg Intelligence analysis shows. While output keeps rising in the Permian Basin, the largest U.S. shale play, companies are slowing output from wells in Alberta and have shelved 18 oil-sands projects during the downturn, according to ARC Financial Corp.

"OPEC wants to hinder shale from its strong growth trajectory but there are higher-cost producers, such as in the oil sands of Canada, that are in the line of fire," said Peter Pulikkan,

an analyst at BI in New York. "Shale will eventually be impacted but it's not the first on the list."

New

Policy

In a policy shift a year ago, the 12-nation cartel decided against propping up oil prices, keeping its output target at 30 million barrels a day even as the supply glut worsened. It has exceeded that ceiling since June 2014 and pumped 32.2 million barrels a day in October, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

In Alberta, high extraction costs and oil price discounts relative to global benchmarks are poised to continue crimping output, Pulikkan and BI analysts Michael Kay, Gurpal Dosanjh, Andrew Cosgrove, Rob Barnett, Cheryl Wilson and William Foiles said in research published Wednesday. Production, excluding bitumen extraction, dropped about 13 percent this year through July. That compares with a roughly 19 percent increase in output from Permian wells over the same period.

"We are one of the highest-cost basins in the world," said Rafi Tahmazian, a Calgary-based fund manager at Canoe Financial LP. He predicted more job losses as Canadian producers try to save money and stay profitable with low prices. "We're constantly working to bring down those costs."

U.S. crude has plummeted from a \$107.26 closing high in New York on June 20 of last year to just above \$40 a barrel. The Canadian heavy-oil benchmark is

trading at about \$15 less than that.

Slower

Rebound

Parts of Canada's energy industry have been resilient. Existing oil-sands projects have kept production flowing and the weaker Canadian currency has helped exporters. Still, Canadian production is poised to be slower to rebound than U.S. shale in a market recovery.

New oil-sands projects require long investment lead times and the Canadian dollar will strengthen along with oil prices, eroding the currency advantage, according to Manuj Nikhanj, co-head of energy research at ITG Investment Research in Calgary. Investors are shying away from financing Alberta producers because of an increase in provincial levies, Nikhanj said in an e-mail.

There's a risk that the U.S. eats all of Canada's lunch, according to BI's Pulikkan. Producers have been awaiting higher prices to turn on a backlog of U.S. shale wells that have been drilled and capped. Once they come on stream, they could push prices back down, rendering Canadian output uncompetitive yet again, he said.

"Before they even have a chance to get off the ground, shale will likely beat them to the punch," Pulikkan said.

N.B. ENERGY MINISTER GRANTS SWN NATURAL GAS SEARCH LICENCES UNTIL 2021

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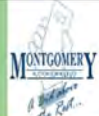
has granted SWN Resources Canada a five-year extension to their search licences in the province. SWN has 32 licences to search in the province that were set to expire in 2016, but are now scheduled to expire in 2021. They originally won the bid to explore on March 17, 2010. As a part of that winning bid, the company committed to spending \$47 million on exploration projects. The extension comes despite an almost year-old moratorium that has halted industry from fracking rock in the province.

"Extension or no extension, there's no hydraulic fracturing happening in the province of New Brunswick," said N.B. Energy Minister Donald Arseneault. "Until that moratorium is lifted, there will be no hydraulic fracturing by anyone." Arseneault had granted SWN a year-long extension in March. Since then, a change to the Oil and Natural Gas Act has allowed the Minister to grant longer extensions. Arseneault says allowing this extension is also about being legally responsible.


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"Responsible in the sense that we have to protect ourselves legally, I mean there's certain challenges that potentially may be raised," he said. "And at the same time, if the moratorium is lifted, then we have to make sure we have an industry that's there as well." For SWN, they say they're committed and hopeful their work will be able to continue in the province. The company did have plans to drill four exploratory wells, two near Rexton and two near Chipman, last spring. But in a letter from SWN's Executive Vice President of Corporate Development, Jeff Sherrick, the company said they would have to cancel those plans because of the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing, commonly

known as fracking, is a controversial method used in the extraction of shale gas. "(T)he commitment to a moratorium has forced us to suspend our drilling plans and rededicate resources to projects in other jurisdictions," the letter read. On Monday, the manager of SWN's New Brunswick Exploration project said this extension doesn't mean they have immediate plans to drill those wells, despite being technically allowed under the moratorium. "The next phase of our program is to drill stratigraphic vertical wells. The moratorium is on hydraulic fracturing but if you can't fracture the wells that we drill then there's really not much point in drilling them because that would be the follow-up step," said Chad Peters, manager of New

Brunswick Exploration with SWN. "I'm not going to presume as to what they're going to do but obviously we'd like to continue our work here and see if we can find some gas and develop wells."

Meanwhile, the hydraulic fracturing commission has been doing extensive work studying the issue.

They've met with SWN and Corridor Resources, and their report with recommendations is due in March.

"We're hopeful that the recommendations will come out some time in the new year and that government would, with those recommendations, lift the moratorium," said Joel Richardson, with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters.

"With some specific conditions to be placed on industry and communities so that we all understand what needs to be followed in order to be able to develop the resource safely and responsibly."

The provincial government has said the moratorium will not be lifted until five conditions are met.

CANADIAN LNG PLANT EXPANSION BOOSTS LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

FortisBC has announced that local workers and companies are benefiting from the expansion of its Tilbury LNG facility in Delta, British Columbia (B.C.), Canada. The CAN\$400 million expansion will meet growing demand in the transportation industry for LNG as fuel. In 2015, FortisBC has committed

over CAN\$50 million in local contracts, and is currently making use of over 100 companies in 10 different local communities. Of these 10 communities, Richmond and Delta have benefited the most. There are 32 Delta-based companies alone being utilized by FortisBC.

Jim Longo, the President of Ideal Welders Ltd (a Delta-based company working on the expansion project), said: "The downturn in the oil sands has hurt many companies across Canada.

"The FortisBC Tilbury LNG expansion is a good project; it's keeping our shop in Delta busy and allowing our staff to work close to home and contribute to B.C.'s economy."

The Mayor of Delta, Lois E. Jackson, added: "The FortisBC expansion project is creating well-paying job opportunities for people in Delta and contributing to the growth of our local economy.

It is helping to grow our skilled labour force and supports additional social and economic benefits in the community."

Bechtel Canada Co. was used as the main project contractor. The Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture (JV) was also used by FortisBC, and provides civil construction site services. Combined, the companies have approximately 95 full time staff working on the project, with 90% of that figure living locally. An additional 40 trade workers from Western Pacific Enterprises – the general contractor working on the electrical substation – were used.

Michael Mulcahy, the President and CEO of FortisBC, said: "From the beginning, we've strived to give local businesses and First Nations the opportunity to work on our Tilbury expansion project, including the early design and engineering phase, and now construction and civil work.

"Thanks to those early efforts to engage local suppliers, we have a significant number of B.C.-based companies pre-qualified and active on the project."

Bechtel's Project Manager, Roger Radabaugh, added: "We are actively working with local businesses and craft professionals to maximise their participation in this important energy project.

"We are looking forward to continued collaboration with FortisBC in delivering significant economic and employment benefits to the region."

Premier Christy Clark said: "FortisBC is proving B.C.'s LNG industry not only has the potential to create opportunities for companies and workers across the province, but that in Delta, it's already happening."

FRACKING OPPONENT CAUTIONS AGAINST LIFTING MORATORIUM

John Cherry speaks at public lecture organized by Anti-Shale Gas Alliance in Fredericton

One of Canada's top experts on the impact of shale gas extraction on the environment says it's too soon for the province to lift its moratorium on hydraulic-fracturing, known as fracking.

John Cherry is a groundwater contamination expert at the University of Guelph. He was chair of the 2014 Council of Canadian Academies report, Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada.

Cherry has been invited by the anti-shale gas alliance to give a public lecture in Fredericton on Tuesday night. He also plans to make a presentation to the provincial commission studying whether to lift the moratorium on the industry.

Speaking to Information Morning Fredericton, Cherry says there's not enough scientific research yet to justify that move.

"There hasn't been enough baseline monitoring, not enough research for governments to make a science-based opinion on that," he said.

"It would have been done in Germany, but then the Germans have banned fracking. It certainly isn't being done in the U.S. and not being done in Canada."

Hydraulic-fracturing is a method of extracting natural gas from shale rock formations beneath the earth's surface.

It involves injecting a mixture of sand, chemicals, and water or some other substance into the earth under high pressure to fracture the rock and capture natural gas that is otherwise not attainable.

Cherry says the main issue with respect to potential groundwater contamination is leaky gas. He says to extract the gas, holes are drilled down through many geological layers to puncture a gas bed. The puncture is then sealed with cement, which Cherry says is unstable.

"All oil and gas wells are prone to leaking because of cement deterioration ... it can seep into groundwater and change groundwater chemistry. So, people like me see shale gas development as basically a very large scientific experiment."

Cherry says there is major disagreement in the scientific community about this issue, which he says is typical when it comes to "immature science."

He says he will be against fracking until the science is better.

"There are no government agencies in Canada that have the expertise focused on the problem, so there's no way, I think, that the Canadian public has a reason to believe what they're told by government at any level on this topic."

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