



CREATING OPPORTUNITES

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Headline Article:

Big Changes at the SouthGrow Annual General Meeting



Greg Robinson (left), former Chairperson of SouthGrow Regional Initiative looks on as Jim Willett (right) gives his acceptance speech as incoming Chairperson of the organization.

Lethbridge, June 14, 2018.

Big Changes in the Works

Last week the SouthGrow Regional Initiative made the largest changes to its organizational structure in its 14 year history. At the Annual General Meeting, the membership voted unanimously to revise the association's articles of incorporation to move from a 10 person management board, to a full-membership board with a 5 person executive to oversee monthly operations. This change was due to an expressed desire on the part of the membership to be more deeply engaged with the affairs of the association, as expressed at the recent strategic planning session in April. Under the new structure, full board meetings will occur quarterly, and each year the board will elect its 5 executive officers.

Fond Farewells

This year's AGM also saw the departure of long-time Chairperson, Greg Robinson, from the role. Greg has faithfully led SouthGrow for the past four years, earning the respect of his fellow Chairs across the province, and becoming the de-facto spokes-person for the REDA's in

negotiations with the government. Long-time board members Carol Zelenka and Roger Houghton also indicated that they would take the opportunity afforded by the organizational transition to step down from the Board, after serving and representing their communities for the past 9 and 7 years respectively. SouthGrow is deeply grateful for the faithful service and impactful contributions these three individuals have given to the entire region, and their experience and knowledge will be missed.

New Faces

The new SouthGrow Executive, elected by the members at the AGM is:

Jim Willett, Chairperson - Village of Coutts
Ron Lagemaat, Vice-Chairperson - Town of Coalhurst
Eric Burns, Director - Village of Warner
Laurie Lyckman, Director - Vulcan County
Gerry Selk, Director - Town of Cardston

This new Executive is responsible for overseeing the operational management of the association, for providing oversight and support to the staff, and for being the region's chief ambassadors in matters of economic importance. Please join us in welcoming these five dedicated individuals and in thanking them for putting their talents and time at the service of all of SouthGrow. We're excited about all that we plan to accomplish together.

New Opportunities

The new SouthGrow plans to engage and leverage the talents of its members like never before. We will soon have 24 talented Board Members who represent communities bursting with talent and energy. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved on projects that connect with your interests and talent as we all work together to achieve the vision of making SouthGrow a technologically-sophisticated agricultural heartland. We're in this together!

You can access all of the documents from the annual general meeting [by going here](#).

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to You by the Alberta Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

Week of June 11, 2018

Indicators Updated this Week

MANUFACTURING SALES



In April 2018, the value of Alberta's manufacturing sales decreased 2.4% compared with April 2017, to \$5.78 billion. Nationally, manufacturing shipments increased 3.6% over the same period to \$56.24 billion. In Alberta, machinery saw the highest growth at 10.5%, while petroleum and coal products saw the largest decline at -16.9%.

HOUSING STARTS



In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 2,870 in May 2018, a year-over-year increase of 10.9%. Canadian starts decreased 1.3% over the same period. In Alberta, single-detached (-3.6%) and row units (-15.6%) decreased, while semi-detached (+14.9%) and apartments (+42.4%) increased.

OIL PRODUCTION



Oil production in Alberta was 15.1 million cubic metres in April 2018, up 13.8% compared to April 2017. Non-conventional (or oil sands) production constituted 82.9% of all oil production in Alberta in April 2018. Production of non-conventional oil was up 13.7% while conventional oil production increased 14.5% on a year-over-year basis.

NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION



In April 2018, marketable natural gas production increased by 0.8% compared to April 2017 to 9.1 billion cubic metres.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



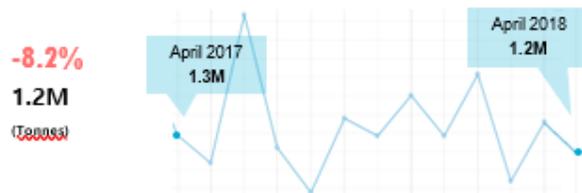
The number of new motor vehicles sold in Alberta decreased 4.8% between April 2017 and April 2018 to 22,417, while the number of motor vehicles sold in Canada decreased 2.2% over the same period. Sales of passenger vehicles decreased 23.6% year-over-year, while sales of trucks (including minivans, SUVs, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) increased 0.2%. In April 2018 trucks comprised 82.9% of all vehicle sales.

CATTLE PRICE



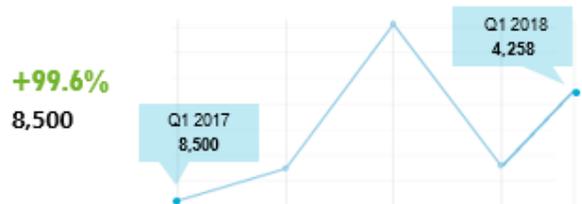
Cattle prices in Alberta decreased 9.3% in April 2018 compared to the same time period a year earlier, to \$145.03 per hundredweight, the highest price in Canada. Hog prices decreased 14.8% in April 2018 compared to the same period a year earlier, to \$60.53.

GRAIN DELIVERIES



Grain deliveries in Alberta decreased 8.2% between April 2017 and April 2018, to 1.18 million tonnes. Canadian grain deliveries decreased 2.7% over the same time period. In Alberta, non-durum wheat, which made up 43.1% of grain deliveries, decreased 9.5%, while canola, which made up 41.8% of grain deliveries, decreased 6.3%.

NET MIGRATION



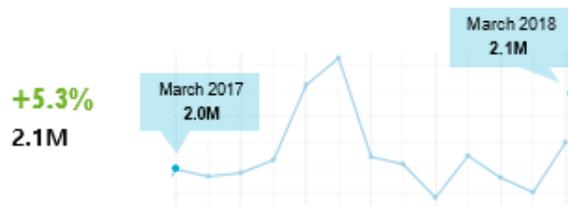
In the first quarter of 2018, net migration into Alberta totaled 8,500, compared with a net inflow of 4,258 in the same quarter of 2017, an increase of 99.6%. Net inter-provincial migration into Alberta was 1,862, an improvement over the outflow of 2,942 people seen a year earlier. Net international migration was 6,638, down from the 7,200 net international migrants entering Alberta in the first quarter of 2017.

MLS SALES



The dollar volume of homes sold in Alberta through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) decreased 10.6% to \$2.31 billion in May 2018 compared to the same time period a year earlier. Nationally, total sales values were down 21.6%, with British Columbia posting the largest decrease (-29.9%). Quebec saw the largest year over year increase in sales volume, increasing 6.6% to \$3.02 billion. Alberta's sales value of \$2.31 billion in May 2018 represented 9.2% of the Canadian total. In Alberta, only Grande Prairie (+33.2%) and Medicine Hat (+20.2%) saw a year-over-year increase. Fort McMurray had the largest drop year-over-year in the province (-21.6%).

AIR PASSENGERS



The number of air passengers passing through Alberta's three largest airports increased 5.3% in March 2018 compared to the same period a year earlier. 43.8% of those passengers went through Calgary International Airport as domestic passengers. The largest increase was seen in Calgary's international traffic (+15.3%), while Fort McMurray's domestic traffic saw the only decline (-10.8%) compared to the same month a year earlier.

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$304.7B	+4.9%	May 2018
Q1 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	+1.4%	March 2018
May 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.2%	-1.6%	June 2018
June 11-15, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$65.06	-0.8%	June 15, 2018 Closing
Mar 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.8B	+2.5%	May 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thu 21	Fri 22
			Indicator Releases: Employment Insurance, Wholesale Trade	Indicator Releases: Retail Trade, CPI

Things You Need To Know

CANADAWEST
FOUNDATION

CHINA
BRIEF

China's relationship
with Canada's West



China Brief | [Edition 05](#)

China's relationship with Canada's West

[IN THIS EDITION:](#) What the heat-up in the China-U.S. trade dispute could mean for Canada, how Chinese recycling restrictions continue to impact Canadian communities, and how the future of Chinese agriculture may be in self-driving combines. [Read more.](#)



SouthGrow Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021

Building on Firm Foundations

The new Strategic Plan for the SouthGrow Regional Initiative has been drafted and approved by the membership. Building on the solid foundations laid over the past few years of hard work, this plan has been built to leverage the good relationships, growing resources, and increasing opportunities available to us to make a deeper economic impact. It is an ambitious plan, in that it will only succeed with the engagement and support of a motivated membership that believes in, and supports, the work ahead. However, when we succeed it will be the success of everyone involved from all of our communities, and we will all share together the fruits of that victory.

[Download and read the full Strategic Plan here.](#)

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

[USDA proposed rule on GMO labeling raises more questions than answers](#)

FoodNavigator-usa.com | May 3, 2018 | By Elaine Watson

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published a long-awaited proposed rule to establish GMO labeling standards (the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard), but still leaves most of the key questions – including how to interpret its definition of 'bioengineered' – unanswered.

[Japan halts wheat imports after genetically modified wheat found in Alberta](#)

Financial Post | June 15, 2018 | By Lauren Krugel, The Canadian Press

The Canadian government is trying to reassure Japan and other trading partners that genetically modified wheat found in southern Alberta is limited to a few plants growing along a remote access road and has not been detected in the wider supply.

[Alberta craft brewers renew call for open beer borders in wake of trade ruling](#)

CBC News | June 13, 2018

Some local craft brewery owners are renewing their call for open beer borders across Canada after the Alberta government was ordered to scrap a grant program that was aimed at levelling the playing field.

[‘Very twisted’ Alberta dairy industry finds itself in the crosshairs of Trump’s trade blast](#)

Calgary Herald | June 11, 2018 | By Sammy Hudes

Alberta dairy farmers at the centre of a developing trade war between Canada and the U.S. are calling President Donald Trump’s targeting of the Canadian industry unfair.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

[Husky Energy wants to build Saskatchewan oil pipeline, replace one that leaked in 2016](#)

Global News | June 14, 2018 | By The Canadian Press

The company behind the 2016 oil spill that fouled the North Saskatchewan River and threatened the water supply of Prince Albert and other communities wants to build new pipelines to replace the structure that leaked.

[Alberta’s population trends - Part 1: Fewer non-residents in Alberta](#)

ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

Over the course of the recession a few years ago, Alberta experienced net interprovincial out-migration of workers to other parts of Canada. But it wasn’t only Canadian citizens leaving. Thousands of visitors ...

[Soup-to-Nuts Podcast: What is behind the overnight explosion of puffs?](#)

FoodNavigator-usa.com

Once considered simply a children’s snack that parents would sneak when no one was looking, puffs suddenly are everywhere – and for everyone – thanks to their better-for-you profile, new sophisticated flavors, increasingly diverse bases and playful shapes that encourage sharing. Alberta’s Left Field Foods launched puffed potato snacks at Expo West.

[New business accelerator opens up opportunities for Alberta entrepreneurs in China](#)

University of Alberta: Folio | June 12, 2018 | By Michel Proulx

A new business incubator that will facilitate access to the Chinese market for Alberta technology innovators officially opened its doors today, thanks in large part to a long-standing relationship between the University of Alberta and Tsinghua University.

[Canadian crude by rail exports to the U.S. hit 3-year high](#)

Global News | June 14, 2018 | By Dan Healing, The Canadian Press

Railway exports of crude oil from Western Canada are starting to increase, a welcome sign for producers who were forced to accept bigger price discounts and, in some cases, curtail production, as export pipelines filled to near capacity earlier this year.

[Flair launches low-fare airline on WestJet's home turf](#)

Calgary Herald | June 15, 2018 | By Ryan Rumbolt

The low-cost carrier took its inaugural Calgary flight at 11:35 a.m on Friday, offering trips to Vancouver, Winnipeg and Kelowna. Flair's executive chairman David Tait — who help start Virgin Atlantic with billionaire Sir Richard Branson — has only been at the company's helm for about a month, but said Flair has already has a proven track record flying out of nine other Canadian airports.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

[Five years after the flood, work continues to prevent another disaster](#)

Calgary Herald

In the five years since the flood of 2013, Southern Alberta communities have turned their efforts towards long-term flood mitigation projects to prevent widespread damage if a similar event were to occur.

[Boom or bust, immigrants are choosing Alberta — and they're thriving](#)

The Star: Edmonton | June 12, 2018 | By Ameya Charnalia, StarMetro Edmonton

Sheida Azimi arrived in Alberta amid one of the worst recessions in recent history. Armed with a degree in public policy, Azimi moved to Edmonton from Iran following in the footsteps of her sister, who settled here a decade ago.

[Canadian Oil and gas workers still mainly old white males despite diversity gains: study](#)

Coast Reporter | June 14, 2018 | By The Canadian Press

A new study shows that Canada's energy sector workforce became larger and more diverse from 2006 to 2016, but remains predominantly the domain of older, white men. PetroLMI says the number of people directly employed in oil and gas grew by about 25,000 to almost 190,000 over a tumultuous decade that included booming growth due to record high oil prices and thousands of layoffs when prices crashed.

BIG IDEAS

[Trucks leading the way on the road toward self-driving vehicles](#)

Edmonton Journal | June 10, 2018 | By Gordon Kent

Pairs of radar-equipped trucks connected by computer barreling down the highway about 20 metres apart could be on the long road toward driverless vehicles. These semi-trailer "platoons" are already allowed in

nine American states, with software linking the truck safety systems so they can operate more closely than normal while the drivers handle steering.

[Can the solar industry survive without subsidies?](#)

The Economist | June 14, 2018

A little over a decade ago, when JinkoSolar, a Shanghai-based company, entered the solar business, it was such a novice that when it visited international trade fairs, all it had was a bare table and a board with its name scribbled on it. But it also had luck, a technological edge and lots of public money on its side.

Upcoming Events

[Jun. 20 | Climate Solutions Workshop | Government of Alberta](#)

Join Sustainability Resources with feature speakers Warren Greeves and Larron Northwest. We will explore the many factors affecting climate change and learn all the actions you can take. After lunch we will plant a future carbon sink for Leduc County! You will learn and work alongside our youth tree planters.

[Jun. 20 - 21 | Solar Canada 2018 Conference & Exposition | Solar Canada](#)

Solar Canada is the place to make solar industry connections, learn how policy and regulatory markets are changing across Canada, and explore future solar opportunities.

[Jun. 22 | Watershed & Climate Solutions Workshop | Government of Alberta](#)

Join Sustainability Resources and featured speakers from the University of Alberta, Wright Nursery, and local First Nations as we explore the many ways Alberta's can act to mitigate climate change, and support our watersheds at the same time. We will plant a future carbon sink for the County of Wetaskiwin. You will learn and work alongside our youth tree planters.

[Jun. 29 | Permaculture Design Solutions Workshop | Government of Alberta](#)

Join Sustainability Resources and featured speakers from Spruce Permaculture as we explore ways to integrate plants back into our built environment and support local food economies. After the classroom discussion we will plant future carbon sinks to support watershed initiatives in Parkland County! You will learn and work alongside our youth tree planters.

[Sep. 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 ...

[Oct. 03 | 2019 Economic Outlook | Calgary Economic Development & ATB](#)

Confidence in the economy is rising - how will this transform your business in 2019? Join us at the 2019 Economic Outlook and hear about current economic trends and forecasts in your industry to get an edge up on 2019 planning. Learn how local, provincial, national and international economic forecasts for next year may influence your business.

Employment Opportunities

[AUMA | Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Tech Tools For Your SouthGrow Team

At SouthGrow's main office, we are working hard to further improve our implementation of technology and data to improve our organization and service. Here's what we are using, as well as some other tools we think would help the businesses within our communities.

WHAT WE USE

[G Suite – Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar and More for Business](#)

Do your best work with Google's suite of intelligent apps (formerly Google Apps). Get business email, video conferencing, online storage and file sharing.

[Google Maps Platform - Geo-location APIs](#)

Choose Google Maps Platform to create immersive location experiences and make better business decisions with accurate real-time data & dynamic imagery

[Workplace by Facebook: A Work Collaboration Tool](#)

Workplace is already the place for teams to connect and collaborate. Now get even more productive with integrations. Connect to the apps and services you ...

[Economic Dashboard - Government of Alberta](#)

Welcome to the Alberta Economic Dashboard. The dashboard compiles the Alberta economy's most important indicators for businesses in one place.

[Trello](#)

Infinitely flexible. Incredibly easy to use. Great mobile apps. It's free. Trello keeps track of everything, from the big picture to the minute details.

[Wix.com: Free Website Builder | Create a Free Website](#)

Create a free website exactly the way you want. With Wix, you get the whole package - sophisticated website builder, complete customization, reliable web ...

OTHER RESOURCES

[Community \(Local\) Economic Development - Government of Alberta](#)

Tools and resources to help support local economic development. ... Alberta's communities need qualified workers and professionals to drive their local ...

[Fundingportal - Government Grants, Tax Credits ... - The Funding Portal](#)

Canada's bilingual one-window gateway to improve access to 7000+ sources of government funding and private financing for business, hospitals, universities, ...

[SAP Software & Solutions | Technology & Business Applications](#)

Get software and technology solutions from SAP, the leader in enterprise applications. Run simple with the best in cloud, analytics, mobile and IT solutions.

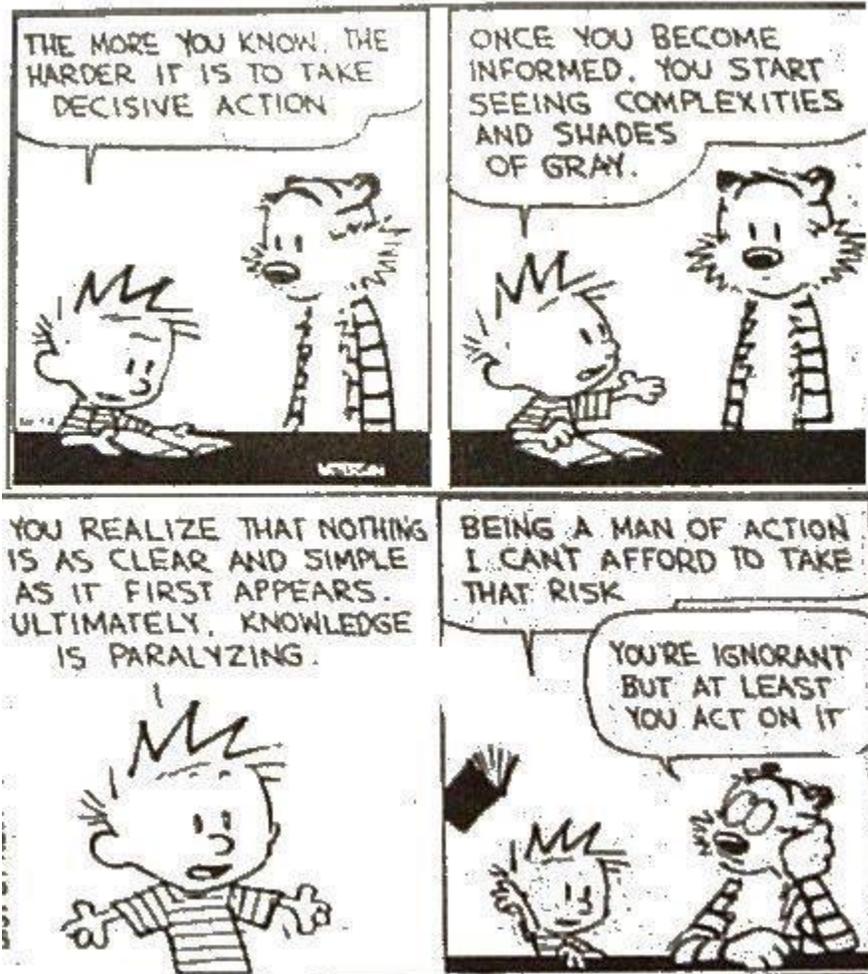
[xarvio Digital Farming Solutions](#)

xarvio™ Digital Farming Solutions makes you feel more confident, reduces your risks and gives you more security in all your plannings and decisions.

[Farmers Edge - Grow.More.Precisely.](#)

Empowering growers and ag professionals with data-driven solutions Farmers Edge is the best option for making data-driven decisions on the farm. We help ...

CALVIN AND HOBBS



Questions? Suggestions? Have a story you would like us to share?

Contact the SouthGrow team!

info@southgrow.com | (403) 394-0615

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