



CREATING OPPORTUNITES

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Alberta electricity system transformation is full of opportunity

OPED - May 9, 2018 - By [Binnu Jeyakumar](#), *Pembina Institute*

Published in the National Observer (May 9, 2018).



Photo by Tom Andernach

Alberta's electricity sector is undergoing a substantial transformation. There's no stopping it; the sector is changing worldwide. The change is driven by cheap renewable energy, aging infrastructure, declining coal value and the need to better manage the health impacts of air pollution. That last factor is one of the main reasons the federal government, under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, legislated the first national coal phase-out in 2012. It is why many states and countries are seeing coal plant retirements and its replacement with renewable energy.

This isn't our first rodeo. Alberta went through a significant market transformation when the province deregulated the electricity market almost two decades ago. We must adapt to change... [Read more.](#)



Things You Need to Know

From the SouthGrow Office



Upcoming SouthGrow Annual General Meeting

SouthGrow will be hosting our Annual General Meeting on June 14th. As our agency grows and pushes the boundaries on behalf of southern Albertans, we need to have approved representatives there from all 24 of our member communities in order to vote on new initiatives and organizational structures that will be proposed. Dinner will be supplied. [Learn more & register.](#)



Hemp Launch Event

Drayton Valley is recruiting entrepreneurs and investors to design and build innovative businesses. The Hemp Innovation Program is a seven-day program that provides intensive training, market intelligence, coaching, and mentorship to connect entrepreneurs with investors and take the industry to new heights! [Learn more.](#)



Snow Pillow Spring Run-off Report

View the report by the [Oldman River Basin – Southern Region Operations Infrastructure Branch \(OIB\) of Alberta Environment & Parks \(AEP\)](#), which summarizes all of the real time snow pillows that the Province maintains and utilizes for determining possible Spring runoff from the SE Slopes. [Learn more.](#)



ASTech Awards

You might ask: why should we apply for an ASTech Award? The answer is simple: because an ASTech Award honours leadership and outstanding achievement in science and technology in Alberta. Winning an ASTech has multiple benefits, but most importantly, enhanced credibility and profile that often leads to partnerships and financing. Now more than ever, it's vitally important to celebrate success in Alberta and share those stories to inspire the next generation of innovation. [Learn more.](#)



Upcoming SouthGrow Event

We welcome Maarten den Ouden, Trade Officer from the Consulate General of the Netherlands who will talk about the challenges facing agricultural regions in the Netherlands during the 1990s and outline the steps taken to drive improved sustainability and create a successful economic model. Mr. den Ouden will share examples of regional strategies and resulting successes, failures and lessons learned. A question and answer session will be followed by a light lunch and networking opportunity. [Learn more & register here.](#)



RMA Post-Secondary Scholarship Program

The 2018 application term is now open and closes August 31, 2018. In recognition of the importance of an educated population to the future well-being of rural communities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) established the RMA Scholarship Program in 1995. The RMA Scholarship Program is designed to encourage young rural Albertans to pursue further education, and thereby enhance the ability of these young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities in subsequent years. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is presented to one successful applicant from each of the five districts. [Learn more.](#)

Community and Regional
Economic Support Program

(CARES)

CARES Program

On April 9th, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Deron Bilous, announced the 62 recipients of the latest Community and Regional Economic Support program (CARES).

What's more, he also announced that the program will be extended for at least two more intakes. These intakes will be in June 2018 and October 2018 respectively. So get your people together and start planning for your next impactful economic development project now. [Learn more.](#)

Stories That We're Following

Government Affairs

- Southern Alberta will be eligible for flood disaster funding through municipalities (Chat News Today) [Read more.](#)
- Blood Tribe Reserve's land designation referendum passes by 1 vote (Global News) [Read more.](#)
- Alberta town lifts state of emergency after 7 weeks, but floodwaters remain (Global News) [Read more.](#)
- City of Lethbridge launches new energy efficiency pilot project (Global News) [Read more.](#)
- Province vows long weekend crackdown in park areas (Calgary Herald) [Read more.](#)
- City rates well with snow, ice removal (Lethbridge Herald) [Read more.](#)

Economic Affairs

- Late spring equals late start for producers in S.E. Alberta and S.W. Saskatchewan (Medicine Hat News) [Read more.](#)
- Edge herbicide approved for use with hemp (Grainews) [Read more.](#)
- Potato growers have fingers crossed (Lethbridge Herald) [Read more.](#)
- Building intentions tick higher (The Owl) [Read more.](#)
- Emissions Reduction Alberta's investment imperative to economic viability of oil and gas sector (Pembina Institute) [Read more.](#)
- Good quality jobs starting to return to Alberta (The Owl) [Read more.](#)

Social Affairs

- Picture Butte revives rural crime watch association (Global News) [Read more.](#)
- Significant portion of Waterton Lakes National Park closed for 2018 season (Global News) [Read more.](#)
- Fire advisories and bans blanket Alberta as dry conditions persist (CBC News) [Read more.](#)
- Alberta braces for hot, dry wildfire season (Toronto Star) [Read more.](#)
- Learning Week benefits students (Lethbridge Herald) [Read more.](#)
- Province sets date for apology to survivors of Sixties Scoop (CBC News) [Read more.](#)
- 42 grants awarded to projects around Southwestern Alberta by the Community Foundation (Lethbridge News Now) [Read more.](#)

Big Ideas

- 5 FAQs About New Space LEO Satellite Constellations (bliley technologies) [Read more.](#)
- Ottawa's bet on low earth orbit satellites a 'positive step' for rural internet: industry (Financial Post) [Read more.](#)
- 8 digital innovations disrupting agriculture (Alltech) [Read more.](#)
- Connecting 25% of Canada's Population with Hyperloop (Virgin Hyperloop One) [Read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

May 15 & 16 | Energy Disruptors: Unite 2018 (Energy Disruptors & Pembina Institute)

We live in a time of exponential transformation ripe with possibilities. A time where our biggest energy challenges are our greatest opportunities. Now is the time to think differently. Now is the time to act boldly. Now is the time to UNITE. On May 15th 2018, the world's boldest energy trailblazers will collide in Calgary to redefine future energy. For the very first time, industry thought leaders from every aspect of the energy value chain will UNITE. For two full days, the Oil and Gas industry will join forces with the influencers at the forefront of energy transformation. [Learn more.](#)

May 16 & 17 | Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit (AEEA)

The Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) is pleased to present the Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit on May 16 and 17, 2018. The AEEA will host this two day event, designed to offer delegates a forum to collaborate, learn, network, and receive insights into the latest trends in energy efficiency. Through this event, the AEEA strives to engage with its members and other industry stakeholders to increase and promote the conversations taking place around energy efficiency in the province. [Learn more.](#)

May 16 | Community Town Hall with MP Rachael Harder

"Please join me on May 16th as I provide an update on what's going on in Ottawa and how federal decisions will impact the Lethbridge region. Following a short presentation, you are invited to share your thoughts and ask questions. Some of the topics I plan to address include the Canada Summer Jobs grant, the federal carbon tax, the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, Bill C-71 (firearms legislation), the legalization of marijuana, and small business tax changes."

- Rachael Harder, MP for Lethbridge. [Learn more & register here.](#)

May 29 | Lunch & Learn: NAFTA (Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce)

As the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations lurch from forced optimism to apprehension, small businesses in Canada need to face the possibility that the trade deal might collapse. But, now is not the time to panic. Join the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce for a discussion featuring Carlo Dade, Director of Trade & Investment Centre, Canada West Foundation. Carlo will discuss NAFTA and what businesses can do now to prepare. [Learn more.](#)

May 30 | Learning from the Netherlands: Waste Management & Bio Energy (Economic Development Lethbridge & Partners)

We welcome Maarten den Ouden, Trade Officer from the Consulate General of the Netherlands who will talk about the challenges facing agricultural regions in the Netherlands during the 1990s and outline the steps taken to drive improved sustainability and create a successful economic model. Mr. den Ouden will share examples of regional strategies and resulting successes, failures and lessons learned. A question and answer session will be followed by a light lunch and networking opportunity. [Learn more.](#)

June 6, 7 & 8 | INVENTURE\$ (Alberta Innovates)

Guy Kawasaki and Arlene Dickinson have just been announced as the first two keynotes for Alberta Innovates new innovation experience, Inventure\$. This unconference, featuring 150 thought leaders, will converge on the Calgary Telus Convention Centre, June 6-8. The event brings together innovators, investors, and thought-leaders to discover and share new developments in innovation and experiential learning. It offers 16 tracks of programming that include clean energy, oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, bio-technology, construction, artificial intelligence and more. [Learn more.](#)

June 7 | Getting your Agriculture and Food Products to Market: Trade & Logistics Workshop (Alberta Ag. & Forestry)

Join experts who will provide you with:

- Connections to logistics and supply chain experts;

- Valuable information on logistics, cargo services, freight forwarding and customs brokerage considerations related to exporting products;
 - Expertise and information on different modes of transportation including trucking, air, and rail;
 - Updates on the new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific;
 - Partnership (CPTPP) and market access opportunities created;
 - Information on market development programs and services from multiple government agencies and departments; and
 - Information on the newly launched Canadian Agriculture Partnership grant program and learn more about application process and eligible activities. [Learn more.](#)
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June 14 | SouthGrow Annual General Meeting

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September 26 | 2018 Alberta Climate Summit (Pembina Institute)

The Alberta Climate Summit is the event for innovative thinking and knowledge sharing on energy and climate in Alberta. The event brings together 500+ thought leaders from industry, government, environmental NGOs, and community stakeholders to learn from success stories, identify opportunities and challenges, and explore solutions related to Alberta's clean energy future. The Climate Summit showcases successes underway in Alberta, informs and connects decisionmakers, and inspires participants to play an active role in Alberta's transition to a clean energy future. [Learn more.](#)

Questions? Suggestions? Need Help? Got a story we should share?

Contact the SouthGrow team!

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