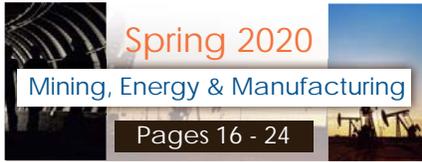




Real estate sales up in Southeast Saskatchewan  
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Universe providing Roxors for mining industry  
**Page 15**

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba  
June 2020 • Volume 13, Number 6

## Extra precautions as crews in region for Line 3 surface work: Enbridge focused on Covid-19 safety

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
Al Sawatzky, Manager of Pipeline Construction on Enbridge's Line 3 replacement, and Bill Pilkington, Senior Safety Coordinator with Enbridge, told Plain and Valley that there will be a strong focus on safety as crews of 280 workers move into southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba over the next few weeks to complete surface restoration work on the Line 3 replacement project. There will be 250 people based in Moosomin, and 30 in Brandon.  
Sawatzky said there are people starting to move into the area for the project. "There are a few people around right now in Moosomin," he said. "I have my construction manager, Lee McKenzie, out there right now. We are just looking at defining the scope of work and we are actually doing some weed control right now as well with a couple small crews out of Saskatoon.  
"So we do our spring break mitigation. That is to make sure the right-of-way hasn't eroded from wind or water, and it really carried well over the winter. Banister has one or two guys out there now and there are going to be more. They are probably going to start delivering equipment by the weekend and into next week.  
"We have a kick-off meeting, which will be a different kind of kick off

with social distancing. We are going to get the biggest room in Moosomin and there won't be as many there as usual, but it's a formal thing that we have every time we go back to work.  
"It will be a smaller crowd and we will be separated but we plan on having a kick off meeting. It's kind of a social event but it's also where we get the management up to speed on where we're at. A big part of that kick off meeting will be on the Covid-19 protocol we're going to roll out. We've developed protocols over the winter."  
He said more staff will start rolling into the area starting this Friday, June 12.  
"June 12 is when we'll have some people start coming in and it will ramp up from there," Sawatzky said. "There won't be 200 people show up the first day—it's a gradual build-up."  
Sawatzky said Enbridge had a project in Sarnia, Ontario over the winter where Covid-19 protocols were developed and fleshed out, so the company has that experience under its belt as it prepares for the next project in Moosomin. "We developed protocols in Sarnia so we could carry on with construction. Between myself, Bill (Pilkington) and the site safety there, we developed the protocols. We were actually out ahead



An Enbridge morning meeting with employees practising social distancing

of it in many ways. There was some guidance for us but there was no formal document. We knew you couldn't be within six feet, we knew we needed to be able to clean your hands and tools. We knew the office trailers needed to be cleaned very thoroughly. We started with that and build it from there."  
*Continued on page 25*

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# Wolseley, Broadview hospital services limited

## Emergency rooms, acute care services limited in two communities

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Saskatchewan Health Authority closed 12 emergency rooms and acute care services around the province, and while most have been reopened, services are still limited at Wolseley and Broadview.

Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk said he has heard a lot of concerns from people in those two communities.

"No one wanted this to happen and everyone in these communities want them open and want to support our local hospitals," he said. "They were closed as a precautionary step so we could train our health care professionals in case there's a flare-up with Covid-19."

He said there have been concerns over the closures.

"Broadview was closed a little longer, but I got a fair bit of reaction from Wolseley when this closure was announced. People were very concerned that the hospital might close permanently, but I assured them this was just a temporary measure and there is no fear of the Wolseley hospital being closed. Broadview might take a little longer because it had limited services prior to the temporary closure. As soon as we can find the health care professionals to fill the spots that are available, Broadview will be opened."

He said the challenge in rural Saskatchewan is staffing. "The challenge is always to attract enough health care professionals," he said.

Bonk said communication has been an issue. There was no news release or public announcement when the hospital services were limited.

"People were concerned about the lack of communication and I think that's a fair criticism, and the SHA (Saskatchewan Health Authority) themselves admit that they could have done a better job."

"They are taking steps now to improve the communication and make sure everyone's aware. When they know why we're doing things, people understand. It's the lack of communication that caused some concern."

### Broadview, Wolseley different situations

"They're remaining closed for slightly different reasons," said the SHA's Physician Executive for Integrated Rural Health Dr. Kevin Wasko.

"Broadview, since October 2019, has been in a service disruption due to challenges we've faced in staffing. First, we had challenges in staffing with CLXT's (Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologist) to support lab services there, but we've also struggled with our physicians, with the departure of a few physicians over the course of the last



The Saskatchewan Health Authority says it relies on websites to communicate emergency room closures to the public, but the pages for hospitals on its own site do not include any indication when they are closed.

six months or so. Those problems haven't been resolved yet, and although we continue to work on solutions, we aren't in a place where we can open Broadview.

"Wolseley is different, it was not experiencing those same problems when it was converted to an ALC facility back in May like many other locations in the province. But in the meantime there have been some retirements and departures from different positions that have had to be posted and recruited to, and orientation needs to occur for some of those positions."

"We aren't in a position right now to open until we know when those positions would be filled and people can start working."

"We want to make sure when it does open we aren't open some of the time, but rather we can ensure reliability in that service so that it can be open as a 24/7 emergency centre."

"Some of the positions have been posted and some of the positions have just gotten some applicants," he said. "Some we just don't know if we'll have a person in that position to rely upon once we reopen the service. Once we know that information — we should know in the next couple of weeks — then we could commit to a date, but right now we just didn't feel like we could."

### Filling positions can be a challenge

"In rural communities we are challenged (filling posi-

tions)," said vice-president of Integrated Rural Health Karen Earnshaw.

"There are a couple of key vacancies that are occurring in our facilities for combined laboratory X-ray technicians. This isn't unique to just the southeast area of Saskatchewan, it is a national shortage. We've been working with the education providers—Sask Polytech—and the ministry to increase the number of seats in that program. That takes time to educate and graduate people."

### People urged to call 911 or go to other towns for medical care

"In those areas, for example in Wolseley, they can access emergency services always by contacting 9-1-1," said Earnshaw. "They can access everyday health services through 8-1-1 and if they need to be seen urgently, but don't believe they need to call 9-1-1, there are emergency services available in Indian Head and Fort Qu'Appelle."

"Then in Broadview, they can contact 9-1-1 and 8-1-1 and they can seek services in either Kipling or Moosomin."

"We've had discussions between some of the leaders in the SHA and community leaders," said Wasko. "Within the last week or so an update was provided and rationale as to why those particular sites wouldn't be opening was given and discussions were had with local leaders. Discussions were had across all these sites with those that are slated to open on particular dates as well."

"There are public service announcements that have been issued and new ones will be issued this week (June 10) in regards to service disruptions," said Earnshaw.

"The Ministry of Health's website also keeps an active service disruption section. Across the province facilities that are in disruption are recorded there. There's also local communication through town websites and that's done through those conversations and updated on various town websites. Local leaders do that."

"It's also important for people to understand that if they go to Broadview or Wolseley, if they inadvertently end up there, they will be triaged and will be supported to seek help."

"9-1-1 would be called to transport them if they truly presented an emergency. It's not that people should go there seeking their services, but if somebody doesn't know, there are staff available and they will be assisted for access care."

"Those locations both continue to support what we call alternate level of care," she said. "There are people whose care needs are being met in both of those locations, but they're not people who's care needs would require daily observation by a physician and/or a registered nurse."

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# New line to be built to Nutrien Rocanville: TransGas project will bring 150 workers to the area

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

A crew of up to 150 workers will be based in Moosomin starting this summer to build a new natural gas transmission line for TransGas to Nutrien Rocanville.

The workers will be coming into the area this summer, and will overlap with 250 workers currently coming into the area with Banister Pipelines and Enbridge to complete surface remediation work, meaning up to 400 workers will be in the area working on the two projects this summer.

Casey McLeod of TransGas said the project is necessary to increase TransGas's capacity for delivering natural gas to the Nutrien potash mine.

"The project we are working on is to install a new transmission line which will serve to increase the natural gas capacity to the Nutrien facility," McLean said.

The project will take place over several

months later this year.

"Construction will be starting in August of this year, and the expected in-service date is November of this year," said McLean.

TransGas, the gas distribution arm of SaskEnergy, will have some employees in the area, and there will also be contractors working on the project. All will be subject to extra safety requirements due to Covid-19, said McLean.

"There will be a mix of contractors as well as some of our own internal resources," she said. "Through our own construction group as well as our operations group, we've implemented extra health and safety protocols in light of Covid-19, making sure proper PPE is worn, that people are following proper physical distancing, putting protocols in place involving cleaning of tools and everything that needs to be done to keep people safe."



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# Real estate sales up in southeast Sask

The latest statistics show real estate sales are up in southeast Saskatchewan, countering the trend in much of the province and much of the country. World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Jason Yochim, CEO of the Saskatchewan Realtors Association about the trends.

We see that Southeast Saskatchewan and Yorkton appear to tell a different story than the rest of the province and I'm just wondering if you see that as significant or what reasons you might see for that?

We do see the significance because as you know, that southeast marketplace has been hammered pretty hard in the last couple years, and so it is a positive thing to see those changes in the right direction, especially at a challenging time when we went through this Covid-19 period.

What do you think makes the difference in southeast Saskatchewan?

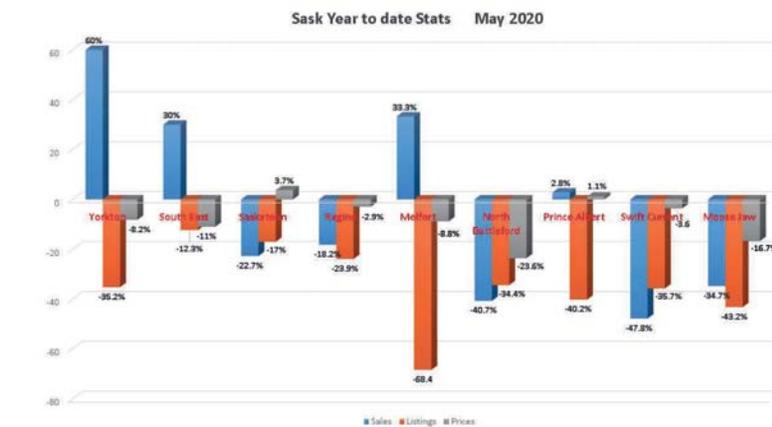
I think part of it could be that these are transactions that probably could have occurred in the past and because of the economy and economic outlook didn't, and maybe more people are confident in some of the things that are happening on the economic front and the direction that things are going to make those moves. It always takes confidence to be able to make a decision to sell or purchase and invest, and I also think post-Covid-19, as we're coming out of this and the province is trying to get back to more of a state of normal transactions that maybe didn't occur through say April for example are happening now in May.

How much has the realty industry been affected by Covid-19 across Saskatchewan?

Well to be honest with you we anticipated a significant decline in transactions just based on other countries or other pandemics that we studied when this first started to take hold early in March. We expected maybe a 70-75 percent decline in our sales transactions, so we were quite concerned, but what we ended up seeing in April was about a 50 percent decline across the province in our transactions year over year, and also in May about 84 percent of what we did last May, so we were quite pleased and we think a big part of that is we provided the consumers with confidence because of the steps we took to protect them and protect our members and enable them to continue to market their property and sell it through this period of time.

What are some of the steps the realtors have taken?

So initially what we did, Kevin, is we took away the open house option from our members. We found that as a definite area where there could be some risks of transmission if you have a lot of people going through a property with both the sellers and the buyers and our members of course. We also provided some best practices for them to follow if they do show a property. We also provided some forms for discl-



...sures so that buyers and sellers would have to answer some of the questions to make the members aware if they've been at risk for having been in contact with Covid-19. We took a number of steps like that just to protect the industry and the consumer.

Do you feel most of your member realtors adapted well to the new reality?

I think most of them did adapt well to the new reality and I think that's why we wanted to make them mandatory. No open houses was a mandatory piece because if we made it optional I think that would have created some opportunity for problems, and that seemed to go well and we didn't hear any issues or feedback from the public coming our way saying you know this is offside in my opinion, so we believe it was effective.

Would you expect there to be a longer term impact on prices because of uncertainty around Covid-19 or do you expect those to bounce back fairly quickly?

Generally across the province when it comes to prices we didn't see a lot of change, and in some markets prices are actually creeping up a little bit and I think the pattern behind that is prior even to Covid-19 we've been watching a decline of new listings come on the market and our existing inventory levels have been declining, and that has created a little bit of a shortfall on the product side, so with the demand that we see this year because we had a strong first quarter in

the province and then Covid-19 hit and in spite of some of the decline through April and May we're still doing pretty good year to date. I think that this demand that was suppressed in those two months we're going to see coming back on in the next couple of months, and I think if anything it could push prices upwards and create a sellers market here.

I see the May sales in the southeast were up not only from last year but from the five year average. Do you think that is related to things like investment in potash mining and some of the expansions of the industries in this area?

I would say definitely that is going to have an impact. I know that the potash industry is recovering and there is a demand for that product and it all comes down to confidence. If the consumer feels if their job is secure that the economy is going in the right direction, they're going to take those risks and make those investments on their personal property.

We often use the term in this industry 'realtor' and realtor actually is a brand that we use in this industry. When a person with a real estate license belongs to our association we hold them to a higher account as far as ethics and professional standards education, so when it comes to situations like Covid-19 we make sure that they are up to speed on the latest things that they need to do to protect themselves and consumers. So it's part of being under that realtor brand, and it helps to inspire confidence.



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# Community Futures offers loans for businesses hit by Covid-19

Rural businesses in Saskatchewan impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic can now access new financial relief and recovery support. Community Futures offices throughout Saskatchewan are offering tailored small business loans as part of the Government of Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF). These partially forgivable loans ensure that rural businesses that do not qualify for other federal business support programs receive support to meet regular business expenses during this crisis.

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke to Verna O'Neill with Sunrise Community Futures which serves Southeast Saskatchewan. Following are her comments on the new program:

## Tell me about the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.

The name says it all really. Our community futures program is going to be rolling out the rural component of that program. For the urban centres, Economic Diversification Canada will be rolling that out.

In rural Saskatchewan and in our southeast area of the province, Canadian Futures is going to be rolling that out. It is for small and medium sized enterprises that are severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The loans are up to a maximum of \$40,000 and it's really to help support businesses that are not able to defer some of those fixed costs that they have to pay regardless of whether they make \$1 revenue or not—so those non-deferrable revenue operating expenses.

We are finding that we're getting many inquiries from small businesses that are in the startup phase because the startups don't qualify for the Canada Emergency Business Account Program. That program is for those that have been established for a number of years. So we're finding that we're getting some inquiries from relatively mature businesses but we're also getting the startup inquiring, those that don't have maybe a tax return file with the federal government yet. They may not have some of their book keeping or their first year of financials have not been audited by the accountant yet.

So what we're doing again is a maximum of \$40,000. It's structured quite similar to the CEBA program.

It sounds a lot like the CEBA program. One quarter is forgivable like the CEBA program?

Yes, so there are no principal payments up until De-

ember 31, 2022. Then 25 percent up to the maximum of that \$10,000 mark can be forgivable if that outstanding balance is paid by December 31, 2022. So very similar to CEBA. If that balance is not paid then it will roll into a term loan and has to be paid back by December 31, 2025.

Is this strictly for people who don't qualify for CEBA or if someone got CEBA and needs more help can they qualify and apply for this as well?

My understanding is that it is a maximum of \$40,000 through either through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund or CEBA. So my understanding is that if they receive \$40,000 from CEBA then they are ineligible for our RRRF fund.

Western Diversification has the ability to look at requests for financing for over \$40,000 as well. So let's say the business owner needed \$75,000, they were from Moosomin, and our \$40,000 is not going to cut it for them, we would refer them to Western Economic Diversification for them to take a look at that loan application.

So there is a bit of a different streaming kind of process where WD is going to be looking at the urban request for financing and also anything over \$40,000 from rural.

Have you had quite a few applications or inquiries already?

We have, actually. Our loan portal is live right now. We actually don't have the dollars in our bank accounts yet to be dispersing the funds. That is not going to take long but it's not with us right now, so we are kind of queuing up the applicants and looking at them, but again we can't disperse or approve loans at this point, but that will happen very, very soon. So we're trying to get people aware of the program in the queue to apply for it.

We don't want people waiting, they will need this emergency money now, so we're doing some marketing.

Is this the main tool that Sunrise has to deal with Covid-19 financial issues, or do you guys have other services that you offer?

We go back to our core services of loans advice support, so we do have investment loans.

Typically prior to this pandemic, that would have been for startup or for expansion, and we are still seeing some requests for financing for startups even during the pandemic, so we're still looking for loan applicants for our regular investment funds, specifically for the emer-

gency relief measures.

This triple relief fund is the mechanism that the federal government has provided to us to roll out to our region, and then thirdly our advisory services are still available and we are fielding calls from entrepreneurs just about the challenges they have, about solutions, and path finding for them. We have that material listed on webinars on our resource page.

We are trying to connect people. We can't assemble in person quite yet but we are connecting them with resources if they do need it.

Do a lot of people have questions about the programs or what help there is out there?

Yeah we have been getting quite a number of questions and path finding and advisory requests, like 'let's sit down and talk about the challenges of the business,' that right off the start had been quite heavy.

It is starting to dissipate a bit as these financial aid programs are becoming more understandable, so we're not seeing that same kind of real heavy need for immediate answers.

Now it might be more for things like 'let's brainstorm about lines that we can move into for our revenue generation, new product or service lines, how can I change my business model maybe incorporating some online component to it so that I can ride out the pandemic.'

We are so used to doing business training, assembling groups of business people to learn about certain topics, and that's been one of the major changes for us is that we can't assemble, but we're going to deal with it and certainly connect people with the information they need just in a different way.

Has this been a challenging time for you guys to keep providing these services through the pandemic?

It has been much heavier with call volumes.

I think that is probably very true for any kind of business services, but again we've had the ability to work remotely from home and we're just really fortunate.

I can't say enough about how the staff has been able to really pivot with the pandemic and still be really effective, and we are using technology to do that, but it's been different for us as well.

We are so used to being able to put our heads together and come up with solutions for entrepreneurs, and now it's just a different way of doing that.

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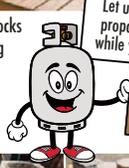


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# Whitewood library and town office undergo uplift

BY DONNA BEUTLER

Much has changed at Whitewood's town library and town office building over the past few months as renovations have taken place to update and enhance both spaces.

Though the town had been considering replacing the flooring for both the library and the town office (excluding the washrooms and council chambers), there were problems lurking in the ceiling of the library that, once discovered, led to some necessary work. When a light was changed in the library, workers noted that there were problems with the poly above the suspended ceiling. As well, the fire rating required updating.

The library and the town office were both closed in March due to Covid-19 and the timing meant the upgrades could be completed during a time when customers were not coming into the building.

Once the library ceiling work was done, the library had the shelves and walls painted to a lighter colour, giving the entire room a fresh, bright feel. The library is presently still closed to the public.

On the town office side, and in order to make a permanent, safer entry into the main office, a wall was built to close the area off and an entry door was installed for employees. A plexi-glass safe guard was installed with a small pass-through area for visitors and town employees to conduct business through.

"During this renovation," Town of Whitewood Chief Administrative Officer Cindy Baumgartner said, "we replaced the office furniture and the office layout was reworked and a reorganization of the office was done."

With the carpets torn out and new laminate flooring installed, and new desks, filing cabinets and book shelves now in place, the town office has taken on a new and very professional look.

"When we replaced the flooring on the town side of the building," Baumgartner said, "we found black mould due to leak-

ing windows, so new windows will be installed over the next month or two."

"When we had ceiling problems in the library we thought it may have been a leaking roof, but that's been checked and the roof is good," Baumgartner said.

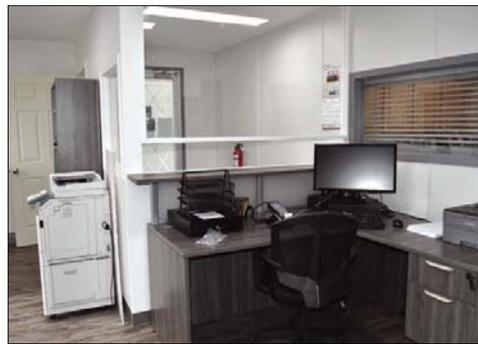
There have been many hours of reorganization in the town office, but by June 10, all the desks and furniture were in place, the computers were all up and running again and the debit machine was connected and ready for use. This has allowed the town office to open back up to the public, with Covid safety precautions in place of course.

The office has been closed to the public for the past three months while the CAO and office staff remained working from within. Provisions were made for a dropbox in the lobby and opportunity for those paying bills to pay online.

At the time of this writing, an opening date for the library was not known and library staff are in the process of placing books back on the shelves.



CAO Cindy Baumgartner back at work in her office complete with new furniture and new flooring.



New wall in town office with plexiglass and pass-through. New furniture and flooring.

## Message from Premier Scott Moe

"The efforts of Saskatchewan people to control the spread of COVID-19 are what give us confidence to cautiously proceed with re-opening businesses and services in most of the province. We don't have to choose between our economy and fighting this pandemic. I believe we can do both. We can continue to keep our friends and family safe while gradually re-opening our economy. And together, we will.

Thank you, Saskatchewan"

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**Phase 1:** previously restricted medical services, golf courses, parks and campgrounds.

**Phase 2:** retail and select personal care services

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**Phase 4:** indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; increase size of gatherings to 30 people

**Phase 5:** consider lifting long-term restrictions



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# Expanded CEBA program will be coming soon

The federal government announced on May 19 the expansion of the Canada Emergency Business Account to businesses that do not process payroll. The program was initially limited to companies that run payrolls between \$40,000 and \$1 million, then expanded to those that run payrolls between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million.

Since the May 19 announcement, financial institutions have not yet rolled out application processes for non-payroll businesses.

The CEBA provides interest free loans of \$40,000 to qualifying businesses, with \$10,000 of that forgivable if the remainder is repaid by the end of 2022.

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Maggie Sinclair, Executive Vice President, Business Banking with Conexus last week about the rollout of the expanded program.

**With the CEBA program the government announced that it would be extended to companies that don't have any actual payroll, and I know from our readers and chamber members contacting us, it doesn't sound like that has been rolled out by financial institutions yet. Do you have any information regarding processes for that?**

I am very fortunate to be on the national committee. The government has had a group of financial institutions and individuals from across the country looking at this, and I've been on that right from day one. What I would tell you is very early on the intent was absolutely to get money into the hands of the small businesses very, very quickly, so I think the benefit of utilizing the financial institutions to deliver the program was one of the best decisions to deliver the program efficiently.

This is the second expansion to this program. The first expansion was to bring the payroll limit down to \$20,000. That was an easy transition because it was really just a matter of changing a couple of numbers. Everybody is learning along the way, and again as it has been expanded and taking into account businesses where there is no payroll or it is paid out in a different manner.

When you talk about expenses and not payroll, now there has to be more rigor around eligible non-deferred expenses, non-deferrable expenses. What's taking place right now is that they are putting in a few more additional checks and balances, so with that it takes a little bit more time to get all of the process pieces in place.

"We saw today (Thursday, June 11) a draft of new attestation, and the intent would be that the expansion

would be delivered to the financial institution late this week or early next week in order for them to build their intakes.

That is the other challenge that comes as the government builds out their criteria. What has to happen from a financial institution's perspective is that they now have to build, so they have to build the intake and the scripting.

Now that we've seen the draft of the new attestation we can start to build and program it over the next two weeks.

**Is the idea of the expanded criteria that it is going to apply to some smaller business or startups that don't do payroll?**

Yes, the intent was really around extending it to those businesses where they have maybe different sources of payment of income to employees. Some businesses pay on contract rate or hire people on contract. Hairdressers sometimes pay a chair, they earn income from a chair and get a portion of the income from that, so not traditional payroll.

So these changes expand CEBA to those businesses that compensate people in a different way.

The eligibility is that they would have eligible non-deferrable expenses that would be greater than \$40,000, arms-length third-party rent and lease payments and so forth. I think it's extended it well.

I know through CFIB there is lots of advocacy around this whole issue, with sole proprietors and the micro businesses, and they are still working on continued progression and expansion of the program.

**What has the uptake been like in its current format among your business clients? Have a significant number applied?**

We've funded just over \$62 million dollars in CEBA loans, so 1,500 or more applications.

We saw a big surge at the beginning of the program which would be expected and now we see a regular flow of applications on a daily basis.

**Have you had very many comments about the program as it currently exists? Do businesses find it fairly simple to understand and to apply for?**

Very early on, the feedback that we got was that it is one of the simplest, quickest, most seamless ways to apply for funding.

The time lines were very quick with the exception of the very first week in the sense that it got launched over the Easter long weekend. Beyond that, the turn around time and funding is within three days, which is very quick and relatively seamless.

We've seen a 97 per cent approval rate on those that have met the attestation requirements, so there have been only a very small number of those businesses applying that we haven't been able to fund based on the criteria.

It's either that they don't meet the attestation requirements or that there have been duplicate applications and so where one partner or the other has applied and then the other partner has gone in and applied either accidentally or not knowing that the other one had done it. It's only cases like that where we've had declines.

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Dorothy with granddaughter Darci Mills.

### Mielez celebrates 103rd birthday

Moosomin's Dorothy Mielez celebrated her 103rd birthday in Moosomin on June 2 with family, friends, a parade, some dancing, and of course cake. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, friends and family held a parade past Sterling Manor where she lives, and danced at a distance on the lawn for Dorothy, who joined in, dancing with her great-grandson. Dorothy was not shy to offer some life advice. "Make do with what you have and be satisfied," she said. "I think that's got a big, big meaning for people. They have to be satisfied with what they have and enjoy it." Her key for living such a long life might just be how active she managed to stay. "I love dancing, I danced until I was 99," she said. "It was a great part of my life. My husband was a wonderful dancer, too."

Dorothy says the birthday party for her was a total surprise. "I think this is absolutely out of this world," she said. "I had an inkling, but this is a total surprise."



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# Virden man challenges firearms ban with judicial review

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On May 1, 2020 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada will be enacting a firearms ban on military-grade assault-style weapons.

The ban covers 1,500 types of firearms and stops licensed gun owners from selling, transporting, importing, or using these weapons in Canada. The ban was enacted through an order-in-council from cabinet and not through legislation because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There's a two-year amnesty period that allows gun owners to comply with the ban and firearms owners must be in compliance with the ban by April 30, 2022 or they could face sanctions under the criminal code. Details on a potential buyback program and grandfathering process have yet to be announced.

As a response to Canada's firearm ban, John Hipwell has initiated a judicial review of the order-in-council. Hipwell is the founder of Wolverine Supplies — a firearms store now run by his son Matt and daughter-in-law Genn — in Virden and has been involved with firearms for over 50 years.

Hipwell has started a GoFundMe page (<https://www.gofundme.com/t/judicial-oic-challenge-john-hipwell-amp-ed-burlew>) with a goal of \$100,000 to help with legal costs and is currently looking for those who have been impacted by the firearm ban. As of June 5, the GoFundMe had raised \$42,508 from 553 donors.

Continued on Page 31



Virden's John Hipwell has initiated a judicial review of the order-in-council that enacted the firearms ban in Canada.

# Local helpers thanked with \$100 gift cards from Co-op

There have been many positive stories of people coming together and supporting one another through the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic — and we wanted to help say thanks.

In May, we asked you to tell us about someone going above and beyond to help their friends, neighbours or community during the pandemic. Of the 1,250 people randomly selected across Western Canada, there were 15 recipients of a \$100 Co-op Gift Card in the Twin Valley Co-op area.

"Through the efforts of everyone working together to support one another, our community has been able to face the many challenges created by the pandemic these past two months," said Dwayne Moncur, General Manager of Twin Valley Co-op. "It's heartening to read the positive impact Co-op members and other members of our community are having and we just want to thank everyone for making our communities what they are."

There were nearly 4,500 submissions made during the nomination period. Nearly 27 per cent of nominations were for a frontline worker with another 19 per cent for a healthcare worker, 17 per cent for a family member and 13 per cent for a friend.

There were a wide range of stories from a care assistant working with at-risk seniors to a neighbour baking buns for the block to a school secretary helping find meals for vulnerable children and families. Recipients in our community went above and beyond as well. We will be featuring these stories on our social media channels in the next few weeks.

Co-op Helps is our way of supporting individuals and

communities through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-op has made a \$250,000 donation to food banks in Western Canada. This is in addition to the contributions local Co-ops are making in their respective communities.

For example, our Co-op has provided additional support to our community by also contributing \$1000 to our local food banks in our communities, as well as over \$50,000 with the "You're at home here Community Fund".

Read more Helper Highlights and ways Co-op is supporting communities across Western Canada at [www.wecare.crs](http://www.wecare.crs) or [www.twinvalleyco-op.crs](http://www.twinvalleyco-op.crs) or follow us on our social media channels @TwinValleyCoop.

### ABOUT TWIN VALLEY CO-OP

Twin Valley Co-op is a local co-operative that has proudly served surrounding communities for more than 90 years. Today, Twin Valley Co-op serves more than 6428 members — and many more customers — in Birtle, Elkhorn, Miniota, Rossburn & Russell. In 2019, Twin Valley Co-op returned more than \$1.4 million to its members in cash back and equity, while contributing over \$68,447.49 and 1635 volunteer hours to community organizations and initiatives. Please email [membernews@twinvalleycoop.ca](mailto:membernews@twinvalleycoop.ca) to be added to the Member Newsletter List. More info is available at [www.twinvalleyco-op.crs](http://www.twinvalleyco-op.crs)

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-  **1635 hours** of volunteer service by Twin Valley Co-op employees.
-  **\$6.5 million** in salaries, 161 people employed
-  **\$68,447.49** in donations and Kid's Club activities
-  **\$600,000** in equity paid to local membership; with an allocation of 1.4 million to members.
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# 58 years later: Sask's first successful potash mine readying for final chapter



Miners discover potash on June 8, 1962 in Esterhazy.

Fifty-eight years ago, after years of digging and toiling, miners reached potash in Esterhazy—unearthing Saskatchewan's first potash mine.

IMC Canada's K1 mine—a predecessor company of Mosaic, was the first successful shaft-sinking project in Saskatchewan. Where other attempts failed, the project used an innovative ground-freezing technology that would allow safe construction through a high-pressure water layer occurring on the layered-journey through time to the valuable potash ore bed.

For over a half century, K1 has provided the world with around 285 million tonnes of potash—and locally, grown the economy and community.

Prior to the development of the K1 mine, Esterhazy was a town of about 500 people. As the mine turned up production, the area began to boom, with people and businesses flocking to the area, together establishing a community built on potash. Esterhazy soon became a thriving community of over 3,000.

Since then, the Esterhazy-area has continued to prosper from its rich potash reserves.

"Thousands of men and women have put on their hard hats and coveralls to ride the 'cage' down to mine potash at K1," says Esterhazy General Manager, Dustin Maksymchuk. "Starting in July, production will begin to wind-down underground at K1, and many will follow the well-worn route a kilometer below for the last time."

### An approaching farewell

Over the next three months, Mosaic will progressively ramp-down production underground at K1.

On September 20, 1962, K1 was officially declared 'open'. It's expected that primary mining at K1 will end close to the same time, 58 years later.

"Esterhazy is in an aggressive 'transition' phase, shifting its underground operations at K1 and later K2, to our state-of-the-art K3 potash mine," says Senior Vice President, North America, Bruce Bodine.

The move to mine new K3 ore remedies several chal-

lenges that can come with mature mines.

"Between K1, and its sister-mine, K2, the footprint of the underground roadways and mining areas span nearly the size of Winnipeg, meaning it takes a long time for our people to get to their work and back each shift," he adds.

Next door, the K2 mine (developed in 1967) continues to fight an inflow of water that first entered the mine in 1985. With plans to mitigate the risk from the brine inflow and demonstrate a commitment to Mosaic's potash future, a decisive decision was made to sink the province's first new mine shaft in 50 years.

"In 2009, we announced plans to build the K3 mega-project adjacent to K1 and K2. In 2017, potash was struck. Much like on June 8, 1962, this milestone signified a new Esterhazy-era," says Bodine.

### K3 project on track

Today, on surface, work is underway to complete the south K3 headframe to match the impressive north headframe completed in 2012.

To end primary mining at K1, the overland conveyance system—an enclosed belt to move ore—will connect K3 to the K1 mill where the new ore will be processed. The conveyor is expected to start delivering potash this summer as the ramp down of K1 begins.

Upon completion of K3, Mosaic's Esterhazy site is expected to be the largest, most competitive underground potash mine in the world. The full transition is targeted to be complete in mid-2022.

"Our transition is really a work of art," says Maksymchuk. "Tightly co-ordinated milestones across three sites, all managed by teams of talented individuals who are building on the rich potash legacy for the area. Between managing our workforce, preparing operations, completing the project milestones, decommissioning planning and integrating new technology—there's a great deal to synchronize."

Shifting production from K1 to K3 signifies another major transition milestone and one more pivotal moment in Esterhazy's storied potash past.

"We have a long and proud legacy here. For more than fifty years, we've managed to overcome great challenges and find success underground in Esterhazy. We're ready for the next fifty and beyond," adds Bodine.



North coarse ore bin steel installation at K3.



Current day shot of Mosaic's K1 surface operations.



The grand opening of K1 in the fall of 1962.



Conveyance belt readying to deliver ore to K1 from K3.

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# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



Mahindra Roxors are modified for use underground in Saskatchewan mines at Universe Satellite Sales in Rocanville.

# Universe providing Roxors for mining industry

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Rocanville's Universe Satellite Sales is filling a need for Saskatchewan potash mines—the company is providing vehicles to transport people underground at the massive potash mines at Rocanville and Esterhazy.

Owner Stan Langley says that as soon as he saw his first Roxor he knew the vehicle would work for the mines, and the vehicles are being modified in Rocanville to meet the precise needs of the mining industry.

"We have supplied other vehicles to work underground like the Kioti's, and I had been after the manufacturers to build a vehicle specifically for the mines, but they didn't because it costs a lot of money to design some for the mines," he says.

"A friend of mine wanted us to get into selling Roxors because he wanted to buy one, but we didn't really want to take on another line, and when he went and bought one in Alberta he came home and he says 'you got to come out and have a look at this.' We drove down there and had a look at it. As soon as I walked in the door I said 'holy, that is exactly what the mine needs.'"

"So we went after the dealership, got it right away, and the first thing we did is we got a couple guys from the mine to come in and said 'if you could build a perfect mine vehicle, what would you do to this vehicle?'"

"The first thing they said was it was a

little too high so you would need to get it lowered, which we did by changing out to smaller wheels. You would need all the lights for underground, and need the scrubbers for the exhaust. They said you need different bumpers because everyone is going to bump into the wall—they are going to bust the taillights and everything on it.

"So we just took all the notes, and then I got Scott Norton down who was involved in building some of the first mine vehicles when Sylvite was first doing it when he worked for Goodman's. (Sylvite of Canada first developed the Rocanville potash mine.)"

"He designed the front and rear bumpers for us and he started making them for us and we got the first one down underground at Rocanville, and they like it. It hasn't been underground for a year yet and I think it has around 36,000 km on it."

Universe's modified Roxors are now underground at both Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy mines.

"We've got five at Nutrien and one at Mosaic, and I'm sure we'll have more—it's just a matter of time," said Langley. "They are quite a bit less money than some of the other vehicles they are using. They've been really dependable. We've changed a couple light bulbs and a speedometer and other than that they've been working really good."

How much customization goes into the

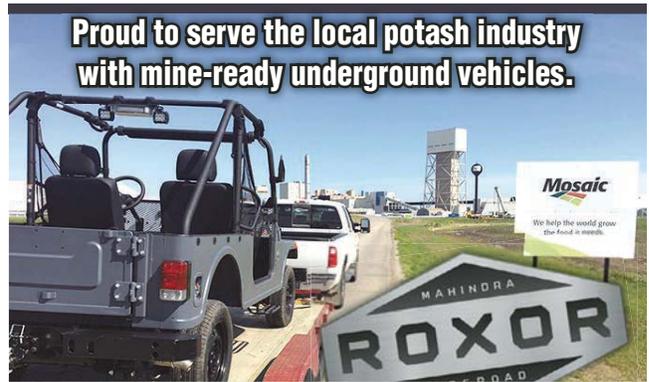
vehicles?

"We put on the heavy duty front and rear bumpers, we change the batteries in them, and the ignition comes out of them. We put in a push button start and do away with the key on them," explains Langley.

"We put light bars on them. We put a scrubber system on the exhaust. We put on

the tow hitch and now they can actually tow with them now, so we're actually putting electric brakes on them as well now. Plus they have all the warning lights on them, and we put the reflective tape on them. We do a fair bit of work to them to make them mine ready."

*Continued on page 17*



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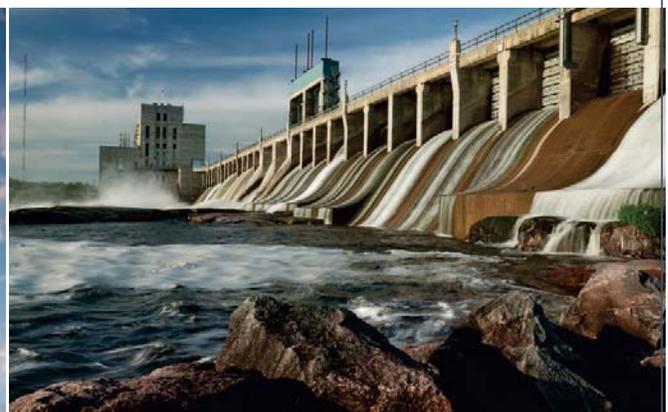
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# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



### Universe providing Roxors for mining industry

**Continued for page 15**  
The bumpers come off to get the vehicles down into the mine.

"The bumpers have to be off them when they put them down in Rocanville," said Langley. "They are exactly 144 inches if we take the bumpers and taillights off, which makes it really nice for them—they fit right in the man cage and down they go."

Langley said Roxor is 100 per cent behind his efforts to get the vehicles into the mines.

"Roxor is right behind us," he said. "They've actually had one of their guys from California, one guy from Edmonton and another guy from Ontario come out and they actually toured both Mosaic

Esterhazy and Nutrien Rocanville underground and talked to the people that were running them and they just said 'Okay, what would you change if you could do anything to them?' and they had a couple ideas. We were actually supposed to meet a couple other guys. We are going to be going down to Detroit to meet with them and sit with the engineers and spend a couple days right at Roxor where they are building these things and talk to all their engineers, but Covid-19 came along, so that got put on hold."

Langley said he believes the potential for the vehicles is huge in the mining industry and other industries.

"The potential is huge," he said. "CP

Rail is actually starting to use them in their yards. They are putting cabs and air conditioning in and they outlast the half tons because half tons are not meant for that type of terrain. There are some mines in B.C. that have taken them underground. We've had a lot of the dealers from the U.S. call and say 'what are you doing to these things to make them mine ready?' So I think the potential is really big because of the simple fact that we can probably do them for a third of the price of some of the bigger man carriers."

Langley said he sees lots of potential for more businesses in the region to develop products for the mining industry.

"There is probably lots of economic de-

velopment potential around the mines. You just need to find out what they need. They are buying product from all over the world. This is the niche that I found, but I'm sure there are other things that businesses could provide locally for the mines. It's no different than agriculture. Everybody grows wheat and there is no reason why they couldn't be milling wheat around here and making flour, but we send it all away.

"I think there is lots of potential for different things around the mine. This is our niche and we're filling a need for the mining industry, and I think there's also potential for the farming industry because the ranchers are buying these things up like crazy."

### June oil and gas public offering raises \$442,125 in revenue

The June public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held Tuesday generated \$442,125.39 in revenue for the province of Saskatchewan.

This is the second of six oil and gas public offerings, bringing the current 2020-21 fiscal year total to \$2,165,850.24.

The Estevan area brought in the majority of the bid activity, generating \$374,388.50 for 25 parcels of lands totalling 2,644.690 hectares.

The Lloydminster area also brought in \$50,545.83 for five leases totalling 1,146.816 hectares, while the Kindersley area brought in \$17,191.06 for two leases totalling 520.468 hectares.

The highest bonus bid received in this offering was \$111,112.00, or \$1,724.70 per hectare, for a 64.424-hectare

north of Lampman. This lease was purchased by Millennium Land (444) Ltd. and is prospective for oil in the Midale Beds and Frobisher Beds of the Madison Group.

The scheduled date for the next public offering is August 11, 2020.

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On and offsite, our workers will follow robust protocols including social distancing, deep cleaning, hand washing, health assessments alongside other health and safety practices.

Our workers will be temporarily residing in local campgrounds, hotels and private accommodations and supporting local businesses and community organizations.

Interactions with local community members will be kept to essential needs only, while following all health and safety rules in your communities.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our reclamation work, please reach out to us.

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1-888-967-3899





# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



### Sask modernizes pipeline regulations

The Government of Saskatchewan has modernized and strengthened its regulatory oversight of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure in the province, with the proclamation of the Pipelines Amendment Act, 2019 (the Act).

"This is the culmination of several years work and delivers on our promise, made in 2017, to ensure that Saskatchewan citizens and our environment are protected to the highest standard," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "The introduction of substantial enhancements to our pipeline licensing system will also provide more efficiency

and regulatory certainty for our oil and gas sector."

In recent years, the province has enhanced regulatory systems to monitor and review pipeline construction and operations, with more stringent inspection, investigation, penalty and audit powers.

The new Act and regulations will expand regulatory oversight to include retroactive licensing of approximately 80,000 flowlines across the province over the next four years and more stringent scrutiny of applications at higher-risk locations, such as waterways. With these changes, the Ministry of Energy and Re-

sources has fully addressed all outstanding issues raised by the Provincial Auditor regarding the integrity and safety of pipelines in Saskatchewan.

This is the first system of its kind in Canada to adopt an entirely electronic registry of pipeline licensing and administration. The Act establishes a new module in the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) for an Online license registry, similar to the Saskatchewan Land Titles Registry, which will issue and administer licenses for the oil, gas and mining sectors.

"In developing the pipeline regulatory framework, the Government of Saskatchewan worked to ensure both regulatory efficiency and predictability for operators," Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) Vice-President of

Western Canada Operations, Brad Herald said. "The new pipeline module, with its Online licensing registry, highlights the province's commitment to monitoring and upholding the highest standards of safety for the public and the environment; standards that are also continuing priorities for industry."

The new system will also streamline the review of applications and reduce the time required for routine approvals. In addition, the introduction of administrative penalties will complete the overall compliance framework tied to pipeline regulation. The Pipelines Administration and Licensing Regulations are now in effect, along with Directive PNG034: Saskatchewan Pipelines Code, which clarifies and enhances requirements set out in previous regulations.

### Canada world's largest potash producer

Potash is the common name given to a group of minerals and chemicals containing potassium (K), which is a basic nutrient for plants and an important element of fertilizer. Potash is mostly produced in the form of potassium chloride (KCl), but deposits can have different amounts of potassium, so we often measure and refer to it in terms of potassium oxide (K<sub>2</sub>O) equivalence, for consistency.

• Potash is primarily used to produce fertilizer

• Canada is the world's largest producer and exporter of potash

• Canada has the world's largest potash reserves, with 1 billion tonnes of potash (potassium oxide equivalent) or about one-quarter of the world's reserves

Potash is primarily used as a fertilizer (approximately 95%) to support plant growth, increase crop yield and disease re-

sistance, and intensify water preservation. Small quantities are used in the manufacturing of potassium-bearing chemicals such as:

- detergents
- ceramics
- pharmaceuticals
- water conditioners
- alternatives to de-icing salt

Potassium is an important element of the human diet. It is essential for growth and the maintenance of tissues, muscles and organs, as well as the electrical activity of the heart.

Canada produced 22.7 million tonnes of potash in 2018, an increase of 2.4 million tonnes compared to 20.3 million tonnes in 2017, making 2018 a record year for Canadian potash output.

Source: Natural Resources Canada

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# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



### Sask Energy and Resources minister sees bright future for industries

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre May 29 about the future of the energy and resource industries. The complete interview follows.

I just want to get your thoughts on—with the way the world is changing—what kind of future do you see for these industries?

It's a big question, but the answer is that the future looks bright. It has been a challenging time certainly, but next week (this week for readers!) is mining week as you know, and that is a good time to highlight our strength and resilience.

There have been short-term challenges of course, including liquidity challenges, but oil and gas and mining and forestry will recover.

Some mining operations of course have had to shut in, as you know, more so in order to protect workers, but other operations such as our potash mines have continued with enhanced safety protocols at this time.

In recent years we have to remember the growing diversification we've seen in the province in the mining sector, into diamonds for example, and nickel and copper. In recent years we have welcomed new mining operations in the province. We have some of the biggest diamond and gold labs right here in Saskatchewan, which I'm not sure enough people know about. We've got to get the word out about this and a world-renowned geological survey, more and more junior exploration companies, and I think what we can build on, and where that diversification is coming from, comes down to our regulatory environment which is very stable. We have very competitive royalty structures, and we have some incentives in place that have helped the sector. We have the PST exemption for exploratory and downhole drilling activity, we have the targeted mineral exploration incentive which supports the exploration for precious and base metals and diamonds. And so again, very positive buttresses for the



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre

sector. And exploration expenditures, Kevin, in Saskatchewan, in 2019, were over \$200 million. There were more than \$2.3 billion in expenditures over the past decade. The mining industry in Saskatchewan generated \$7.4 billion dollars in sales in 2019, and over \$72.3 billion since 2010. So we have a great story to tell here in Saskatchewan. Yes it's a challenging time but as I say, we will come back strong.

And I see in a recent subsurface mineral rights public offering, there was quite a bit of interest in Lithium exploration in Southeast Saskatchewan. Do you think there is real potential for development of an industry there?

That's another one. And absolutely there's potential. I was reading an article yesterday that some of the COVID factors have maybe slowed that globally, market-wise a little bit, in terms of the EV (Electric vehicles that need lithium batteries). Absolutely, Lithium is another one, Rare earths is another one in Saskatchewan that we are certainly looking to foster. There is a lot of diversification happening and more possible in the future for sure.

What do you see as the biggest issues facing the potash industry in the province right now, and how do you see those being overcome?

Mines continue to operate with the safety precautions. There have been disruptions that have been caused by the pandemic and there have been market challenges. The long-term fundamentals of the potash market remain strong and growth is absolutely expected to return in the sector generally. In 2019 we produced 12.6 metric tonnes of potash in Saskatchewan, the most of any country, about 30 per cent of the world total. And volumes remain strong, so I think that's positive. Potash though the years has gone through phases and that will continue, but long-term fundamentals are firmly in place.

Has the province taken a look at the regulatory and royalty structure around potash or is that pretty much set for the next little while?

That's set for the next little while. That would have to be part of a much more broad based look and there are no plans for that right now. We have to make sure stability above all reigns right now.

Oil is also a big part of our economy in Southeast Saskatchewan. What do you see as the future of the oil industry in Saskatchewan?

Continued on Page 24

## COVID-19 ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES FOR SASKATCHEWAN MINING INDUSTRY

<p><b>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b></p> <p><b>2M SPACING</b></p>	<p><b>INCREASED HANDWASHING</b></p> <p><b>INCREASED HANDWASHING</b></p>	<p><b>PPE</b></p> <p><b>PPE</b></p>	<p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL ON SITE</b></p> <p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL ON SITE</b></p>	<p><b>INCREASED SANITATION OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS</b></p> <p><b>INCREASED SANITATION OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS</b></p>
<p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL IN ELEVATORS</b></p> <p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL IN ELEVATORS</b></p>	<p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL IN VEHICLES</b></p> <p><b>REDUCED PERSONNEL IN VEHICLES</b></p>	<p><b>STAGGERED BREAKS AND SHIFTS</b></p> <p><b>STAGGERED BREAKS AND SHIFTS</b></p>	<p><b>FLOOR MARKER LINES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b></p> <p><b>FLOOR MARKER LINES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b></p>	<p><b>BODY TEMPERATURE SCREENING</b></p> <p><b>BODY TEMPERATURE SCREENING</b></p>
<p><b>SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH WORKER</b></p> <p><b>SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH WORKER</b></p>	<p><b>STAGGERED SEATING ON FLIGHTS AND BUSES</b></p> <p><b>STAGGERED SEATING ON FLIGHTS AND BUSES</b></p>	<p><b>INCREASED COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p><b>INCREASED COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p><b>INCREASED FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH</b></p> <p><b>INCREASED FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH</b></p>	<p><b>IF SICK STAY AT HOME</b></p> <p><b>IF SICK STAY AT HOME</b></p>



# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



# Sask launches new inactive well program

The Government of Saskatchewan is launching the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities to get Saskatchewan people back to work.

ASCP will access up to \$400 million, over two years, subject to the conclusion of an agreement with Canada, through the federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. It will be overseen by the Ministry of Energy and Resources and delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), which has technical expertise to provide engineering and oversight work. The program will prioritize Saskatchewan-based service companies and support some 2,100 full-time equivalent jobs. Up to 8,000 inactive wells and facilities will be abandoned and reclaimed over the life of the program.

"We have worked hard to develop a common sense, administratively simple program that creates much-needed jobs in the struggling oil and gas sector," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "The ASCP will accelerate the retirement of wells and facilities, which have reached the end of their life cycle, and complete a substantial amount of environmentally important work in a short period of time. For that, we would like to acknowledge the support of the federal government."

The ASCP will be rolled out in several phases, with the funding component of the program administered by the SRC. Phase 1 will allocate up to \$100 million in funding to Saskatchewan service companies contracted to do abandonment and reclamation work.

"Working with Minister Eyre and the Government of Saskatchewan, we are creating needed jobs, cleaning up our environment, and supporting the hardworking people in our oil and gas sector," Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O'Regan said.

Under the ASCP, eligible licensees (operators) will use the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) to nominate inactive wells and facilities into the program. Each licensee will be assigned a portion of planned ex-



penditures, based on their share of total provincial liabilities for inactive wells and facilities. Based on these nominations, the SRC will procure services from eligible service companies. All contracting for services will take place exclusively between eligible licensees and service companies. The SRC will provide direct funding, including an initial advance, to service companies for abandonment and reclamation work.

"We'd like to thank the Saskatchewan government for working to implement the ASCP in a timely manner," Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors President and CEO Mark Scholz said. "We are excited by the prospect of long-term jobs for Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors members who have been struggling to keep their employees working and their businesses viable."

"Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers appreciates the Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to design an Accelerated Site Closure Program that will help get Saskatchewan people back to work by focusing efforts on closure of inactive oil and natural gas sites," Canadian

Association of Petroleum Producers Vice-President, Western Canada Operations Brad Herald said. "The initial phase of the program recognizes principles important to the sector including the efficient management of liability closure, while offering fair access to funds. We continue to support Saskatchewan's pragmatic approach to the program design while achieving government's objectives."

"Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) welcomes today's announcement that will support urgently needed jobs for the oilfield services sector that PSAC represents during this unprecedented downturn," PSAC Interim President and CEO Elizabeth Aquin said. "We are pleased that this funding aligns with PSAC's advocacy for a mechanism to close inactive wells and that the Government of Saskatchewan has supported this win-win solution that creates jobs while also providing environmental benefits. This program will also help to retain and expand key skills and expertise for Canada's responsible resource development and stewardship of the land."



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# Spring 2020

## Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



### Interest in Lithium deposits

The Government of Saskatchewan's Subsurface Mineral Crown Disposition Public Offering, held on Monday April 20 raised \$169,878 in revenue for the province. This is the first subsurface mineral offering of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Eighty-one subsurface mineral permit blocks totalling 141,640.79 hectares were posted. Out of the 81 blocks posted, 16 received bonus bids and consisted of 51,917.960 hectares. Sun Valley Land Ltd. picked up nine permit blocks totalling 36,769.377 hectares for \$101,300.00; Deep Earth Energy Production Corporation picked up three permit blocks totalling 3,462.289 hectares for \$55,000.00; and Prairie Lithium Corporation picked up four permit blocks totalling 11,686.294 hectares for \$13,578.00.

The highest bid received in this offering was \$30,000.00 from Sun Valley Land Ltd. This 1,656.78 hectare permit block is located 18 kilometres southwest of Estevan and is prospective for minerals, such as lithium.

The subsurface mineral public offering uses a transparent and competitive bidding system to issue subsurface mineral dispositions that grant the holder exploration and development rights for potash and natural mineral salts occurring more than 60 metres below the land surface. These include boron, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bromine, chlorine, fluorine, iodine, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur, and their compounds.

As the appeal for lithium is increasing in the global market, the province has seen a significant interest in Saskatchewan's lithium potential.

The next scheduled date for a subsurface mineral public offering in Saskatchewan is December 14, 2020.

Subsurface Mineral Rights Public Offering S005 - April 20, 2020



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## Spring 2020

# Mining, Energy & Manufacturing



## Sask Energy and Resources minister sees bright future for industries

Continued from Page 21

Clearly there have been challenges—that's an understatement—over the last little while. Not only as a result of the pandemic, but the OPEC-Plus price war that will have an impact no question on barrels per day of oil and gas production and shut ins for the next few months, we hope not too long of course.

There has been a reduction of capital expenditures and with that a decline in and an anticipated decline in employment. This is very unfortunate of course and we've watched this very carefully. We were pleased to announce the support that we put forward waiving the administrative regulatory levy in April, lowering it by 50 per cent, deferring some other measures, reducing electricity charges, modifying some reporting and compliance requirements where possible without any impact on health or environmental safety. And we've talked about those relief measures before and we felt that was important at that time, and then last week as you know we brought forward the abandonment announcement and that's the \$400 million in federal support for abandoning inactive wells in the province.

We are doing that in phases, we wanted to make sure that we didn't overwhelm the system. It has been well received, the main focus with that of course is to get people working and get the service sector working and we expect that work to start to roll out in the coming weeks.

**What kind of feedback have you had from the oil industry on those measures?**

Very positive. I'm proud to say that I've heard in some quarters that it's regarded as the best program in Canada in terms of what we rolled out. Of course I might be accused of being slightly biased on that one but there have been good reviews, Kevin.

**Another industry that's important around here is pipelines. We have 250 workers coming into the area in June to finish up the Line 3 surface remediation—projects like that have a big impact on our local economy. What do you see as the future for that industry? Can you see more pipelines being built in the future?**

Well Enbridge line 3 we have obviously been strong supporters of that replacement project and all the export capacity that that project brings to our oil sector, that's absolutely critical.

We've been keen to see all the remaining legal and regu-

latory hurdles in the U.S. be overcome so that the construction south of the border can be completed as soon as possible. As you know, the remediation plan for the current line 3 pipeline has been approved by the CER and so that process will result in remediation activity along the whole length of the existing pipeline in Saskatchewan.

In terms of future projects, we recently launched the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program which is to help facilitate the construction of any new or expanded pipeline across the province to move more Saskatchewan oil to market, leave the railways open to mining, manufacturing, and ag products.

We are looking at a number of projects and a number of proposals that are viable and could be viable, so we continue to do that because we have to look to what we can do here in the province when it comes to export. I think it's fair to say that things have stagnated federally, Energy East was cancelled, Northern Gateway was cancelled by the federal government.

There have been worrying comments recently by Mr. Biden about Keystone XL and how he would scrap all that good work and all the infrastructure that is already in place. So we have to continue to look at everything, we are doing that and just continue to advocate for the importance of pipelines and how responsibly put in place they are, how responsibly product is transported in this country, how safe they are and all of that. So that continues despite the federal regulatory and infrastructure challenges.

**Do you think there's a lot of potential in Saskatchewan for further development in supplying these industries? We have an article in this section about a company in Rocanville that's bringing in Mahindra Roxors, customizing them for a mining application and supplying them to Nutrien and Mosaic. Do you think there is that much more potential for that kind of economic development around these industries within the province by meeting the needs of the supply chains for these industries?**

Absolutely.

And I think our record when it comes to innovation and our companies' records in importing these innovative methods and technologies into their operations is astounding.

So absolutely as long as we can continue to rock the economy here and recover as well and as quickly as we can, that will all continue.

We have huge momentum in the province, and we do amazing things on all scales, on larger scales, we are top

in class in the world when it comes to our mining and oil and gas operations and the innovation that we bring and companies bring into those operations. So absolutely. That story is one of many.

We do amazing things and there is amazing potential for growth in our sectors.

**What is the most important thing the provincial government can do to ensure that these industries get where they need to go?**

When it comes to export infrastructure, we need to make sure we look at everything we can do and to not give up hope by any means, but to foster the right climate for projects.

We have an excellent royalty regime, a very stable one, a very transparent one across both our mining sectors and our oil and gas sectors.

We have to make sure that we keep things very stable in that regard because it has promoted and led to investment in this province.

We have tried to do common sense things around, for example, the targeted mineral exploration incentive to support exploration and diversification in the mining sector, so that has been very positive.

I think steady as she goes. But at the same time to look at everything we can do around R & D, around infrastructure, as we have done with the incentives we've brought in the last two years.

The Saskatchewan petroleum investment incentive, the export incentive that I mentioned, and just maintaining that very stable royalty structure so that there remains that stability around what we do and how companies can do what they do here.

I had conversations as recently as this week in the oil and gas space that the incentives we have in place around, for example, horizontal drilling, the nature of royalties and how they work in Saskatchewan, sliding scale, for example, built in, how world-class those are.

And two companies this week who I happened to speak to said they really believe they are the best in North America and that it is the best structure in North America for that investment.

So there is a predictable environment for companies what they have to do and how it works here. We can't ever do anything to hurt that or effect that and that stability.

That's what we need most of all right now going forward through what has been certainly a challenging time but we have to get to the other side and economic recovery.

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# Covid-19 protocols in place for Line 3 project

**Continued on page 1**  
 “Back in March we had no direct protocols but we were guided by provincial authorities at that time,” says Pilkington. “In Ontario the provincial health authority was saying that this is what we needed to do and that is what we implemented at our sites. Since then, the Enbridge health services department and safety department corporately have got together and come up with Enbridge-specific protocols that meet or exceed all provincial requirements in all the provinces that we’re working in currently from B.C. to Ontario.”

“It starts with a questionnaire before a worker shows up at site. We send him a questionnaire and it asks the basic questions based on provincial health assessments. Have you travelled outside the country? Have you been in contact with known a COVID-19 case? Do you have any of these symptoms? And the questionnaire has been constantly changing and been adapted to the information as it’s learned by Health Canada and provincial authorities, so it has changed. The COVID-19 protocol starts with that—everybody has to submit that to us prior to showing up at site so we know before they even get there that they are healthy, not showing any symptoms, they haven’t been in contact, they haven’t travelled, things like that.”

“For this Line 3 work, we have told our contractor to set up temperature screening for all the workers coming to Moosomin, for example. So they filled out the health assessment before they arrived, they’ve said they’re healthy, now they’re coming to town, and before they start work and every day they come to work during this project, they will be temperature screened by our medics.”

“If they do have a temperature, they will not enter the worksite and the focus will be on getting that worker care.”

“If they do have a high temperature then they’ll be asked to isolate. There are a number of reasons for having a high temperature, so our temperature screening protocol addresses those kinds of things. If they come to work and have a high temperature, they will be sent back to isolate and Banister will then follow their protocol for getting this worker care.”

### Most workers from Sask.

The vast majority of workers on the Moosomin project will be from within Saskatchewan, not from other jurisdictions where infection rates are higher,

said Sawatzky. “Of the workers that are coming to the project, 80 percent will be out of the Saskatchewan union halls, labourers, operators, teamsters—there are no welders on this one—so the vast majority are Saskatchewan union hall members.”

Because Banister is an Alberta company many vehicles will have Alberta plates, but the operators will be from Saskatchewan.

Sawatzky said there will be full-time staff on site overseeing COVID-19 precautions.

“We told Banister to have a full-time COVID-19 coordinator, so that would be someone that just looks over the whole spread to make sure everybody is following the protocols, social distancing, cleaning, getting their temperature checks in the morning, helping the full-time temperature screening person with their tools in the morning make sure everybody gets their temperature checks, and if there was someone with a fever find out why and then take care of that. The other commitment we made as well is we’re going to have a full-time Enbridge COVID-19 co-ordinator, so there will be two dedicated people whose full-time job it is to help us manage through the COVID-19 rules and protocols.”

“We’ve also hired a full-time security guard above the normal security on our

project, so this person is just another layer of protection. We want to make sure that everybody is following our protocols, and even sometime a local will turn in the yard look around and drive out. We won’t be able to do any of that kind of thing this time, and that is what the security guard is going to ensure.”

“The physical distancing part for a job like this is fairly easy to manage given what we’re working with is we’re a 100 km right-of-way and the nature of the work we’re doing with people in different pieces of equipment, but we are minimizing group size, so we’re not having work groups congregate together when they’re having their lunch and having their coffee breaks. They’re still required to physical distance during transportation and Banister is aware of that and have implemented protocols to manage that, so travel on a bus for example will only be every second seat. In vehicles we won’t be packing six people into a crew truck. They’ll probably travel with two sitting in opposite corners of the vehicle. If at any time there is work that needs to be done that requires workers to be within six feet of each other, they need to be either wearing masks and face shields in order to conduct that task, and as soon as that task is done they separate again.”

Safety protocols will ex-

tend to the workers in the community.

“They will be required to follow our guidelines, Banister guideline, Saskatchewan provincial health authority and any local Moosomin requirements,” said Pilkington. “This will be communicated to them at the kick off meeting and during orientation when all the guys show up that this is the expectation even when you’re in town.”

“We know they are going to be using the grocery stores and restaurants and buying gas and staying at hotels and local accommodations. There is still a requirement that they follow all of these protocols at all times when they are interacting with the community.”

### Impact on project

The overall impact of the safety precautions to the project will likely be an increase to the cost and time required to complete the work in Moosomin this summer.

“It’s a little bit different way of doing things for sure,” said Sawatzky.

“It adds costs and it adds some time. We don’t really know the impact of the cost or the schedule length if it

will extend the schedule or not, but we are expecting it will. The way I’ve explained it to the Banister people and my own Enbridge teams is that where we’re going here is very similar to the path we took three years ago with equipment cleaning. We have a very strict procedure protocol to ensure that weeds are not transferred from one quarter section to another, or across RM lines, and we did a lot of work with cleaning stations and where they are supposed to go, and documenting and evidencing the equipment was clean. We ended up using a system that uses a tablet, it takes a picture and it registers that yes this equipment was cleaned on this date and this location.”

The way I’m putting it to everybody else is we’ve been down a path that we had some evidence and be compliant on cleaning equipment to make sure clubroot and noxious weeds didn’t get transferred around, and we were able to be successful with that and keep all the landowners happy.

Instead of equipment cleaning we are basically on a people cleaning program. The protocols are

very similar. They are going to be very stringent. It’s not going to be a stretch to get the workers’ minds into it, especially when they’ve been going through these same protocols with equipment. They know how to handle themselves in the communities as well. They have to live in their own community, now they are going to be living part time in Moosomin. At work or at home I think a lot of these guys have been educated over the last couple of months, as we all have.”

Sawatzky said he is confident the new protocols will ensure the work in the Moosomin area can be done safely. “We’re very confident,” he said. “We’ve seen these protocols in action on other projects. These protocols have been managed, implemented, they get audited on a regular basis and it’s like anything else—the workers need a constant reminder to stay six feet apart and wash their hands all that kind of stuff, but it has been done, and so we absolutely know that this will be a successful project with everybody working safely.”



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Shoni King with her custom made denim grad dress, made from the clothing of various family members.

## Unique grad dress sewn from family members' clothing

BY KARA KINNA

Shoni King from Corning couldn't celebrate her grad this year in the traditional way, but regardless, she was proud of her unique grad dress, which she had custom made from denim jeans that belonged to various family members. The dress was sewn by Brenda Pickup Parker from Broadview, and photos of Shoni in the dress were taken by Amanda Brigden with ABSees Studio. Shoni drew out what she wanted the dress to look like, and Parker created the dress for her.

"When I was in Grade 9, Mom was looking on Facebook and someone had shared a picture of a wedding dress that was similar," says Shoni. "It was a picture in a bridal shop of this denim dress with lace on it, and flowers similar to my dress, and I just fell in love with the picture of the dress."

*Continued on page 28*

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# Unique grad dress sewn from family members' clothing

Continued from page 27

She says it was her mom's idea to have the dress made with the clothing of her family members, to give it that extra special significance.

"That was mostly mom's idea. I have my aunts, my uncles, my mom, my dad, my siblings, my grandparents and my great-grandpa," she says. "We just asked everybody to send us a pair of jeans."

But how does a dress like this go from idea to reality? Shoni says they'd heard about Parker's talent with custom sewn dresses and decided to contact her.

"We were talking and my grandma's cousin had made the dresses for her girls' grad and their weddings and they are all really beautiful dresses, so mom asked if she would make it for us and she basically went off the picture to build the dress," she says.

"I loved it. It's amazing I love the dress, I love how it turned out, it's the best thing ever."

Shoni says she's not the only one who loves the dress. "I'm going to keep it," she says. "Brenda, the lady who made my dress, her granddaughter saw it, and said she wants it for her grad, but she's only five. But I'm going to save it and see if she still wants it when she graduates."

## Waxwings invade bird bath

Dan Loran from Indian Head, Sask. took this photo on June 9 of a group of beautiful bohemian waxwings in his bird bath.



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# Salute to Frontline Workers

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Local children were asked to submit artwork showing their appreciation for frontline workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Shown here are some of their submissions



"Thank you frontliners for protecting us and helping the people"

Artwork submitted by Kaylee Bowey, 5 years old



"Thank you to the doctors and nurses for helping us."  
Artwork submitted by Tristan, 10 years old



"Thank you for risking your lives for ours."  
Artwork submitted by Madelyn, 12 years old



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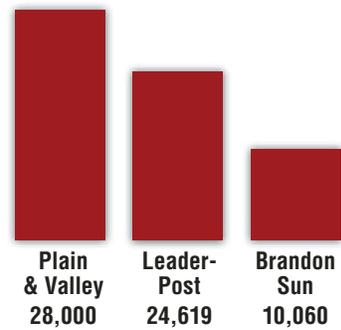
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## NEXT ISSUE: JULY 17

## DEADLINE: JULY 8

# Virden man challenges firearms ban with judicial review

Continued from Page 12

"We are currently looking for firearm owners who have or are currently using a firearm chambered in Weatherby .460 (or similar) or a rifle chambered in .50 BMG (or similar) for hunting grizzly bears, walrus or narwhals in Canada," reads the GoFundMe page. "Also, anyone who uses a Mini 14/30 or the Robinson Armament XCR platform for hunting or predator control. Finally anyone who has or is currently using the CZ Scorpion Evo III, an AR-15/M4 or variant, CZ 858 or variant, Beretta CX4 Storm, or the Sig MCX/MPX platform of firearms."

"We need to know how this OIC (order-in-council) has impacted on your shooting hobby, and if you work within the firearms/outdoor industry how it has impacted your business. If you own other firearms that have been affected, please advise us on these as well, as there has been many others affected. If you are one of these people and are willing to provide a signed affidavit to testify in court, if required, please indicate that as well."

"The response has been very strong. I have received well over 300+ communications and letters within the first 48 hours. I plan to use everyone's email in support of my own affidavit, so keep them coming as your efforts will not be wasted! However, we will only require a very few to sign affidavits and possibly appear in court along side us. My goal is to raise \$100,000 so we do not find ourselves in a tough situation due to lack of funds," states the GoFundMe. "Any funds left over when the action is concluded will be dispersed to a Canadian firearms support or advocacy organization."

Hipwell says the plan to go forward with a judicial review wasn't immediate, but knowing someone needed to step up he took it on.

"I'm retired and I've got nothing better to do! Seriously though, enough is enough," he told the World-Spectator. "I couldn't sit back and not do anything. There was a week or so when I was reeling in shock and sitting back waiting for other groups to take the bull by the horns. I was talking to Edward Burrell — a firearms lawyer I'd known for many years out of Toronto — and it sort of all came together."

"I think we've got six different groups in Canada, that I know of, that are taking this issue to federal court and one to provincial court. Here, everybody is horrified and the Liberals have made no pretence that this is all they're doing. Every indication is this is just the first step of several that they're going to take. If everybody was to sit back and just take it, then they'll keep giving it."

The use of an order-in-council to push the firearms ban through is Hipwell's biggest issue with the situation.

"To me it's an affront to democracy," he said. "I think it's an abuse of parliamentary procedure that they use an order-in-council when they don't have the weight to carry a bill through parliament. In an order-in-council, it's a done deal. The bureaucrats draft it and on this occasion it was signed behind locked doors, in secrecy. There's no debate, it's just done."

"There is a need for order-in-council in parliamentary procedures, but they're usually used in times of emergency where something has to happen quickly or they're used to fine tune a bill that's already gone through all the processes. On a bill in 1995, the specifications on how the attorney general can prohibit firearms with an order-in-council was changed because it used to read anything that wasn't considered suitable for hunting and sporting purposes. They changed it to read, anything 'in the opinion' of the attorney general is not suitable for hunting and sporting purposes. Well, you can't change somebody's opinion. Your opinion could be the sky is red and I think you're full of it because I know it's blue, but you're entitled to your opinion."

"They say these guns are not suitable for hunting or sporting purposes," he said. "Yet for the last 25 years they've been giving permits out to thousands of people to take the AR-15 to the range for sporting purposes. What evidence has said that something changed overnight?"

After putting together the GoFundMe and asking for firearms owners to let him know how they've been impacted, Hipwell says the support started to pour in.

"On one form I asked for people to send in a signed statement on how the order-in-council affected them and would they be willing to sign an affidavit and appear in court? And I've got over 360 at this point in time," he said. "The vast majority of them have said they'd be willing to sign an affidavit and I'd bet at least half of them would go to court."

"The percentage of police officers and military that have contacted me and sent these statements is a large proportion. As a percentage of our population the law enforcement community would be a fraction of a percent, but close to a third of what I've received has come from them. Professional people that have bought these firearms so they can hone their skills because there isn't adequate training provided for these people."

Hipwell is hopeful and confident that the judicial review will at least lead to change with the firearms ban.

"Historically I don't think there's ever been a case where a government firearms bill has been immediately taken to court," he said.

"Yet this has been taken to court by six or seven different groups for a variety of reasons. I can't see all of the cases being decided in the governments favour. The CCFR are pushing to have an injunction and have the OIC struck down and suspended until it's corrected."

"Two of the words they use in the OIC that are disturbing are the AR-15 and variants, but there is no legal definition of the word variant. The other thing they've also

put in there is, any firearm capable of generating 10,000 joules of energy. Well, you can calculate joules of energy and the disturbing thing is it says 'any firearm capable.' Just about any hunting rifle out there is capable of doing that — you might have to change the barrel — so this is open ended."

"They've never before put an energy figure out there so this is setting a precedent in its own right," he said. "What's to stop them from next year saying 5,000 joules? Again, it's poorly drafted and poorly written. That might not be their intent to do that today, but we can't leave it alone because it could be somebody else's intent in the future."

Hipwell says, the lack of clarity and detail with the order-in-council are a major issue and the government has yet to clear anything up.

"I'll tell you what, do a bill of sale for your truck and I'll take it and then sometime in the next two years I'll tell you what I'm going to pay you for it," he said. "There's no formula, they haven't said they're going to pay 90 per cent of the 2019 price, they haven't said if they'll be paying for accessories. Let's say they say an AR-15 is \$1,000, well some of the cheap ones might be, but there's people out there with \$3,000-\$5,000 tied up in a rifle when you add on the accessories."

"If they prohibited golf and said they'd buy back our golf clubs, what about my electric golf caddy? Well you can keep that or you can sell that, but it's no damn good if you take my golf clubs and who wants to buy it if golf is prohibited? It would be the same as a firearm and its accessories. We can keep the accessories, but they're no longer of any value."

"With the grandfathering clause, they indicated that

was part of it at the beginning, but in recent communications they've dropped all mention of grandfathering," he said.

"There's just a lot of things that haven't been thought through," he said. "There's a two-year amnesty — I've got firearms impacted by this so I've got to keep them locked up at home — well, what happens if I'm changing jobs and moving to Alberta next week? They can't answer questions like this. All of the registration certificates have been expired and if you don't have a registration certificate then they can't give you a permit to move it."

With many major firearms being banned, Hipwell says, there are other options out there that remain legal, but he wonders at what point will they be taken away too?

"The AR-15 is the most popular firearm for shooting," he said. "There are alternatives, but they've also indicated that if this order-in-council forces people to look for a new firearm that became popular they would ban that one too. It's very open ended."

"It states, 'there's also a risk that affected firearm owners may elect to replace their firearms with models unaffected by the ban causing a market displacement. This risk may be mitigated by adding additional makes and models to the list of prohibited firearms in the future.' The idea there is to put the fear of god into gun owners so they won't even think of buying another gun."

"Firearms are very complicated and the laws are very confusing, this regulation is no different than anything else and it's also very poorly drafted with lots of ambiguity," he said. "It's scary stuff."

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