



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

DECEMBER 18, 2018



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Featured





5 New Wind Projects Planned for Southern Alberta with big payoffs for SouthGrow

By Peter Casurella



Southern Alberta continues to benefit from the current gold-rush on renewables as the provincial government announced the results of the second round of procurement in the Renewable Energy Program (REP2). This round has resulted in 1.2 billion dollars in investments to create 760 MW of renewable energy - all in Southern Alberta. The 5 projects are spread out across the region from Brooks, to Medicine Hat, over near Lethbridge, and up by Pincher Creek.

Two projects are of particular interest to SouthGrow.

Potentia Renewables Inc. (Ontario-based) will build the 113-megawatt Stirling Wind project near Lethbridge in partnership with the Paul First Nation, as well as Calgary-based Greengate Power Corporation. This project is located on Lethbridge County land, and will bring a front-end infusion of cash to the region to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, with many millions more being paid to local land owners and the County over the life-span of the project.

EDF Renewables Canada Inc. (subsidiary of France-based company) will build the 202-megawatt Cypress Wind Power project near Medicine Hat in partnership with the Kainai First Nation. This is an incredible opportunity for our friends on the Blood Reserve, and will mean a large amount of sustainable revenue for the tribe (a SouthGrow member) that they can re-invest in additional economic growth.

SouthGrow has been championing Renewable Energy investments in Southern Alberta for years, and we are proud to have played a small role in making these projects a reality.

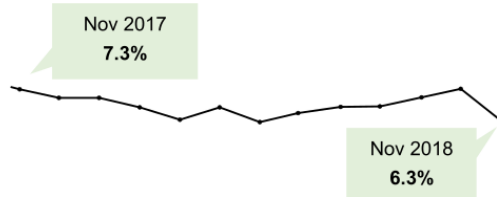
[Read the full news release here.](#)

Weekly Economic Briefing

Indicators Updated this Week

Housing Starts

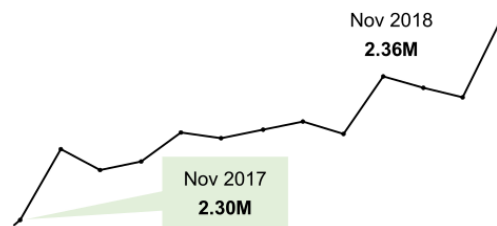
-1.0% 6.3%



In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 2,158 in November 2018, a year-over-year decrease of 23.0%. Canadian starts decreased by 12.0% over the same period. In Alberta, all unit types decreased except for row units, which increased 46.6%.

Building Permits

+2.6% 2.36M



In October 2018, Alberta municipalities issued \$952.3 million in building permits, a decrease of 5.4% from October 2017. Nationally, building permits decreased 4.0% over the same time period. Residential permits decreased 14.3% year over year, while industrial decreased by 63.6%, and commercial increased by 71.1%, over October 2017.

Motor Vehicle Sales

+28.3% \$10.8B



The number of new motor vehicles sold in Alberta decreased by 3.3% between October 2017 and October 2018 to 19,523, while the number of motor vehicles sold in Canada decreased by 1.3% over the same period. Sales of passenger vehicles decreased 21.3% year-over-year, while sales of trucks (including minivans, SUVs, light and heavy trucks, vans, and buses) increased by 0.6%. In October 2018 trucks comprised 85.7% of all vehicle sales.

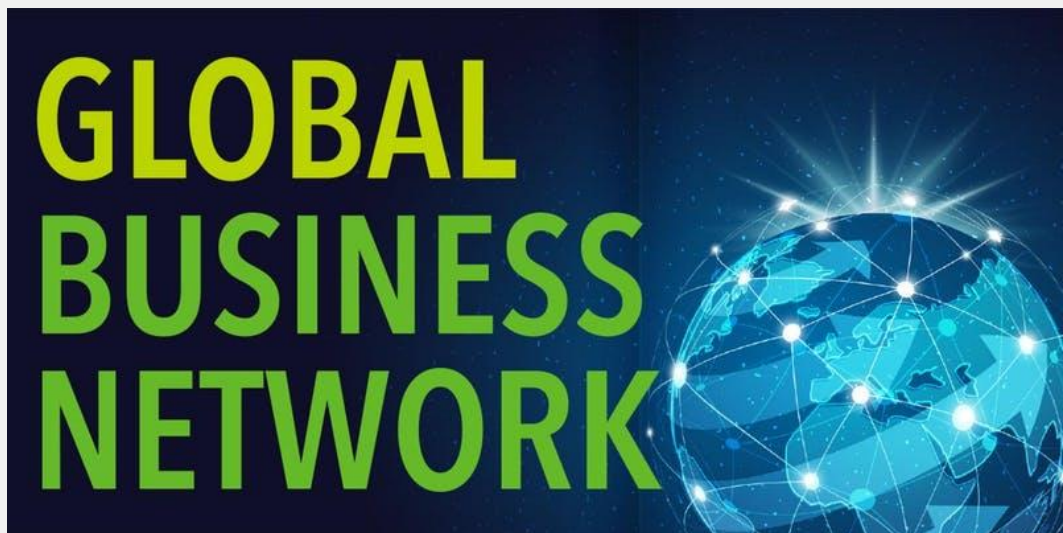
Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest 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
Nov 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.3%	-1.0%	Dec 2018
Dec 10 - 14, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$51.23	-2.6%	Dec 14, 2018 Closing
Sep 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.9B	+3.0%	Nov 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 17	Tue 18	Wed 19	Thu 20	Fri 21
	Indicator Releases: Employment insurance, Manufacturing sales	Indicator Releases: Consumer price index	Indicator Releases: Average weekly earnings, Wholesale trade	Indicator Releases: Retail trade

Things You Need To Know



Setting up the Summit: Trends in Plant Protein

Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta (PPAA) is pleased to present Gerard Klein Essink, entrepreneur and CEO of Bridge2Food, in its Global Business Network series in Calgary on Monday, Jan. 14th.

Gerard, based in the Netherlands, is a recognized global expert on protein and plant-based foods. He organizes the annual Protein Summit through Bridge2Food, and offers tactical input or boardroom level strategic advice for brands, industry and governments.

The Protein Summit — considered by many to be one of the best in the world — has been held in Europe since 2007, but this year will be split between Saskatoon (May 29-31) and Calgary (June 3-5.) The Calgary segment will attract big food brands and those developing plant-based foods, while

Saskatoon will focus more on R&D and production and processing techniques.

In his presentation, Gerard will give you the latest update on developments in the plant protein industry and will look forward to the trends that you need to know about. He'll also provide information on what to expect regarding the [Protein Summit](#) — what will be the focus from a content standpoint, who you can expect to meet, and how you can get involved from a sponsorship or display point of view. The talk will be followed by a networking reception.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Stories to Follow



Government

[Notley's oil refinery pitch met with industry skepticism](#)

The Globe and Mail | Dec. 14, 2018 | News

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley's call for new oil refineries is unlikely to persuade an industry that is already skeptical about such projects, according to energy experts who say the current slump in crude prices doesn't make the idea any more attractive ...

[Peter Watts: Alberta summit finds Indigenous groups spreading their wings](#)

Global News | Dec. 15, 2018 | Blog

Three announcements over the past few days speak to the increasing amount of engagement between the government of Alberta and First Nations communities, particularly in the northern part of the province. On Thursday, Premier Rachel Notley spoke at the ...

[Alberta expanding services provided by midwives](#)

Lethbridge News Now | Dec. 12, 2018 | News

Alberta Health is expanding the services midwives will be able to provide. At a news conference on Wednesday (Dec 12), Health Minister Sarah Hoffman announced midwives who complete additional training will be allowed to provide more services ...

Economy & Markets

[Western Canadian wheat bids rise with US futures](#)

Western Producer | Dec. 17, 2018 | News

Wheat bids in Western Canada were mostly up for the week ended Dec. 14, as strength in the United States futures and a weaker Canadian dollar. Average Canadian Western Red Spring (13.5 percent CWRS) wheat prices were mostly up C\$2 to C\$7 ...

[Feed weekly outlook: Prairie feed grain market inching higher](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | Dec. 13, 2018 | Research & Analysis

The feed grain market in Western Canada is starting to firm up as a lack of farmer selling has supplies tightening. "It seems like we're kind of moving higher here at the moment. Markets have a firmer tone to them for now," said Allan Pirness of Market Place ...

[Shareholders approve Gardiner Dam Terminal sale to Viterra](#)

The Western Producer | Dec. 14, 2018 | News

A proposed sale of Gardiner Dam Terminal (GDT) to Regina-based grain-handling company Viterra has been given a green light by GDT shareholders. In a news release, GDT board members confirmed that shareholders in a Dec. 13 vote approved the sale ...

[Is Canada prepared for life after oil?](#)

Global News | Dec. 13, 2018 | Opinion

Across Canada's Prairies, a question is weighing heavily on the minds of many: "What if the oil industry never really comes back?" The last few years in Alberta have been filled with pain. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost while more than a quarter ...

Communities

[Solar could power up in 2019](#)

Medicine Hat News | Dec. 15, 2018 | News

Work on large scale solar power farms throughout southeast Alberta could move ahead en masse in 2019, according to industry observers and companies behind the projects. This week Aura Renewables advanced its application for the Empress Solar Park ...

[Cheese factory opens retail outlet](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 16, 2018 | News

Since 2005, the Crystal Springs Cheese processing facility near Park Lake has been a family-owned business, creating cheese and other dairy products. Inviting more people directly to where their food is made, Crystal Springs has constructed a new retail store ...

[62 candidates in running for Piikani band council](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 14, 2018 | News

Chief Stanley Grier and four incumbent councillors are among 62 Piikani Nation members seeking election to their next band council. Challenging Grier for the leadership are Lova Beebe, Beatrice Little Moustache, Herman Many Guns, Jordan No Chief, Brian Yellow Horn ...

[City, union agree to four-year deal](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 15, 2018 | News

City council has bought labour peace for the next four years after voting to approve a new agreement with its largest union. "What we are looking at is labour peace and being fair employers," said Mayor Chris Spearman, after a vote of 7-2 earlier this week approved ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[With the 2030 coal phase-out finalized, Canada takes a historic step](#)

Pembina Institute | Dec. 12, 2018 | Blog

“The Pembina Institute is pleased to see the release of the federal standards mandating an accelerated, nationwide phase-out of coal-fired power by the end of December 2029. This is a historic step in protecting public health and sending a signal for ...

[Weed expert receives soil conservation award](#)

The Western Producer | Dec. 14, 2018 | News

The go-to guy for questions about weed management is the 2018 recipient of the Orville Yanke award. Bob Blackshaw, the recently retired senior researcher at Agriculture Canada in Lethbridge, was presented with the award Dec. 13 at the Farming Smarter ...

Events



JAN 14

Setting up the Summit: Trends in Plant Protein

Host: [Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta \(PPAA\)](#)

Time: [4:00 PM - 6:30 PM](#)

Location: [Glenbow Museum - Calgary](#)

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[Gerard](#), based in the Netherlands, is a recognized global expert on protein and plant-based foods. He organizes the annual Protein Summit through [Bridge2Food](#), and offers tactical input or boardroom level strategic advice for brands, industry and governments.

The Protein Summit — considered by many to be one of the best in the world — has been held in Europe since 2007, but this year will be split between Saskatoon (May 29-31) and Calgary (June 3-5). The Calgary segment will attract big food brands and those developing plant-based foods, while Saskatoon will focus more on R&D and production and processing techniques.

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involved from a sponsorship or display point of view.

Gerard's talk will be followed by a networking reception.

[Learn More & Register](#)

**JAN 15, 22,
29 & FEB 5**

Blockchain; Increasing value within the agricultural supply chain

Host: [Teconnect + Economic Development Lethbridge](#)

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: [Teconnect - Lethbridge](#)

Blockchain is positioned to revolutionize the future of Agriculture.

Understand the basic concepts, as well as the advanced application of how Blockchain will increase value from seed to table.

This comprehensive series of workshops will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of Blockchain – the technology, characteristics and implications. The topics will include an overview of Blockchain use cases, with an emphasis on agriculture, to explore the potential and challenges associated with this emerging technology on business and supply chain management. Other emerging technologies that are likely to be interwoven into Blockchain like Artificial Intelligence, IoT and machine learning will also be discussed.

Presented by Jefferson Gardner of InBridge Inc. a multi-disciplinary technology company dedicated to the advancement of Blockchain through advisory, education, consultation, research, development and implementation.

Cost: \$175 Includes all session (breakfasts Included)

[Learn More & Register](#)

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

Webinar: Future of Plant Proteins Utilization in Food and Beyond

Host: [CIFST | Canadian Institute of Food Science & Technology](#)

Time: 11:00 AM MST

Location: N/A (Webinar)

Today, consumers demand healthier, lower-cost alternatives to animal-derived or soy-based ingredients. In order to meet market demand, innovations in feedstock, fractionation and pre- and post-processing is needed to address challenges related to nutritional value, functionality and flavour.

Please join [DR. MICHAEL NICKERSON](#) for this informative presentation as he discusses emerging opportunities in the plant protein ingredient industry.

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Michael Nickerson, Professor and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Research Chair, University of Saskatchewan

This webinar presentation is part of a series being offered free to CIFST members in good standing for 2019. Non-members can register to participate for a fee of \$50.

[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 7

Business Model Canvas & Value Proposition Design

Host: [Tecconnect + Economic Development Lethbridge](#)

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: [Tecconnect - Lethbridge](#)

You have a business idea - now what?

The Business Model Canvas was designed for entrepreneurs who are looking to develop new or existing business models. This interactive workshop will show you how to use the Value Proposition Design - a tool that will help you with creating a compelling and attractive product or service, and apply it to the Canvas. Together, these visual charts help to describe, design, challenge and pivot your business model so that you can enter into your market more effectively.

Cost: \$20 (dinner included)

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.

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.

\$7 Admission | \$5 Parking

[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](#)

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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