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IN HARD HIT FORT ST. JOHN, PARKING FINES PAID WITH FOOD DONATIONS

'This is a community that has always seen the lemonade through the piles of lemons,' says mayor. The drop in oil prices has hit workers in Fort St. John hard, and recently the northern city has been grappling with a severe food bank shortage. It's inspired Mayor Lori Ackerman to come up with a creative solution. "Anyone who gets a municipal ticket can come to city hall between August 23 and September 23, and pay off their ticket with a contribution to the food bank. "It's not an entirely new concept. Ackerman says the city has a similar scheme during December, when people can exchange their tickets — including parking and traffic fines — for toys for the Christmas hampers. She says it has always resulted in people donating more than the price of their ticket. "You might have one or two people that think it's funny to bring in one can for a ticket, and others will just bring in a bag of cans or personal hygiene products." The city has been struggling ever since oil prices took a nosedive. LNG projects that were supposed to

drive the economy are on hold. And the local shelters have filled up with unemployed oil and gas workers.

"What we're seeing right now while we wait on decisions for some resource projects is some people who would have been donors in the past are now clients," Ackerman said.

But Ackerman said the community will stay resilient in the face of such economic hardship. "This is a community that has always seen the lemonade through the piles of lemons."

LIBERALS CONSIDERING ALLOWING TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS FOR LNG PROJECTS

The federal labour minister was told earlier this year to give a positive signal to liquefied natural gas companies on the use of temporary foreign workers, but only if Canadians were considered first for jobs. Labour Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk's officials told her in February that it was inevitable that companies would need temporary foreign workers to proceed with energy projects in Western Canada. In a Feb. 1 briefing note, Mihychuk's officials write that the federal government can speed up

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how quickly it processes applications for temporary foreign workers, but couldn't waive requirements for liquefied natural gas projects. The briefing note, prepared ahead of Mihychuk's meeting with David Keane, president of the BC LNG Alliance, recommends "signal support" for temporary foreign workers "on the condition that Canadians are considered first for available jobs ... and only used as a measure of last resort." The Canadian Press obtained a copy of the briefing note under the Access to Information Act. In an interview, Keane said Mihychuk didn't give any indication of how the government would decide on the issue of foreign workers involved in projects. He said the message Mihychuk provided was that the government wanted to review the temporary foreign worker program. He didn't want to speculate about what the message from department officials may mean for the fate of projects that require federal approval. Thousands of temporary foreign workers are expected to be needed to work on any of the 20 separate liquefied natural gas projects being reviewed in British Columbia, including the Pacific Northwest LNG

project that the federal cabinet has to decide on this fall. The briefing note says unions are unlikely to speak out publicly about the use of temporary foreign workers because they know the majority of jobs will go to union members and that Canadians will be first in line for jobs.

Keane said the plan is to hire a workforce derived from local aboriginal communities and provincial residents before looking across Canada. "There will be probably a requirement, and I think everybody recognizes this, for temporary foreign workers to be able to build this industry, but we have a plan in place and are developing the plan and refining the plan to make sure that we look at Canadians first before we bring in temporary foreign workers," Keane said.

NO TAILINGS PONDS, BUT IN SITU OILSANDS STILL RELEASE TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

More monitoring needed of oilsands plants that rely on steam injection, study says

The first study of pollution from unconventional oilsands mines has concluded that so-called in-situ techniques also introduce

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contaminants into the environment. The results, which are from a University of Ottawa lab and are to be published Monday, suggest government should increase monitoring of oilsands plants that rely on steam injection instead of open-pit mining, said lead author Jennifer Korosi. "It's our hope that this study stimulates that kind of work." In-situ mining involves injecting high-pressure, high-temperature steam underground to soften bitumen enough that it can be pumped up. Most bitumen in Alberta is extracted

using in-situ methods and they will be used in the majority of the industry's future growth. In-situ mines don't need large tailings ponds and don't create vast landscape disturbances as do open-pit mines, so they are often described as more environmentally friendly. The assumption had to be tested, said Korosi. That became even more evident in 2013 when a Canadian Natural Resources site was over-pressurized and oozed bitumen to the surface, she said. "There's a pressing need to understand how

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in situ releases contaminants to the environment, because it's going to be very different than surface mining. At the moment, it's mostly unknown. "Korosi and her colleagues took sediment cores from a small lake adjacent to the CNRL site near Cold Lake, Alta. The area has seen in-situ oilsands activity since the mid-1980s. Their analysis found little trace of heavy metals normally associated with bitumen. But the sediment cores revealed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons — a class of chemicals considered

carcinogenic — beginning in 1985, about the same time as oilsands development in the area began. As well, the specific types of the hydrocarbons they found are closely associated with petrochemicals and not other possible sources such as forest fires. "There are certain PAH compounds that we know are released by forest fires, from traffic emissions, and we don't see those compounds increasing," said Korosi. "We have a number of different ways we can fingerprint hydrocarbons to know where they're

coming from and consistently, the different metrics were suggesting a petroleum-based source."

The lake sediments showed hydrocarbon levels grew steadily as development increased. They are now 137 per cent higher than in 1985, said Korosi. The levels are still too low to have environmental impacts. But they are real — and growing — and raise questions about how they're getting into sediments. "We have sources of contamination around in-situ drilling wells that are unaccounted for," Korosi said. "There's a pressing need to understand where they're coming from." She said they could be from pipeline leaks, leaky well bores, process water, groundwater or underground fault lines. "It's why we really need to understand what's going on below the surface." The study area, with its history of surface leaks, might be an extreme example. But Korosi said there might be other "hot spots." "You don't want to have to wait for bitumen to bubble over ground before you figure out what those hot spots are." The research, which is being published in the journal Environmental Pollution, was partly funded by the Alberta government's environmental monitoring agency.

**PARTS OF
TRANSCANADA
PIPELINE
NETWORK MADE
OF SUBSTANDARD
MATERIAL**

More than 1,000 fittings are weaker than expected, making them less resistant to ruptures

Documents from TransCanada and obtained by Radio-Canada's

investigative program Enquête reveal the company's pipeline network, including a stretch that would be used to transport oil if the Energy East project goes ahead, comprises more than 1,000 fittings possibly made of substandard material.

The National Energy Board (NEB) has known since 2008 that some elbows and steel fittings installed in Canadian pipelines are less resistant to rupture, but the regulator only issued a safety notice about the problem in February. The fittings targeted by the NEB order are aren't thick enough, a detail that escaped TransCanada at the time of installation. The NEB required companies under its jurisdiction to provide a list indicating the locations of all questionable fittings. In the only TransCanada Keystone pipeline in Canada, there are more than 1,200 fittings that don't meet the requirements.

Another 225 problematic fittings have been identified within its natural gas network, including 30 in the stretch that ends in Les Cèdres, Que. west of Montreal.

Another affected section, in North Bay, Ont., will be converted to transport oil if the Energy East project goes ahead. In a written statement, TransCanada said it conducted a comprehensive technical assessment of its network "after discovering that some fittings supplied by manufacturers were weaker than those we had ordered." The company emphasized it took these steps before the official directive was issued and ensures that its networks "operate safely." A Transportation Safety Board report

and an NEB audit into a 2013 incident in Buffalo Creek, Alta., where a pipeline transporting natural gas ruptured, confirmed the elbow where the failure the break originated contained substandard materials. An estimated 16.5 million cubic metres of natural gas were released, but the rupture did not result in a fire, no one was injured and no buildings had to be evacuated.

Engineer Evan Vokes basically predicted that kind of accident would happen. He was fired from TransCanada in 2012 after publicly denouncing what he said were significant shortcomings in the company's practices. He said he repeatedly witnessed inferior parts being installed while working for TransCanada. His concerns were later validated by an NEB audit. Some fittings were re-covered as a precaution, but Vokes is concerned that's not enough. "The thing is, they haven't restored the fundamental material property of toughness, which stops the cracks from growing and exploding," he said in an interview.

NEB hearings on the Energy East project were to take place in Montreal on Monday, but were cancelled for the day after protesters disrupted the proceedings.



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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
\$166,000
 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
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