



ilfield NEWS



Sign Up with the Oilfield News Online

www.oilfieldnews.ca

www.wilsonimmigration.com
 What Immigration, Naturalization & Citizenship
 Your gateway to a new life.
 660 Rocky Mountain Plaza, 615 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary AB
 Phone: 403.264.2923 / Fax: 403.268.5182
 Toll Free: 1-888-657-8255
 Ann Wilson, CHRP, ICCRC R421415
 (Formerly Citizenship Judge)
 ann@wilsonimmigration.com

Published By: NEWS COMMUNICATIONS since 1977

Saturday August 27th, 2016

CNRL ASKS FOR 30% PROPERTY TAX CUT, SAYS LEVIES COULD LEAD THEM TO ABANDON WELLS EARLY

Canada's largest heavy oil and natural gas producer is seeking a 30 per cent property tax break from municipal governments across Alberta, arguing the levies have

"risen to an unsustainable level" at a time of low commodity prices. Calgary-based Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. argues in letters to municipal governments that its property axes ballooned five times more than its revenues per barrel of oil equivalent from 2004 to 2014. The company says the downturn will likely diminish demand for municipalities' services and infrastructure, while

cutting their materials and contractor costs. "Despite our success in reducing overall costs, there remain too many properties where property taxes are a concern," Scott Stauth, a senior vice-president, said in a letter to the Municipal District of Willow Creek. "Increasing property taxes are likely to result in early abandonment of wells and facilities, which will reduce the assessment base, local employment and royalties." Willow Creek's council rejected Canadian Natural's request, arguing other taxpayers have suffered through dramatic declines in their industries and continued to pay their taxes in full. "We've had lots of farmers and ranchers who have gone through BSE (mad cow disease), drought, hail, and not even ask for that," Reeve Earl Hemmaway said in an interview. Still, Canadian Natural is not alone in its request for property tax relief. Perpetual Energy Inc., a Calgary-based junior oil and gas company controlled by Clayton Riddell, asked that Athabasca County reduce its tax bill to \$1, due to the diminished value of its assets. The county rejected Perpetual's request and said it should direct its concerns over the assessed value of its assets to the provincial government. Similarly, Athabasca County turned down Canadian Natural's bid for a 30 per cent tax cut.

Canadian Natural said it operates in more than 90 Alberta municipalities and began requesting the tax breaks in areas where the company is paying the most, and where taxes account for a "significant" share of its expenses. The producer said it has enjoyed some success, citing the Municipal District of Greenview, which cut its industrial mill rate by more than seven per cent in part to "assist industry during these tough economic times." The district said the cut was made possible by an unexpected increase in assessed property values. Canadian Natural warned in its letter it has shut in an estimated 1,700 wells and 50 natural gas compressors during the oil rout, with plans to shut in another 600 wells and 20 natural gas compressors by the end of the year. "In evaluating properties to determine whether to shut in further production, the primary consideration will be high costs, including the

property tax burden," Stauth wrote.

Canadian Natural hasn't laid off any workers to cope with the oil price rout, though it has reduced salaries for senior management and staff. The company said it cut operating expenses by more than \$1 billion, and is looking for further cuts this year. Steve Upham, reeve of the County of St. Paul northeast of Edmonton, said his council rejected Canadian Natural's request about six months ago on the grounds the company had not cut its dividend to shareholders.

Upham said the firm has made the same request a second time, though he doesn't believe the result will be different. "Until we see a significant change in (the dividend to shareholders), we have no reason to believe that things are that bad," he said. Upham said his county's property taxes did not increase exorbitantly as Canadian Natural suggests. He said the company's taxes have likely risen because it built new facilities. The reeve worries that tax breaks will not guarantee the company will continue operating its wells in the county and it may later decide to shut in those wells based on other factors. "How do I address the people that have been laid off?" Upham said. "Do I give them a 30 per cent reduction in their taxes because they don't have a job anymore? I can't do that."

CANADA'S 'DIRTY OIL' CLIMATE CHANGE DILEMMA

A debate is raging in Alberta over plans to get more "dirty oil" out of the ground, which some say is in conflict with Canada's environmental commitments. When Hanna Fridhed walked into her home in Fort McMurray last month, there was no door to walk through and no windows to look out of, just the charred remains of a house obliterated by fire.

The culprit? The Beast - the name given to the massive wildfire that swept through northern Alberta in Canada in May, destroying parts of Fort McMurray and forcing the evacuation of its roughly 90,000 residents. For many environmentalists, the wildfire was not simply a natural disaster but partly the result of man-made climate change, a point brought uncomfortably close to home by Fort



www.parleyconsulting.com

Randal Clark
Turn Around Consultant

- * Personal Debt Freedom
- * Corporate Restructuring
- * Personal restructuring
- * Credit Literacy Program and more...



Office: 1 780 722 3000
Fax: 1 888 401 3428
Text: 587 407 4556

Take back your financial well being!

SCS SAFETY COORDINATION SERVICES

Safety Compliance Health Environmental Learning Leaders

Working safely may get old, but so do those who practice it. Because life and limb are on the line, we have assembled the best safety training instructors anywhere.

www.safetycoordination.com

On-site & On-location Training
7 Days A Week

780.485.3585

7633 50 St, 2nd Flr.
Edmonton AB
T6B 2W9

www.leducsafty.com 1903 - 4th Street, Nisku AB

P: 780.955.3300 * F: 780.955.7651 * T: 1.800.668.4299

* First Aid

* TDG

* H2S Alive

* Ground Disturbance

* Confined Space Entry/Rescue

Keeping You Safe



McMurray's proximity to Alberta's vast oil sands deposits. The oil sands, sometimes referred to as "dirty oil", have long been a target of climate change campaigners who insist that the energy-intensive extraction of oil sands and the greenhouse gas emissions it generates, mean most of the remaining deposits must stay in the ground. But that is highly unlikely especially with an estimated 160 billion barrels lying beneath Alberta's soil. Instead, Alberta's provincial government is introducing an economy-wide carbon tax from next year and a cap on greenhouse gas emissions. That, along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's signing of the Paris Climate Agreement in April, is seen as real progress by some Canadians. Or is it? At the moment, oil sands operations emit roughly 70 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year but the cap will be set at 100 megatonnes. Alberta's Minister of Environment Shannon Phillips defended the higher cap: "The CO2 is what matters here and Alberta is the first and only energy-producing jurisdiction to say, 'Look yes you may develop, but you must do so responsibly under an emissions cap this far and no further.'" The fact of the matter is that in the short to medium term, 20% of Canadian GDP relies on Alberta's oil and gas industry. That's not small. "With

all due respect to environmental groups outside of this province, our prime responsibility is to the people of Alberta and we've just gone through a massive drop in oil prices, tens of thousands of people out of work." So do environmental groups such as Greenpeace need to get real? Is it economically viable, let alone plausible, for Canada to turn its back on such a lucrative resource? Greenpeace activist Mike Hudema said Alberta's initiatives were "good initial steps", but added: "When you look at tar sands or oil sands development, there's no way you can continue to expand, to add 30 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere and still meet what we said we were going to meet in Paris." Most of the oil sands are found under forests populated by bears, moose and other native wildlife. And within a stone's throw from this natural splendour is the Christina Lake oil sands operation, south of Fort McMurray. It is run by Cenovus Energy, whose executive vice-president of oil sands manufacturing, Drew Zieglgansberger, guided us on a full day's tour, a sort of smorgasbord of the various processes used to bring the oil to the surface. Drills burrow down to the oil sands, which can be 500m below the surface, then steam is pumped in to liquefy the oil before it is pumped to the surface. No open pit mining, no huge scars on the landscape and no lakes of toxic waste. But the process is very energy intensive.

"I think the challenge is really not oil production it's the carbon emissions associated with oil," Mr Zieglgansberger said. "One of the big things we've been able to unlock here using technology is actually enabling this resource to be part of the energy mix. In the last 10 years alone we've

dropped the emissions intensity of these barrels by over 33%."

Christina Lake produces about 160,000 barrels of oil a day and Cenovus has plans for further expansion. Mr Zieglgansberger acknowledged climate change is "one of the most important challenges of our time," but insists the oil is necessary. "It is going to be needed in any energy mix in any consensus, any report that's been published. If we look out [across] the next decades, oil is still going to be needed."

AN INUIT COMMUNITY'S DAVID-AND-GOLIATH BATTLE WITH BIG OIL

Seismic blasts in Clyde River, Nunavut are threatening a community's territory and livelihood. The Arctic's Baffin Bay and Davis Strait region is home to seals, bowhead whales, polar bears and up to 90 per cent of the world's narwhals. The area's marine waters also provide habitat for 116 species of fish, such as Arctic char, an important dietary staple for Nunavut's Inuit communities. Although the area is crucial to Inuit for hunting and other traditional activities, the federal government has approved underwater seismic blasting by a consortium of energy companies. They plan to fire underwater cannons from boats to map the ocean floor for oil and gas deposits, in preparation for offshore drilling. The blasting, approved by Canada's National Energy Board in 2014, is meeting fierce opposition. A lower court affirmed the NEB decision in 2015, claiming Inuit were adequately consulted on the project — something Inuit dispute. To prevent destruction of their hunting grounds, the remote hamlet of Clyde

River in Nunavut and the Nammataq Hunters and Trappers Organization appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, which agreed to hear the case later this year. A positive decision could halt seismic blasting and affirm the right of Indigenous peoples to decide their own future regarding resource development in their territories, which is central to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), of which Canada is a signatory. This case is in an isolated region. But the threat of massive development in yet another traditional territory is not an isolated case. Indigenous peoples are on the front lines of environmental change around the planet. Ever-expanding resource developments are degrading traditional territories that have sustained communities for millennia, from Arctic tundra to primeval rainforest to arid desert. They're criss-crossed with roads, transmission lines and pipelines, and pockmarked by pumpjacks, flare stacks and other infrastructure for drilling, fracking and strip-mining fossil fuels. Most developments proceed without consent from local communities and with minimal benefit to them in terms of jobs, training and economic prosperity. Numerous studies show that Indigenous communities usually bear the brunt of resource development, from declining water quality to destruction of traditional hunting and fishing grounds. The social consequences are devastating. Earlier this year we participated in the Canadian Indigenous Health Conference, which brought public health experts together with Indigenous elders, political leaders, youth, hunters and trappers. Many First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities' social problems — including alcoholism, physical abuse, depression and



suicide — are linked to the vacuum left when communities can no longer hunt, fish, trap, gather berries and otherwise live off their lands as their ancestors did. Despite living in one of the world's wealthiest countries, Inuit face chronic food insecurity. Nearly 70 per cent of households in communities like Clyde River struggle with getting enough nutrition to stay healthy, compared to eight per cent for the country as a whole.

Traditional activities like hunting and fishing are critical to Indigenous communities' food security, but they also support a holistic approach to the overall health and well-being of Indigenous peoples. A David Suzuki Foundation study on the importance of caribou hunting to First Nations in the boreal forest found "harvesting as a practice is not solely a process of obtaining meat for nutrition. With each hunt a deliberate set of relationships and protocols is awakened and reinforced. These include reciprocity, social cohesion, spirituality and the passing on of knowledge to future generations."

Scientists fear high-intensity sounds from seismic blasting in the Arctic could adversely affect marine wildlife, exacerbating the food-insecurity crisis. Inuit hunters have observed altered migration patterns of some species, and reported horrific damage to the internal organs of seals and other animals exposed to underwater seismic blasts.

Clyde River's resistance to big oil is classic David versus Goliath. On one side, powerful corporations with money and access to politicians. On the other, one of the world's oldest cultures, which has survived for millennia in harmony with the environment. Former Clyde River mayor Jerry Natanine said, "Inuit do not live on the land; we are part of it. We form an indivisible unity with the Arctic environment that we are fighting to preserve for our people and our culture to survive and thrive."

'LAST HOPE' LNG GAS PIPELINE PROJECT OPPOSED BY FIRST NATIONS

On a dwindling list of LNG proposals in British Columbia, the FortisBC Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre LNG gas pipeline project is coming up against opposition from local First Nations. Despite getting the go-ahead from the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office Aug. 9, two North Vancouver First Nations are pushing back on the proposed gas pipeline that would transect sensitive cultural and environmental areas. The two First Nations — the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh — allege the approval process was rushed and

failed to meet the standard for achieving consent from local First Nations. Ernie George, director of Treaty Lands Resources for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, says the nation doesn't think some sacred sites are protected enough and the issued environmental certificate was "a bit premature because we don't have those protections in place." The Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations wanted to meet with the minister to discuss the concerns that weren't addressed in the original approval process. Despite this, using only a few weeks of the standard 45-day review window, the project was approved. "It's no surprise," says Merle Alexander, partner and aboriginal resource lawyer at Gowling WLG LLP in Vancouver who represents Tsleil-Waututh Nation. "The truth is once the Environmental Assessment Office sends a recommendation, there's been few instances — especially in the LNG context — where the minister didn't move quickly to approve the project." Based on the current model of approval, this is typical, Alexander says, noting changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act by the Harper government in 2012 made the approval process for LNG pipelines "super streamlined" by leaving decisions to the province and removing the federal government from the approval process. "It leaves a lot of big decisions to be made after the fact," he says. "There's no guarantee the corridor will be moved because the majority of approval is already provided by the province." FortisBC and the First Nations are now involved in a discussion group to try and work out the issues with the project, but at the end of the day, "that's not what the First Nations asked for," says Alexander. "Tsleil-Waututh asked that the actual corridor be changed before it's approved," he says. "I guess there is a possibility this working group could create the same result, but the biggest problem with the ongoing discussion is at the end of the day Fortis essentially will determine what the end move is — whether to move the corridor or not." Alexander says the approach of the First Nations has been, "This is our title land, and your project needs our consent, and the terms of that consent is you move the corridor." The decision to comply with the First Nations' terms is now "left in hands of the proponent, not even government." "The way it's proceeding forward is not recognizing they have a level of jurisdiction here through their consent requirements," Alexander says, adding it's akin to pipelines being built through your own backyard while you're saying no — that doesn't feel good, he says.

Alexander also notes these nations don't have an adversarial relationship with FortisBC. They've been working with Fortis pipelines through their territories for decades. The pipeline, which would feed the Woodfibre LNG export facility located in Howe Sound, B.C., now tops the list of only a few other potential pipelines in B.C. Alexander says, only three or four years ago, it looked like LNG projects were going to be a major economic driver in the province, with 19 or 20 proposed pipelines queued up. "The majority of the LNG projects have been put on hold or are on an indefinite delay, so right now most market analysts would probably put the Woodfibre LNG at the top of the list to be most likely to proceed," Alexander says. "It's the last hope there will be an LNG industry in British Columbia." Thomas Valentine, a senior partner with Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, says the challenges facing LNG projects in Western Canada continue to grow. "Although the fundamentals for the LNG industry remain attractive as the world continues to move toward natural gas, the solutions to Western Canada's challenges have been slow to develop," he says. Valentine cites the cost of developing the infrastructure required to support the B.C. projects, the uncertainty surrounding the project approval process and mounting opposition from stakeholders as key reasons for the scaling back of LNG projects. "The investments required are so significant, and the uncertainties are so pressing, that project developers are thinking long and hard about their next steps," he says. "As a result of all this, the future for West Coast LNG presents a much more cautious picture than the picture painted a few years ago." For the parties involved in the Woodfibre pipeline project, the back-and-forth

might land them in more adversarial circumstances. The First Nations were "clear on submissions to the province they were not going to allow their sacred sites to be damaged, so at this point the nations will in good faith continue to consult and test out these discussions, but at the end of the day, if the corridor simply won't move, there's a problem," Alexander says, but he adds they're not there yet. "Judicial review of these certificates remains an option. A six-month time period has started ticking for Tsleil-Waututh to make that decision." Tsleil-Waututh, for its part, remains hopeful. "I think the conversations we've been having — it starts out alright and then when you get to sticky points it gets a little dormant," George says. "But nothing's impossible at this point. We still have the ability to talk through things." As for FortisBC, the company did not return a request for comment, but on its web site posted a statement, saying it will "continue to engage with aboriginal groups, local stakeholders and the community as we move forward with the next phase of planning and permitting."

MEDICAL JOURNAL
www.MEDJOURNAL.ca



PH: 1-800-293-9865
FAX: 1-800-309-1190



INGRAM-MALO
TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

780 497-7779
13727 93 st Edmonton alberta T5E 5V6

1391-100th Street
 North Battleford, SK S9A 0V9
 Fax: 306-445-3513
 Email: remax.nb@sasktel.net
www.remaxbattlefords.com
Office: 306-446-8800



Of the Battlefords

Turtle Lake & Brightsand Lake, SK Properties



TURTLE LAKE
 200 Walann Way Golden Sands
\$699,600
 1,824 sq. ft. cabin
 5 BD, 2 BA
 Year round waterfront
 Double detached garage
 MLS © 539644



TURTLE LAKE
 8 Lakeshore Drive Moonlight Bay
\$336,500
 1,815 sq. ft. cabin
 4 BD, 2 BA
 Year round cabin
 Single detached garage
 MLS © 562723



TURTLE LAKE
 808 Lakeshore Drive
\$215,000
 Year round 2 BDRMS Cabin
 768 sq ft cabin
 Very large 73 x 103 fenced lot
 32x805 ft deck, 10x10
 MLS©571194



Turtle Lake POWM BEACH
 500 Spruce Road
\$275,000
 1,400 sq ft cabin
 120 x 138 ft double lot
 9x24 room at the back of the cabin
 12x20 garage in the back yard
 MLS©572654



TURTLE LAKE
 #4 Waino's Kivimaa
 Moonlight Bay Road
\$339,000
 3 BDRMS Year round cabin
 1,152 sq ft
 Total lot size of 65.6 x 84
 Many upgrades
 Back yard is fenced
 Comes with appliances
 MLS©573353



Evergreen Beach (Bright Sand)
 1001 - 1003 Trelayne Place
\$275,000
 984 sq. ft. cabin
 3 BD, 1 BA
 Year round cabin
 Double detached garage.
 MLS© 562772

Turtle Lake
 (Turtle Lake Lodge Cres)
 34 Mathews
\$325,000
 1,123 sq. ft. cabin
 3 BD, 1 BA
 Year round cabin
 Comes with appliances
 MLS © 564384



Turtle Lake
 611 Chickadee-Horseshoe Bay Street
\$165,000
 3 BDRMS Cabin
 876 sq. ft.
 Double 131x153 ft. leased lot
 Completely Fenced
 MLS© 576060



Sunset View
 34 Utik Lane
\$195,000
 672 sq ft cabin
 3 min walk to public beach
 60x100 ft. titled lot
 2 BD, 3 BA
 MLS© 569207



Evergreen
 5 Mariana Place
\$329,500
 977 / 2 sq ft cabin
 Year round home
 3 BDRMS, gas fireplace,
 Vaulted ceiling,
 Patio door opening
 Single detached garage
 MLS© 575507



TURTLE LAKE
 8 MacIntosh- Kivimaa
 Moonlight Bay Street
\$235,000
 980 st ft year round home
 3 bdrms, 1 bath
 Nat gas for the fireplace
 BQ hook up on the deck
 Short walk to the beach
 c/w appliances and furniture
 MLS© 578925



Turtle Lake Lot 1
 Sunshine Kivimaa
 Moonlight Bay Place
\$130,000
 65 x 130 ft bare lot
 Corner of Sunshine Place
 &
 Lake Shore Drice
 MLS©564052

RE/MAX OF THE BATTLEFORDS
 REALTY SPECIALISTS INC., BROKERAGE
 INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Wally Lorenz - Agent
 Tel: 306-843-3296
 Cel: 306-843-7898
 email: znerol.w@sasktel.net
<http://wallylorenz.point2agent.com>

RE/MAX OF THE BATTLEFORDS
 REALTY SPECIALISTS INC., BROKERAGE
 INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Dorothy Lehman- Agent
 Tel: 306-446-8800
 Cel: 306-441-7782
 Fax: 306-445-3513
 email: jd.leh@sasktel.net

RE/MAX OF THE BATTLEFORDS
 REALTY SPECIALISTS INC., BROKERAGE
 INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Kayla Petersen - Agent
 Tel: 306-446-8800
 Cel: 306-481-5780
 email: kmb@sasktel.net