



CREATING OPPORTUNITES

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Headline Article:

SouthGrow and Partners Host Trade Officer of the Consulate General of the Netherlands



Left-to-right: Peter Casurella of SouthGrow, Maarten den Ouden of the Netherlands Consulate in Vancouver, & Bev Thorton of Alberta SouthWest.

Trade Officer from the Consulate General of the Netherlands, Maarten den Ouden, visited the region last week to build new connections and talk to local stakeholders about waste management in the Netherlands. Maarten was hosted by the Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP), a collaborative initiative involving SouthGrow, Alberta SouthWest, and Economic Development Lethbridge.

Maarten gave a fascinating presentation to a full house at Tecconnect, in Lethbridge, talking about how the Netherlands is pursuing a 100% circular economy by 2050. He left brains in the room spinning with the possibilities. Mr. den Ouden shared examples of regional strategies and their resulting successes, failures and lessons learned.

There are growing economic opportunities for our region in the areas of waste diversion and reduction and new technologies are changing how we think about waste, and with our large quantities of organic waste from agricultural operations, large scale waste to power

generation is within reach for the region.

To find out more about what the Netherlands is doing, you can [check out this article](#).

Or,

Check out the Netherlands [Waste Management Policy Here](#)

Weekly Economic Briefing

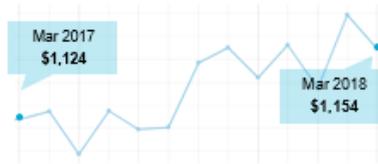
From the Alberta Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

Week of May 28, 2018

Indicators Updated this Week

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

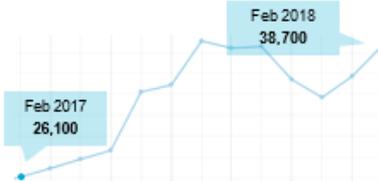
+2.7%
\$1,154



In March 2018, average weekly earnings in Alberta were \$1,154, up 2.7% from the same period in 2017. Nationally, average weekly earnings were \$1,002 in March, up 2.9% from the same period last year. Alberta's March average wage of \$1,154 was well ahead of the next highest province, Newfoundland and Labrador, at \$1,043.

JOB VACANCIES

+48.3%
38,700



In February 2018, the number of job vacancies in Alberta increased by 48.3% from the same month in 2017 to 38,700 vacancies. Over the same time frame, Canadian vacancies increased by 49.0% to 314,600.

FARM CASH RECEIPTS

-5.7%
\$3.9B



Farm cash receipts decreased by 5.7% to \$3.9 billion in the first quarter of 2018 as compared to the same quarter last year. The national average for Q1 was a decrease of 5.3%. Alberta livestock receipts increased by 3.7% to \$1.6 billion, while crop receipts decreased 9.4% to \$2.1 billion and direct payments declined 31.8% to \$143 million.

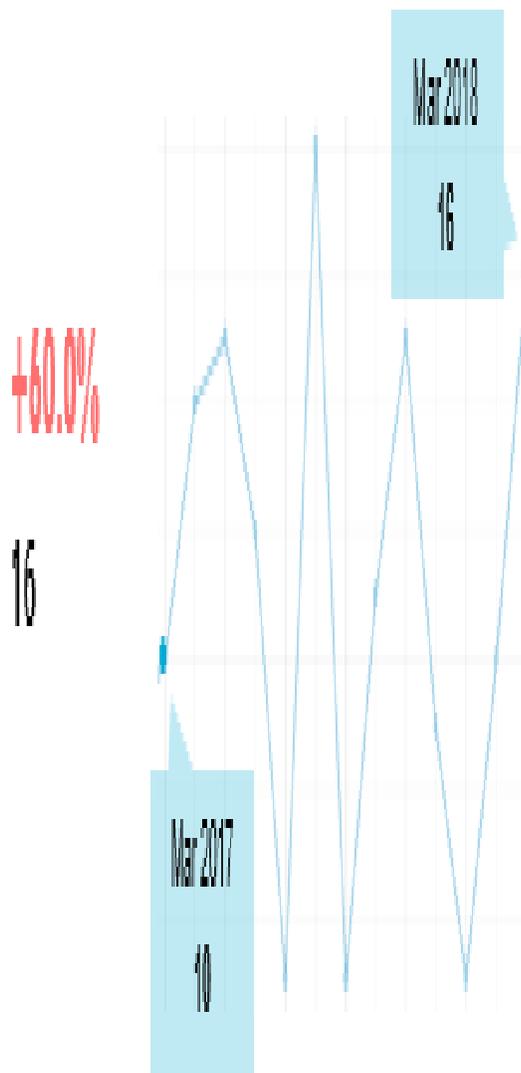
AIR PASSENGERS

+5.3%
2.1M



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.

BANKRUPTCIES



Alberta business bankruptcies increased 60.0% from 10 in March 2017 to 16 in March 2018.

Nationally, business bankruptcies decreased 8.0% to 254 in March 2018 compared to the same month last year. Consumer bankruptcies in Alberta decreased 14.9% from 504 in March 2017, to 429 in March 2018.

News Highlights

- CP Rail reaches deal with union to end strike. [Read more](#)

-
- Move over, Waterloo and Ottawa: Calgary is now out-innovating you. [Read more](#)
 - Oil and gas 'continues to lead' monthly GDP growth: StatsCan. [Read more](#)
 - Donald Trump takes another swipe at Canada's 'trade barriers,' treatment of U.S. farmers. [Read more](#)
 - Varcoe: Oilsands keeps growing, but \$100B cut from forecast capital spending. [Read more](#)
 - Calgary mulls public hearings, plebiscite question for 2026 Winter Games bid. [Read more](#)
 - Alberta drone test could show faster, cheaper way to replant forests. [Read more](#)
 - Alberta economy doing well but growth will be weaker in 2018: report. [Read more](#)
 - More Alberta families worked part-time, or part year, as the province's oil economy took a downturn, Statistics Canada study shows. [Read more](#)
 - When a downturn creates entrepreneurs out of industry workers. [Read more](#)
 - Roundhouse innovative workspace opens in Edmonton. [Read more](#)
 - Alberta becomes 1st province to allow wireless electricity control in new homes. [Read more](#)
 - Alberta seeks creative disrupters to drive digital innovation in government. [Read more](#)
 - Mayor Iveson pushes talent and innovation as keys to Edmonton's future. [Read more](#)

Major Projects

- Canadian government to buy Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline. [Read more](#)
- David Staples: Massive dam near Edmonton would end major flood risk. [Read more](#)
- 27-storey luxury hotel valued at \$100M unveiled for downtown Calgary. [Read more](#)
- Varcoe: After years of setbacks, Canada takes 'baby steps' on building major energy projects. [Read more](#)
- New \$90M bridge on Highway 38 to help industry in the Heartland. [Read more](#)
- Vulcan town council approves lease for EDF's solar project. [Read more](#)
- Support growing for private gondola project across North Saskatchewan River. [Read more](#)
- Spruce Grove plans feasibility study for proposed Arena Complex. [Read more](#)
- \$11.3M roadway project gets green light from Airdrie. [Read more](#)
- Southwest Calgary ring road construction to bring major detours and delays along Glenmore. [Read more](#)
- Ross Sheppard High School's \$48M major modernization preview. [Read more](#)
- Fort Calgary to undergo major \$10.4M expansion. [Read more](#)

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
Apr 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.7%	-1.2%	May 2018
May 21-25, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wd/wk</i> <small>www</small>	\$67.44	-5.4%	May 25, 2018 Closing
Mar 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.8B	+2.5%	May 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 28

Tue 29

Wed 30

Thu 31

Fri 01

Indicator Releases

Average Weekly

Earnings, Job

Vacancies

Things You Need to Know

Brought to you by the SouthGrow Office



NISP Circular Economy-Based Business Opportunities Workshop

The City of Edmonton and the NISP® Canada team are pleased to invite you to the next FREE Business Opportunities Workshop on June 13, as part of the National Industrial Symbiosis Program (NISP®) Canada Pilot. This initiative aims to develop innovative resource management solutions and generate triple bottom line benefits to companies based in the Metro Edmonton region. The workshop will help businesses (and government operations) from micro-enterprises to multi-nationals build their business network, achieve cost savings, generate sales from new markets, catalyse innovation, and extract value from process wastes. [Learn more.](#)



SouthGrow Board Changes

On June 14th at our Annual General Meeting, representatives from SouthGrow Communities will be able to vote on a special resolution to alter our Board structure. SouthGrow is currently overseen by a 10 person management board that meets monthly and oversees the operations of the staff. In response to feedback from our membership, the board is proposing a transition in structure that would allow more ongoing engagement by all members, and put the talents of a small, committed Executive to work for the region. [You can review the Notice of Special Resolution here.](#)

If you represent your community, have you considered letting your name stand for election to this Executive? Contact the SouthGrow Office if you would like to get more engaged with Regional Initiatives by serving on this body.

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

[Buying a pipeline: inside the talks that got to 'yes' on Trans Mountain](#)

CBC News

Early on in the negotiations to save the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, it became clear Kinder Morgan just wanted the project off its hands. So it didn't take long before talks between the oil company and Ottawa focused on the burning question: price.

[Steel association won't rule out asking Ottawa for funds to cushion tariff impact](#)

CBC News

The head of the Canadian Steel Producers Association says his group isn't asking for government money to help its members deal with new U.S. tariffs — not yet, at any rate.

[2 Kinder Morgan Canada executives each get \\$1.5M bonus as part of Trans Mountain deal](#)

CBC News

A pair of executives at Kinder Morgan Canada have each been awarded \$1.5-million retention bonuses in connection with the \$4.5-billion sale of the Trans Mountain pipeline to the Canadian government.

[Taber & Lantic Sugar Sign Wastewater Services Deal](#)

94.1 CJOC

The scope of the agreement has town utility operators overseeing basic management, operation, and maintenance of Lantic's wastewater plant.

[Hutterite Colony Taxation Discussed in Lethbridge](#)

94.1 CJOC

Hutterites contribute more than \$2 million annually to the Canadian economy and MNP is lobbying the federal government for taxation changes.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

[Alberta poised to lead Canada's retail cannabis sector amid impending federal legalization](#)

The Globe and Mail

New entrepreneur Shaun Baid is feeling excited about his prospects these days. Mr. Baid, a Calgary accountant who was laid off last year amid the energy sector downturn ...

[Planting 2018 is in the Books](#)

DrumhellerOnline

According to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's latest Crop Report for May 29th, ... and shallow seeded crops are struggling to germinate in the Southern region.

[Crops back on top!](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

Farming is a complex business that requires astute management of the many risks that are outside the control of producers. From bad weather to natural disasters ...

[Prairie wheat bids down with US futures](#)

Western Producer

Average prices ranged from about C\$233 per tonne in northwestern Saskatchewan, to as high as C\$262 in southern Alberta. Quoted basis levels varied from ...

[Oil production in Alberta is up](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

According to the latest oil supply and disposition statistics, oil extraction in Alberta is up over the last 12 complete months. As of February, 94 million barrels of oil were extracted ...

[The wage gap between Alberta and Canada](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

Albertans have long enjoyed higher pay cheques than Canadians in other provinces. But the recession narrowed that gap—and that smaller gap appears to be sticking around ...

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

[Southern Alberta town inspiring Pride](#)

The Star Calgary

Pride is a celebration, but for the folks hosting an event in a small southern Alberta town this weekend, it's still a protest. Last year, raising the rainbow flag atop Taber's community flagpole wasn't easy ...

[Is the home you're buying at risk of flooding? It can be hard to find out](#)

Global News

Flooding has overtaken fire as the No. 1 cause of home insurance payouts, with claims for flooded basements averaging \$43,000 in major cities. And yet, there isn't ...

[Chorus frogs and other amphibians fill Alberta's wetlands with sound](#)

CBC News

They've got an ongoing leopard frog program, looking at 68 different wetlands around southern Alberta — they're even testing the water to see if there's frog ...

[Experts challenge science behind Alberta's wild horse culls](#)

CBC News

Experts from across North America met in southern Alberta Friday for a symposium on preserving the province's wild horse populations. Julie Woodyear ...

[Job well done by FNMI post-secondary, school grads](#)

Lethbridge Herald

We are also fortunate in southern Alberta to have Red Crow College and the graduates from the various programs who will make great additions to any ...

[First-Ever Pride Festival Taking Place This Weekend in Cardston](#)

94.1 CJOC

It's a first for the Town of Cardston. A Pride Fest event is taking place this coming weekend with a flag raising ceremony and other entertainment in Lions Park.

BIG IDEAS

[Five types of green buildings explained](#)

Pembina Insitute

Homes and buildings in Canada can both consume and produce energy in many ways. In the world of green buildings, a variety of terms are used and and some confusion ...

[Proportional representation is only great for unelectable 'professors,' Jean Chretien says](#)

National Post

In a recent interview, former prime minister Jean Chretien railed against efforts to replace Canada's current electoral system with proportional representation, calling it ...

[Industry wants zero plastic packaging in Canada's landfills by 2040](#)

CBC News

Canada should ban hard-to-recycle plastics and require single-use plastic to contain 75 per cent recycled content, says a group of 33 environmental and civil society groups that aim to eliminate plastic waste by 2030.

Upcoming Events

June 4 | [Wine & Cheese Event](#) | Clean Energy Technology Centre

Please join us next Monday, June 4th from 7pm-9pm at the Clean Energy Technology Centre for a Wine

& Cheese event. We are seeking energetic, innovative, strategic thinkers who want to be engaged ...

[Learn more.](#)

June 6 - 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 ... [Learn more.](#)

June 7 | Getting your Ag. & Food Products to Market: Trade & Logistics Workshop | Alberta Agriculture & 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 ... [Learn more.](#)

June 13 | Circular Economy-Based Business Opportunities Workshop | NISP Canada

The City of Edmonton and the NISP® Canada team are pleased to invite you to the next FREE Business Opportunities Workshop on June 13, as part of the National Industrial Symbiosis Program (NISP®) Canada Pilot. This initiative aims ... [Learn more & register.](#)

June 14 | Annual General Meeting | SouthGrow Regional Initiative

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.](#)

June 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. [Learn more & register.](#)

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 ... [Learn more.](#)

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

[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 ...

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

Contact the SouthGrow team!

info@southgrow.com | [\(403\) 394-0615](tel:4033940615)

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