



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

December 5, 2018



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Featured

Damming the Milk: Old idea gets new look

By [Barb Glen](#) | [The Western Producer](#) | Published: Nov. 29, 2018 | News



Opponents of a proposal to dam the Milk River say the environmental costs of flooding native grassland outweigh the potential benefits. | File photo

MILK RIVER, Alta. — The possibility of building a dam on the Milk River in southern Alberta is once again being explored.

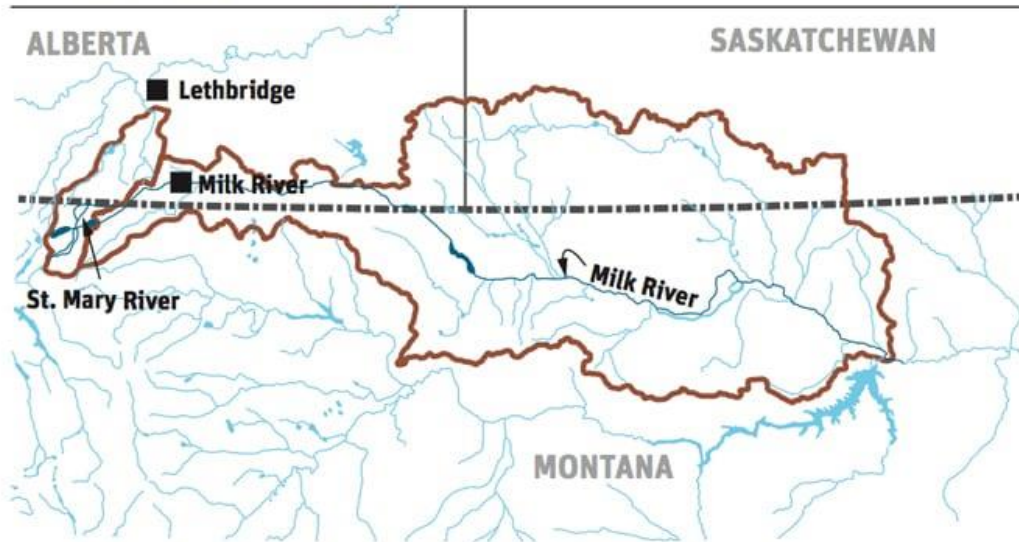
The 1,173 kilometre long river begins in Montana and flows across the international border into southern Alberta, an arid region of the province.

In Alberta, it is joined by the north fork of the Milk, much of which is diverted from the St. Mary River in Montana through a diversion canal and siphon. Then it flows back into Montana and south past the Sweetgrass Hills.

It's an arid region that is often short of water, and two years of especially dry conditions have brought the idea of a dam and greater water storage back into contention.

John Ross, chair of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada, said the council might seek to upgrade a 2003 engineering report to see if a dam, at that time estimated to cost \$200 million, is feasible. If so, he said it could secure water for irrigation, livestock and wildlife.

MILK RIVER BASIN



Source: watergovernance.ca | DIANNA ROSKO GRAPHIC

0 20 40 60 KILOMETERS

“We have looked at the off-stream storage sites, and re-evaluated some of the ones, and realized that they would be completely inadequate to meet the needs of what the river basin of the Milk River would actually need,” Ross said.

“It would actually secure water supply for the towns of both Milk River and Coutts. In addition, it would also secure water and in-stream flow needs for fish and wildlife, right through the summer and also right through the winter time.”

[Read more.](#)

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **November 26, 2018**

[Full Document Access](#)

Alberta Economic Development
and Trade

Indicators Updated this Week

Job Vacancies

+2.6% 40,100



In August 2018, the number of job vacancies in Alberta increased by 2.6% from the same month in 2017 to 40,100 vacancies. Over the same time frame, Canadian vacancies increased by 29.9% to 359,800.

Average Weekly Earnings

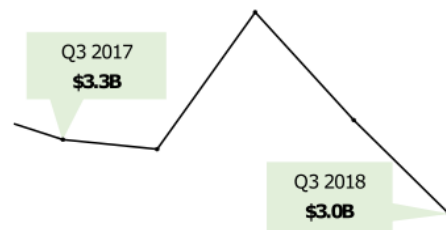
-0.6% \$1,142



In September 2018, average weekly earnings in Alberta were \$1,142, down 0.6% from the same period in 2017. Nationally, average weekly earnings were \$998 in September, up 1.7% from the same period last year. Alberta's September average wage of \$1,142 was well ahead of the next highest province, Newfoundland and Labrador, at \$1,040.

Farm Cash Receipts

-8.7% \$3.0B



Farm cash receipts decreased by 8.7% to \$3.03 billion in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the same quarter last year. The national average for Q3 was a decrease of 0.5%. Alberta saw the largest decrease of any province, while New Brunswick had the largest increase (+17.5%). Alberta crop receipts and direct payments declined 25.5% and 12.2% respectively, while livestock receipts increased 7.1% to \$1.72 billion.

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Lastest Update	Change	Last Update
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$327.4B	+4.6%	Nov 2018
Q3 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	+1.5%	Sep 2018
Oct 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	7.3%	-0.3%	Nov 2018
Nov 26 - 30, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$50.72	+0.6%	Nov 30, 2018 Closing
Sep 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.9B	+3.0%	Nov 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 03	Tue 04	Wed 05	Thu 06	Fri 07
			Indicator Releases: Merchandise exports	Indicator Releases: Unemployment rate, Employment

Things You Need To Know



Apply Now for the Alberta Municipal Solar Program

The **Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC)** is pleased to announce an extension of funding and updates to the Alberta Municipal Solar Program (AMSP). Thanks to additional funding from the Government of Alberta, municipalities who have not yet had a chance to participate in this exciting program can still apply.

Highlights of the updated AMSP:

- The maximum eligible rebate per project has increased from 25 percent to 30 percent of eligible expenses.
- A first-time applicant bonus rebate of \$0.25/watt is available to municipalities that have not previously participated in the AMSP for their first project.
- AMSP funding is available on a first come, first served basis and municipalities are eligible to submit multiple applications.

Any municipality that has already received an incentive through the AMSP for a completed project or has signed an AMSP Implementation Funding Agreement for a project under construction is not eligible for the first-time applicant bonus.

Visit the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) website for more information on the AMSP and updated program terms and conditions.d operational requirements. To register for the webinar, please visit this link.



Local Electricity Generation to Provide Community Benefits in Alberta

The Government of Alberta announced today a new \$200 million Community Generation Program to support locally generated electricity that enables neighbours, community groups, municipalities, agricultural societies, rural and urban co-ops, universities, schools, Indigenous communities and other groups to partner on small-scale renewable energy projects such as wind, biomass, hydro or solar that provide community benefits.

In partnership with Energy Efficiency Alberta and the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, the province will undertake capacity-building efforts over the coming months to help communities prepare to participate in the program before it launches in fall 2019. This work will include:

- Open houses in a dozen communities in early 2019.
- An online resource hub featuring handbooks, community generation case studies, small-scale renewable energy fact sheets and more.

For further information, [read the press release](#).

A webinar to provide industry stakeholders with more information on the Small Scale Generation Regulation will be held on November 29, 2018 by Alberta Energy to discuss aspects of the regulation, including eligibility criteria, market participation, and operational requirements. To register for the webinar, [please visit this link](#).

Stories to Follow



Government

[Immigration increasing in 2019](#)

AUMA | Dec. 5, 2018 | Press Release

The Government of Canada has released its annual immigration plan, targeting to welcome 330,800

immigrants to the country in 2019 in the following categories: 191,600 persons under the economic category, 88,500 under the family category, 29,950 refugees ...

[Large rally in central Alberta town calls for immediate construction of new pipelines](#)

Global News | Dec. 4, 2018 | News

A rally calling for the immediate construction of new pipelines was held Tuesday in a central Alberta town that's been particularly hard-hit by the oil price differential that's been inflicting economic pain across much of the province. Hundreds of people turned up at the demonstration ...

[Alberta premier announces 8.7% oil production cut to increase prices](#)

CBC News | Dec. 2, 2018 | News

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley has announced a temporary 8.7 per cent oil production cut, or decrease of 325,000 barrels a day, in the production of raw crude oil and bitumen starting Jan. 1, 2019. In an announcement Sunday evening, Notley said the daily cuts will ...

Economy & Markets

[Klassen: Feeder market searching for direction](#)

Manitoba Co-operator | Dec. 3, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Prices were unchanged in the eastern Prairie regions; however, Alberta markets ... averaging 600 lbs. were quoted at \$205 landed in southern Alberta feedlot.

[Soybean market shifts from normal patterns](#)

The Western Producer | Nov. 29, 2018 | Research & Analysis

It appears that Canadian soybeans are gaining market share and attracting higher prices in China but are getting hammered in other markets, including at home, by cheap American product. That conclusion is based mainly on rumours, logic and circumstantial evidence ...

[Cannabis supplies go up in smoke](#)

ATB Financial: The Owl | Dec. 5, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Canada's cannabis industry was flying high in October, with a million dollars worth of sales at Alberta's retail shops on opening day. While retailers remain busy with the buzz of this new industry, there is one problem: a shortage of supply. In the run up to legalization ...

[Hard red wheat bids rise in Western Canada](#)

Western Producer | Dec. 3, 2018 | News

Hard red spring wheat bids in Western Canada strengthened during the week ended Nov. 30, as gains in the Minneapolis futures and a softer tone in the Canadian dollar helped basis levels improve. Average Canada Western Red Spring (13.5 percent CWRS) wheat prices ...

Communities

[Community Foundation presents \\$290K in grants](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 5, 2018 | News

The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta handed out \$290,000 in grants on

Tuesday to help mainly rural communities and community groups to pay for much needed programs or infrastructure work. The funding represented an early ...

[Alberta Moves To Regulate Mental Health Counselling](#)

High River Online | Dec. 5, 2018 | News

The Alberta Government is moving forward with a piece of legislation that will serve to regulate and standardize mental health counselling services in the Province. According to the Chair of The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Alberta ...

[Summit helped indigenous entrepreneurs to connect](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 5, 2018 | News

Business Link's Indigenous Entrepreneur Summit returned to Lethbridge recently at the teconect Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The summit offers Indigenous entrepreneurs the opportunity to develop connections with small business support ...

[Piikani Nation referendum rejects proposal to lease land for commercial development](#)

CBC News | Nov. 30, 2018 | News

Members of the Piikani Nation in southern Alberta overwhelmingly rejected a proposed land deal in a referendum on Wednesday that some members say asked them to give up too much with too little information. Nearly three quarters of those who cast ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[Alberta feedlot harnesses the power of sun](#)

Canadian Cattlemen | Nov. 29, 2018 | News

Feeding cattle in sunny southern Alberta offers an opportunity to producers interested in alternate energy sources. Les Wall and his family saw this potential with their bright location and have recently installed solar technology to help power part of their operation ...

[Alberta Health Services Launches New App For Cancer Patients](#)

Okotoks Online | Nov. 30, 2018 | News

Cancer patients undergoing treatment will now have assistance in recalling conversations with their care team, compliments of a new app created by Alberta Health Services. Linda Watson, Lead Person-Centred Care with Alberta Health Services, says there ...

Events



JAN 24 - 25

**IEDC Elective Training Course:
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development
Strategies**

Host: [International Economic Development Council](#)

Time: Wed. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM | Thur. 9:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Location: [Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)

Course Highlights

- Identifying and addressing the needs of entrepreneurs
- Defining urban- vs. rural-focused entrepreneurial and small business strategies
- Managing technical assistance (e.g., economic gardening) programs
- Developing and managing business incubators
- Understanding federal and state government resources (e.g., SBDCs)
- Financing programs including microlending, venture capital, and angel networks
- Creating a technical assistance tracking system to measure job growth, etc.

[Learn More & Register](#)

JAN 30 - 31

IEDC Core Training Course: Real Estate Development & Reuse

Host: [International Economic Development Council](#)

Time: Wed. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Thur. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: [Fort Lauderdale FL, USA](#)

Course Highlights

- Housing, retail, office, industrial, hotel, and mixed-use development
- Regulatory and approval process, including zoning and permitting
- Assessing community involvement and political feasibility
- Public, private, and nonprofit financial modeling
- Understanding the pro forma operating statement structure
- Property valuation and capitalization rates
- Brownfield redevelopment phase structure and liability
- Request for qualification/proposal process

[Learn More & Register](#)

**FEB 27 -
MAR 1**

2019 South Country Co-op Ag. Expo

Host: [Exhibition Park & Farm Credit Canada](#)

Time: 9 AM - 5 PM Daily

Location: [Exhibition Park - Lethbridge](#)

2019 [South Country Co-Op Ag Expo](#) is Western Canada's Premiere Ag Show presented by [Farm Credit Canada](#). The 3-day show also features the North American Seed Fair presented By [FortisAlberta](#). Visitors to the show can expect to find exhibitors whose product can directly affect, and improve, agricultural production.

\$7 Admission | \$5 Parking

This includes farm equipment, livestock supplies, chemicals, seeds, irrigation, producers and marketers of crops and livestock, and much more. In addition, guests can meet with exhibitors who offer new technology, brokerage services, communications, banking, and other "Tools of the Trade" exhibitors.

Over 350 indoor exhibitors from across North America will attend this annual event. Ag Expo averages over 20,000 consumers over the three-day show. Outside displays on Machinery Row will utilize over 150,000 square feet of space.

The North American Seed Fair showcases over 53 classes of Pedigreed Seed, Open Classes, and Junior Classes. Displayed on the Seed Floor of the South Pavilion, the North American Seed Fair is one of the oldest Seed Fairs in Western Canada.

[Learn More & Register](#)

MAR 5 - 7

2019 Western Canada Alberta Chambers of Commerce Excellence Summit

Host: [Alberta Chambers of Commerce](#) & [Disney Institute](#)

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Daily

Location: [Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Centre - Calgary](#)

Discover ways to positively impact your organization and the customers you serve as you're immersed in leadership, service and employee engagement at the three-day ACC

Excellence Summit featuring Disney Institute March 5-7, 2019 at the Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary Alberta.

For nearly three decades, *Disney Institute* has helped professionals discover ways to positively impact their organizations and the customer they serve through immersion in leadership, service and employee engagement.

Throughout these courses, you will discover insights that drive Disney parks and resorts organization and gain awareness of how these insights could be adapted to strengthen your own organizational efforts.

ACC Excellence Summit featuring *Disney Institute* presenting Disney's Approach To Leadership Excellence, Disney's Approach To Employee Engagement, and Disney's Approach To Quality Service.

[Learn More & Register](#)

APR 16

Alberta Agriculture Job Fair 2019

Host: [Alberta Ag. & Forestry](#), [Alberta Labour](#) and [Alberta Community & Social Services](#)

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: [Exhibition Park Pavilion, Lethbridge](#)

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Labour and Alberta Community and Social Services are pleased to announce our next Agriculture Job Fair 2019.

We are very excited to have a brand new venue for this year's event that includes the largest floor space to date!

With the enhanced floor space we are looking to build on previous years success by allowing exhibitors the ability to bring tools, trucks, trailers, products or anything that you feel would enhance the job seekers experience (*some limitations – no livestock permitted – run your ideas past us to see how we can make your exhibit stand out).

If you are an Ag Employer, Ag Industry representative, Community Association or partner, we would kindly encourage you to forward on the attached PDF document to any Ag related company in Southern Alberta so they may have the opportunity to attend this event and recruit directly. To keep costs low for employers, this event does not have an exhibitor fee.

We will be forwarding more information and registration forms in early 2019 however if you are interested please respond to myself or Tyler Koyata (tyler.koyata@gov.ab.ca) via email and we will be sure to mark you down!

[Learn More & Register](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Resources

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.

[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, and Private Financing](#)

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

[Community Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

Community Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency (2017 Canadian Version) In June 2014, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) ...

[Alberta Community Health Dashboard | Healthier Together](#)

The Alberta Community Health Dashboard from Alberta Health Services makes it easier for you to find and apply comprehensive, interactive data.

Questions? Suggestions? Have something you would like us to share? *Contact the SouthGrow team!*

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

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