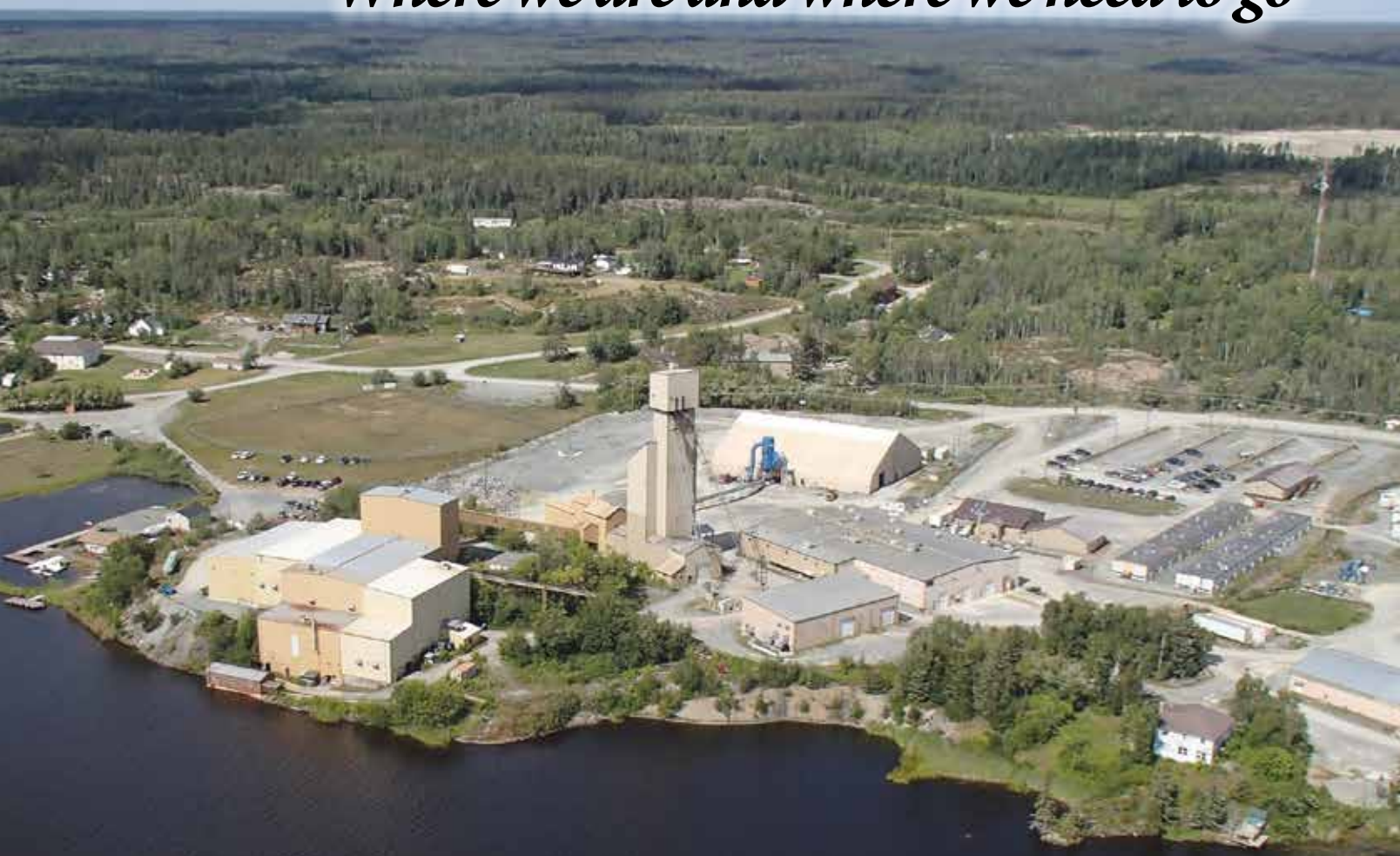


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MANITOBA

2024 *Energy Review*

**Manitoba's critical minerals:
*Where we are and where we need to go***



**Manitoba's
Energy Policy:
Q&A with
Wab Kinew**

**Nuclear energy and
renewables join forces
to meet future energy
demand**

**Manitoba Geothermal
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energizes a
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COVER PHOTO

Aerial view of True North mill complex.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER **HONOURABLE WAB KINEW**



On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I am pleased to provide a message of welcome for the 2024 Manitoba Energy Review. It's an exciting time to be part of the energy sector in our province. Manitoba is quickly becoming a leader in the low-carbon economy. And we know this work did not happen overnight. Manitobans have been building up our low-carbon energy grid for half a century. Because of this investment, we are in a unique position to lead North America into the low-carbon energy future.

Today, Manitoba has huge potential for growth. We have opportunities for wind farms. Manitoba is rich in the critical minerals that will power our future. We are a trusted global trading partner, with a 99% clean energy grid. And our government is leaning into this opportunity. We are investing in geothermal heat pumps, so Manitobans can heat their homes at a lower cost and with lower emissions. And we are incentivizing the electrification of transportation.

At the same time, I want to thank all the Manitoba trades people who are currently hard at work repairing the pipeline near St. Adolphe. A good part of our present economy runs on the fuels transported through these pipes and we appreciate our workers' efforts to support us all.

Manitoba is having a moment, and people are noticing. Earlier this spring, I was humbled to lead a trade delegation to Washington. While there, we promoted everything Manitoba's energy sector has to offer. I told US businesspeople and elected leaders about how rich we are in critical minerals, and that we're committed to getting those minerals to market in a sustainable, safe way. I also told them about our amazing low-carbon energy and our innovative and skilled workforce, which powers our economy and our energy sector.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT, TRADE AND NATURAL RESOURCES **HONOURABLE JAMIE MOSES**

As global hub for mineral exploration and development, Manitoba has so much opportunity when it comes to critical minerals. With 29 of 31 critical minerals on Canada's critical mineral list, countries around the world are seeking supply, and a trusted trade partner like our province. With our central location, strategically connected infrastructure, and robust manufacturing sector – we are well positioned to support our trade partners and expand Manitoba's economy and the North American market.

The increasing global interest in Manitoba's world-class minerals is evident, with \$197.8 million in industry exploration spending in 2023. Our thriving mineral industry, dynamic communities, mining expertise, and critical mineral commodities are the key ingredients for what the world needs to advance the green economy.

Not only does it benefit our economy, but the mining industry employs a vast array of skilled trades. This past January, I personally had the chance to go down 2,400 ft below ground at the T3 mine at Vale in Thompson. I gained a better understanding and appreciation of the variety and depth of knowledge and skills it takes to successfully run a mine. Thanks to the team at Vale who shared a little about their day-to-day operations.

Manitoba is the right place to develop critical minerals because we boast some incredible trade hubs like CentrePort, North America's largest inland port, which has direct rail shipping to the BNSF Railway line and key American markets. Manitoba is also the home of North America's only deep-sea arctic port at the Port of Churchill. Making Manitoba a maritime province adds to our advantage by shortening trade routes for customers around the globe.

As we look ahead at the opportunities ahead of us, Manitoba is committed to empowering the Northern region in ways that create an economic benefit for communities. We are focused on strengthening domestic supply chain networks, attracting investment, and working with First Nations on a government-to-government basis to promote Indigenous economic prosperity and participation in this sector. The Manitoba government is prioritizing responsible resource development for the benefit of all Manitobans.

While we will continue to build meaningful relationships with communities, we will also live up to our environmental commitments. Critical mineral development is a key to a net-zero future. Powered by clean renewable energy from Manitoba Hydro, the expansion of this sector will ensure our province is at the forefront of the low-carbon economy. All told, Manitoba offers the ability to produce critical mineral resources with stronger labour standards, better environmental impacts, and greater respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Our team is working toward a new critical minerals strategy that fully represents the people of our province and the opportunities we have here. As the backbone of many northern communities, we plan to grow this industry in a sustainable way that creates long-term economic growth.

The progress of the mineral development sector in Manitoba is exciting. This means more investments in our province, stronger local communities, and more good jobs for Manitobans. We will continue to work hard to ensure everyone knows that the road to success in Manitoba is open. ❖



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE **HONOURABLE TRACY SCHMIDT**

As Manitoba's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am so happy to provide a greeting for the *Manitoba Energy Review*.

In the time that I have been Minister, I have had the incredible opportunity to hear from many of the leaders and innovators in who are powering Manitoba energy. Our government is currently in the process of developing a new energy policy for Manitoba that will support our net-zero goals and invest in our low-carbon economy. The many conversations I have had with folks in Manitoba's energy sector are informing this process every step of the way. In addition, meaningful consultation with Indigenous Nations is critical for our government as we do this work.

Climate change poses an increasingly large threat to our province, as fires, floods, and droughts become more common. In the face of this uncertainty, our government recognizes the need to address the climate crisis in a way that brings along workers and everyday Manitobans. We also understand that having a climate-focused energy policy will benefit our province's economy, as well as protecting our environment. As the world increasingly transitions to low-carbon energy, Manitoba is well-positioned as a leader.

Our government is rising to this opportunity. We have introduced an Affordable Home Energy Program to help more Manitobans access geothermal heat pumps. Budget 2024 also introduced rebates for new and used electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids. We will also be home to the only solar glass manufacturing plant in North America, which will use Manitoba's remarkably pure silica sand to produce the glass needed for solar panels. We are taking meaningful steps toward our goals of having a fully electrified power grid by 2035 and being net-zero by 2050. There is so much work to be done, and our government will continue to chart a path to a more sustainable future while prioritizing consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Nations and Manitobans from every part of our province.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I want to offer my gratitude to everyone in Manitoba's energy workforce. As we work to create a more sustainable province, I will continue to listen to the expertise and innovation that exists in our energy sector. ♦



MANITOBA GOVERNMENT STATISTICS

2023 OIL BY THE NUMBERS

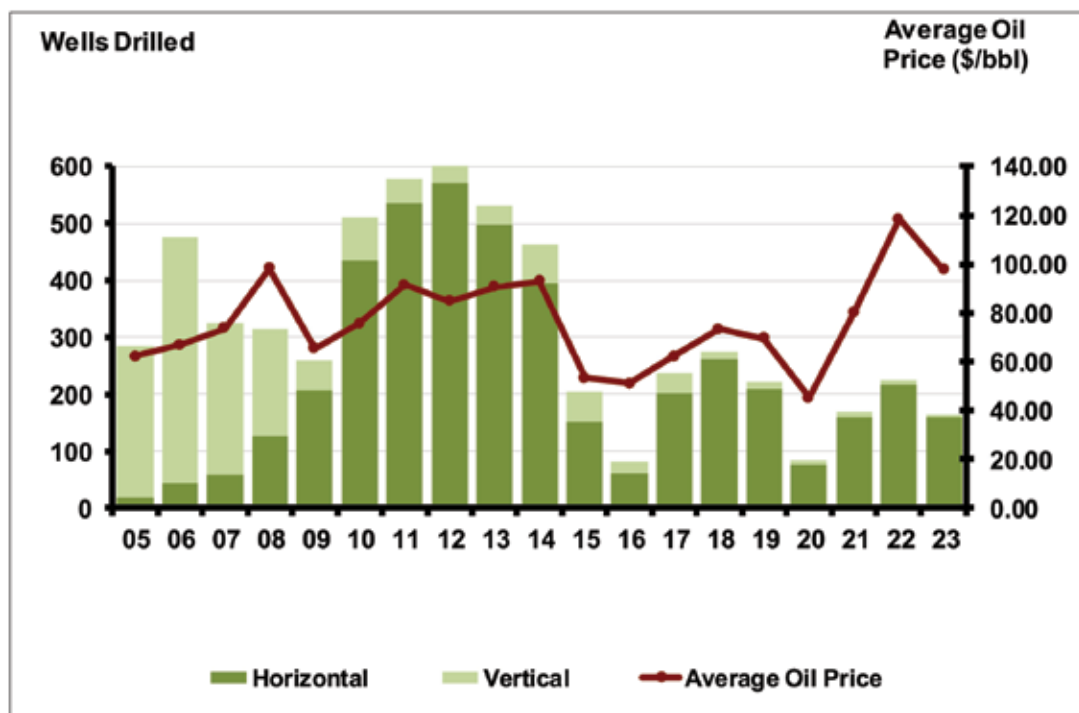
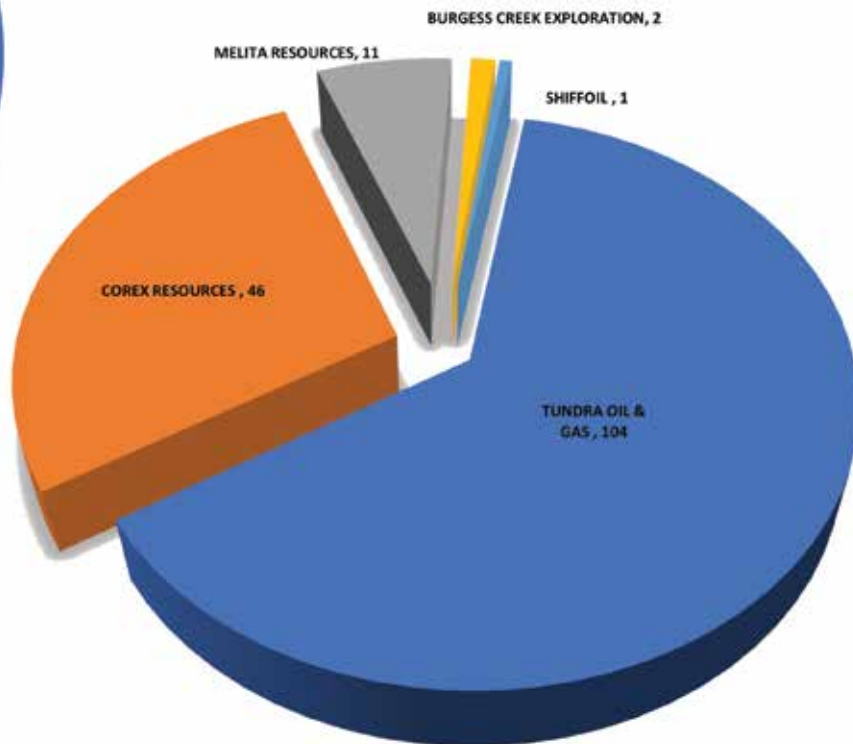
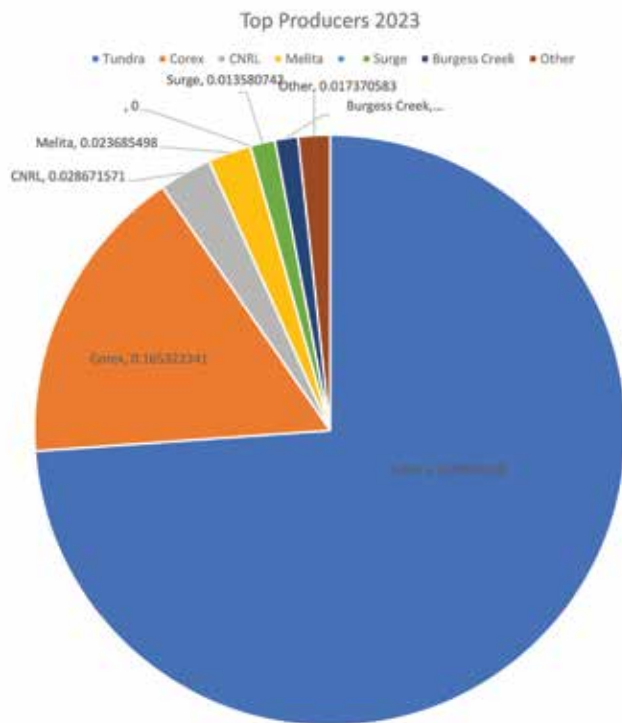
CATEGORIES

Geophysical Licenses Issued	1	Crude Oil Production (m ³)	2,310,879.90
Geophysical Expenditures (\$).....	0	Water Production (m ³)	16,331,461.70
Drilling Licenses Issued.....	187	% Water Cut.....	14%
New Wells Drilled	164	Avg. Oil Production (m ³ per day)	6,331.18
New Wells on Production	160	Value Oil Sold (\$)	\$1,343,096,830.93
New Wells Abandoned	4	Crown Oil Royalty (\$ received)	20,248,014
Horizontal Wells Drilled	159	Freehold Oil Tax (\$ received)	14,318,301
Metres Drilled.....	363,316	Average Oil Price per m ³ (\$).....	\$594.45
Wells Capable of Production (Dec)	5,605	Reservation Sale Bonuses (\$)	
Wells Producing (December)	4,041	Lease Sale Bonuses (\$).....	544,318.73
Abandoned Producers.....	63	Reservation & Lease Rentals & Fees (\$)	186,372.47
Other Wells Abandoned.....	29	Crown Lease Area (ha)	826
Certificates of Abandonment Issued	82	Total Crown Area Under Disposition (ha)	51,620.666

OIL PRICES 2023

Month	Manitoba LSB		Selling Price Manitoba Production	
2023	\$/M ³	\$/BBL	\$/M ³	\$/BBL
January	\$615.54	\$97.81	\$590.83	\$93.89
February	\$590.39	\$93.81	\$576.43	\$91.60
March	\$605.49	\$96.21	\$573.01	\$91.06
April	\$607.04	\$96.46	\$617.01	\$98.05
May	\$558.07	\$88.68	\$563.63	\$89.57
June	\$560.62	\$89.08	\$547.13	\$86.94
July	\$661.17	\$105.06	\$574.62	\$91.31
August	\$691.90	\$109.94	\$654.57	\$104.02
September	\$746.94	\$118.69	\$697.36	\$110.82
October	\$656.24	\$104.28	\$677.28	\$107.63
November	\$586.54	\$93.20	\$607.47	\$96.53
December	\$500.81	\$79.58	\$493.76	\$78.46
Avg. 2023	\$615.06	\$97.73	\$597.76	\$94.99
2024	\$/M ³	\$/BBL	\$/M ³	\$/BBL
January	\$535.65	\$85.11	\$514.54	\$81.77
February	\$564.14	\$89.64	\$541.81	\$86.10

INFORMATION COURTESY OF MANITOBA AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT





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COGRAD expands with White Otter Biotech Inc. partnership



The University of Manitoba's Centre for Oil and Gas Research and Development (COGRAD), located in the Chemistry Department, is committed to advancing the analyses and remediation of petroleum-based chemicals in the natural environment. Founded in 2015 through funding from the Western Economic Diversification Canada (now Prairies Economic Development Canada, PrairiesCan) COGRAD is an ISO-17025 (International Organization for Standardization) accredited analytical laboratory. Because of the ISO accreditation, COGRAD provides scientifically defensible analytical data to external clients.

The Centre houses state-of-the-art analytical instrumentation used primarily to develop faster and more cost-efficient analytical means of measuring petroleum-based compounds, develops tools to delineate sources of crude-oil exposures, designs innovative strategies to remediate and monitor crude-oil components and conducts forensic fingerprinting studies leading to new areas of environmental research.

COGRAD recently augmented its operations to include research and development in the field of environmental DNA (eDNA). The technique relies on the use of molecular methods to measure cellular material shed by organisms into aquatic and terrestrial environments. With this approach, rapid, non-invasive screening tools – complementary to traditional visual taxonomy – can be used to monitor ecosystem biodiversity. In 2024, to meet the demand for eDNA, and other non-invasive environmental monitoring, the University of Manitoba supported a new start up company, White Otter Biotech Inc.

White Otter Biotech intends to offer a range of services supporting biodiversity monitoring and environmental consulting such as eDNA or air DNA in the natural environment. Prior to officially becoming White Otter Biotech, the team gained experience working with various clients, processing approximately 2,000 samples with various national and international partners.

COGRAD and White Otter Biotech further support graduate and post-graduate students interested in environmental monitoring and research; analytical chemistry; ecotoxicology; biochemistry; and eDNA, with practical training on the use of state-of-the-art instrumentation. Our research teams encourage both dependent and independent learning. The acquisition of a diversity of skills garnered by working with COGRAD or White Otter Biotech that are transferred to students – and the unique ability to work in an ISO-accredited facility – provides an excellent array of opportunities for future employment and career development.

COGRAD and White Otter Biotech collaborate with scientists, partners, and other interested parties from various federal and provincial levels of government, municipalities, industry, non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous partners throughout Canada, and internationally.

For further information please visit our websites – cograd-mb.ca or whiteotterbiotech.com – or contact:

Gregg Tomy

Gregg.tomy@umanitoba.ca

Jorg Stetefeld

jorg.stetefeld@umanitoba.ca. ❖

Manitoba's Energy Policy

Q&A with Premier Wab Kinew



The energy landscape is changing, and Manitoba is adapting to those changes. In July 2023, the provincial government released an energy plan that emphasized more green, clean energy. The current administration is presently at work on a new plan, and we recently had the opportunity to get a little insight into the policy and what it means for Manitobans from Premier Wab Kinew.

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE MANITOBA'S CURRENT ENERGY POLICY?

Our government is currently in the process of developing a new energy policy that will reflect our commitment to investing in our low-carbon future. As the effects of climate change are increasingly felt in our province and beyond, we understand the urgency of transitioning to renewable, low-carbon sources of energy while creating good Manitoba jobs for Manitobans.

WHAT ARE ITS SHORT – AND LONG-TERM GOALS?

Our new energy policy will reflect our government's goals to strengthen our low-carbon energy sectors while growing our economy for all Manitobans. We are developing a real critical mineral strategy that creates good jobs and economic growth across Manitoba, particularly in the north. We are diversifying our economy and moving toward a cleaner energy future with ambitious goals of having a fully electrified power grid by 2035 and being emission-free by 2050.

WHO DETERMINED/SHAPED THE POLICY, AND HOW WAS THIS DONE?

Our work to create a new energy policy is shaped by the people of Manitoba. Meaningful consultation with Indigenous Nations is a critical part of this work. We've heard from folks working in the energy sector, business leaders, and Manitobans from all walks of life in every part of our province. And what we've heard over and over again is the need to strengthen our low-carbon energy sector and invest in Manitoba's sustainable future in a way that creates good Manitoba jobs for Manitobans. Our new energy policy will be driven by job creation and the need to bring working people along in the clean energy transition.

HOW DOES THE PROVINCE COMPARE IN AREAS SUCH AS CRITICAL MINERALS AND WIND ENERGY WITH OTHER CANADIAN JURISDICTIONS?

Our government knows that Manitoba has a lot to offer the world. We have what's needed to compete globally in the new market. Manitoba has a high standard of Indigenous consultation. Our affordable, 99 per cent clean energy grid is envied around the world. We are rich in critical minerals. Our commitment to safety and democratic rights makes us a trusted trading partner with other jurisdictions looking for the critical minerals needed to grow the global low-carbon economy.

Manitoba has long been known for our low-carbon energy innovation. Our hydro-electricity grid has been producing this for

decades. We have abundant space for wind energy, and a huge opportunity for growth in the production of hydrogen power. We are building the only solar glass manufacturing plant in North America, which will use Manitoba's remarkably pure silica sand to produce the glass needed for solar panels.

WHAT INITIATIVES ARE IN PLACE AND WHAT INCENTIVES ARE THERE FOR INDUSTRIES?

Manitoba has generous initiatives and incentives to support low-carbon energy and manufacturing. Our government recently introduced rebates for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Other key programs include the Green Energy Equipment Tax Credit, which provides a tax credit on the eligible capital costs of solar heating equipment and geothermal heat pump systems.

In addition, Efficiency Manitoba offers several incentives to help industry become more energy efficient. Low-carbon industries undertaking research and development in Manitoba can benefit from the Research and Development Tax Credit. Low-carbon industries making capital expenditures in the province can access the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit and the Manitoba Works Capital Incentive to encourage business investment.

Manitoba also has some of the lowest electricity rates in North America and one of the lowest-emitting electricity systems in the world, with 99 per cent of our electricity generated from clean, reliable, and renewable resources. ♦



Careers in energy arming employers with tools to attract top talent

By John Ludwick

Canadian energy's success hinges on the availability of skilled employees. The entire industry is struggling to retain enough workers to keep up, even with established sectors and growing emerging sectors – and now a workforce shortage is on the horizon.

Careers in Energy's (CIE) newest report, Canada's Energy Workforce: National Labour Market Outlook to 2035, projects 116,000 additional jobs from Canada's energy industry by 2035 to balance rising demand with carbon reduction efforts.

This outlook examines workforce needs beyond established sectors to include, for the first time, emerging sectors such as liquefied natural gas, low-carbon hydrogen, biomass-based fuels, and carbon capture and storage.

This report is part of CIE's Building a Workforce for Canada's Energy Future project, funded in part by the Government of Canada's Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program – a roadmap for identifying and developing the skills and talent required for a strong energy sector for decades, addressing gaps in labour market fore-

casting, workforce planning, career information and training, and upskilling opportunities.

CIE's employer support and resources are freely available to all energy organizations, designed to evolve hiring and retention practices with industry's growing skill and knowledge demands. CIE's newly developed toolkit helps employers build a strong workforce through attracting and retaining top talent.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TOOLS

The Employer Toolkit consists of 12 fact-based, hiring resource blogs related to managing the energy workforce – helping employers meet their staffing needs.

1. Education, Training and Skills Differentiation encourages evaluating and aligning education, training, and skills with job requirements to hire fitting candidates for each role.
2. Strategic Staffing for Your Business Needs helps develop strategies such as evaluating goals, identifying influencers, recog-

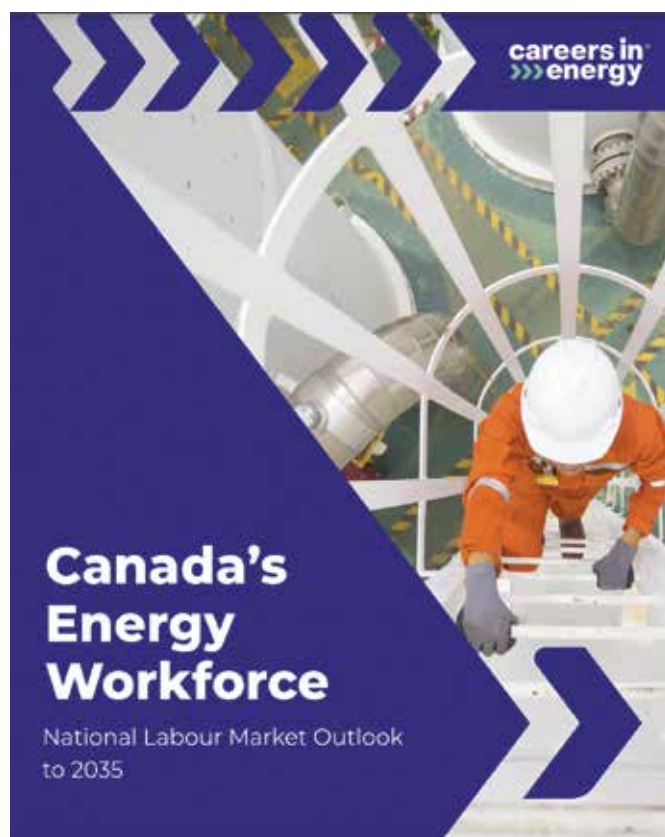
nizing current states, envisioning end states, identifying gaps and developing solution plans.

3. Building Meaningful Relationships with Indigenous Employees and Communities encourages cultural awareness and adaptive hiring practices when recruiting Indigenous workers to identify individual strengths and foster cultures of respect and understanding.
4. Diving Deeper into the Neurodiverse Workforce examines unique strengths of neurodivergent employees, challenges faced in the workplace and re-examining workplace environments to attract and retain more neurodiverse workers.
5. Managing a Multigenerational Workforce stresses adapting to diverse needs and differences, challenging generational stereotypes, accommodating personal needs, promoting collaboration, and focusing on results rather than the paths to achieve them.
6. Your Corporate and Employer Brand notes how critical brand is for attracting and retaining top talent. Communicating values, culture, and vision to candidates and employees while being transparent and honest about the work environment builds confidence.
7. Supporting Work-Life Balance explains how prioritizing work-life balance and implementing supportive programs creates healthier, more productive work environments.
8. Effective Employee Communications urges assessing communication channels, ensuring messaging is consistent internally and externally and establishing ways for all employees to communicate feedback, regardless of position.
9. Offering a Flexible Work Environment helps create more adaptable workplaces, develop flexible options, embrace a world with expected flexibility, and adapt processes and infrastructure to accommodate flexible workforces.
10. Focusing on Diversity and Inclusion explains how diverse workforces improve work environments, financial returns, reputations, and overall business strategies.
11. Mental Health Issues Are Employer Issues explores prioritizing mental wellness in the workplace through leadership culture, open conversations, and tangible initiatives.
12. Retention is an Extension of Recruitment outlines retention strategies such as seeking candidates with aligning values and necessary skills, investing in training and upskilling, and tailoring compensation packages to meet diverse preferences.

For more information, visit careersinenergy.ca/resources.

DROP CIE A LINE

Demand for talent is rising across industry – CIE's Employer Toolkit serves as a resource to bridge gaps between staffing needs and available expertise. Contact CIE's Employer Liaison or check Employer Support Services at careersinenergy.ca/employer-support-services for more information. ❖



February 2024

Canada

Published in partnership with the Government of Canada's National Workforce Solutions Program.

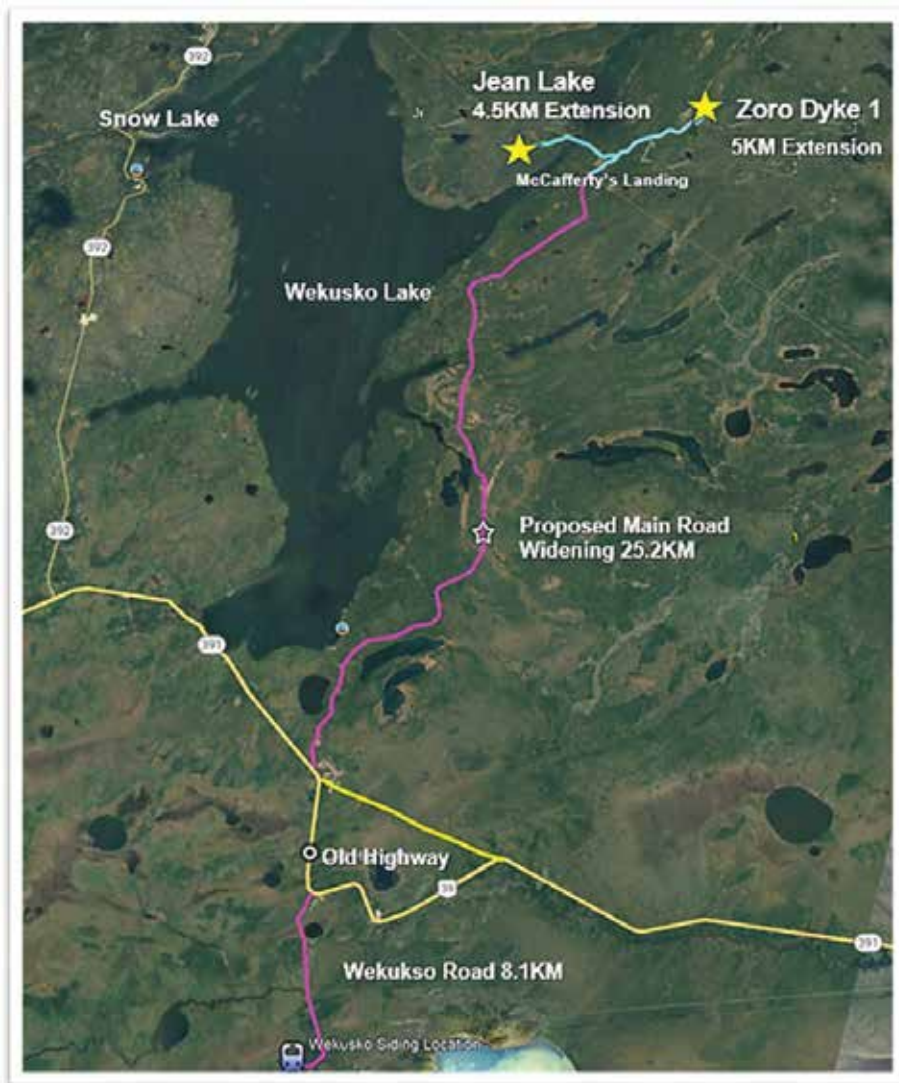
Foremost Lithium: *Focused on critical minerals and its lithium development in Snow Lake*

The transition away from fossil fuels is already a certainty, and clean energy is seeing unprecedented growth. The Canadian mining community is on a path to be a significant supplier of lithium and other battery minerals in the global market. Foremost Lithium is excited to be a part of the clean energy mining community and is supporting the sector's growth with its four core Lithium Lane Projects. Strategically located over 43,000 acres in Snow Lake, Foremost is currently drilling on its Zoro Project as it expands along known lithium mineralization.

In December of 2023, the company announced that a winter drill program would commence on its Zoro Lithium Project in Q1 of 2024, with Dahrouge Geological Consulting conducting the drill program. Focusing on Dyke 1, the company's single high-grade lithium bearing spodumene pegmatite, with an inferred resource of 1,074,567 tonnes at a grade of 0.91 per cent Li_2O , with a cut-off of 0.3 per cent in accordance with the company's SK-1300 Technical Report Summary (2023) and NI-43101 Technical Report (2018). Dyke 1, which had not been drilled since 2018, is open along strike and at depth, providing Foremost the potential for excellent resource development.

GRANT FUNDING

The Zoro Drill Program received funding by way of a \$300,000 grant from Manitoba's Mineral Development Fund (MMDF). The MMDF supports strategic projects that capitalize on mineral potential within the province and helps accelerate Manitoba's position as a world leader for responsible mineral develop-



Proposed Road Improvement and Expansion

ment. Contributions from MMDF have provided Foremost Lithium with a total of \$900,000 towards project support for mineral exploration and development.

Foremost also recently submitted a \$10 million application to the Government of Canada's Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund, a \$1.5 billion fund supporting clean energy and transportation infrastructure

projects necessary to enable the sustainable development and expansion of critical minerals in Canada. If approved, the company plans to utilize the funds for an enhanced transportation corridor, building a 9.5-kilometre road from its Jean Lake and Zoro Property to connect it to existing roadways, making much-needed improvements to enhance current access routes.

CURRENT DRILL RESULTS

Recent drilling program assay results have been reported on two holes targeting Dyke 1 confirming 25.92 metres of lithium mineralization including 1.09 per cent Li_2O across 10 metres. Highlights include:

- Drill Hole FL24-010 confirmed 1.09 per cent Li_2O starting at 177.57 m
- Drill Hole FL 24-009 confirmed 1.03 per cent Li_2O starting at 233.04 m
- Hole FL24-009 confirmed 1.52 per cent Li_2O starting at 233.98 m

Results confirmed the presence of a well-mineralized zone and potential to expand resource on Dyke 1. Mineralized drill intercepts confirm an extension of Zoro Dyke 1 in a zone that was previously unexplored. The pegmatite remains open at depth along its southern extension.

“We are very encouraged as we continue to expand the lithium mineralization on our maiden resource. Foremost Lithium is striving to become a premier supplier of North America’s lithium feedstock. Further resource development along with our continued business development, such as planned infrastructure, will pave the way to our continued growth. With the potential to increase resource as drilling progresses – and as government regulation, such as the current U.S. administration’s Inflation Reduction Act, incentivizes U.S. domestic supply – we look forward to future upside for our company and shareholders.”

Jason Barnard, President and CEO of Foremost Lithium

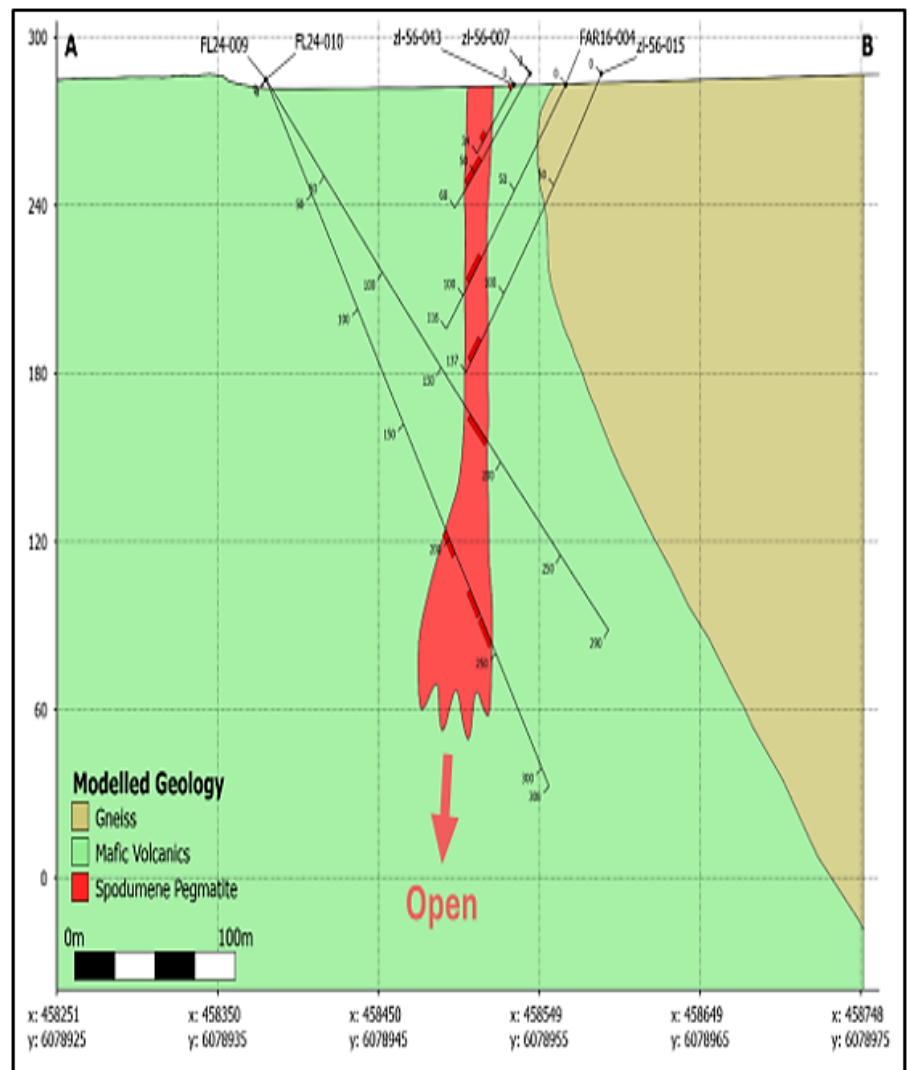
EXPLORATION STRATEGY

Foremost remains focused on advancing its lithium projects to meet the growing need in the face of increasing scarcity of reliable lithium sources. This is essential for the electric vehicles and stationary storage batteries market, with current projection of over 40 million new EVs on the road by 2030 and the estimated need for 50 additional global lithium mines underscores the current strain on the au-

Fig. 1 Interval Assay Results (Drill Holes FL24-009 & FL24-010)

Hole number	Intersection			
	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Li2O%
FL24-010	176.22	186.1	9.88	1.09
incl.	176.22	179.48	3.26	1.08
incl.	180.73	186.1	5.37	1.34
FL24-009	197.01	205	7.99	0.92
and	223.07	241	17.93	0.61
incl.	233.04	241	7.96	1.03
incl.	235.98	241	5.02	1.52

Fig 2. Geological Cross-Section of FL-009 and FL 24-010

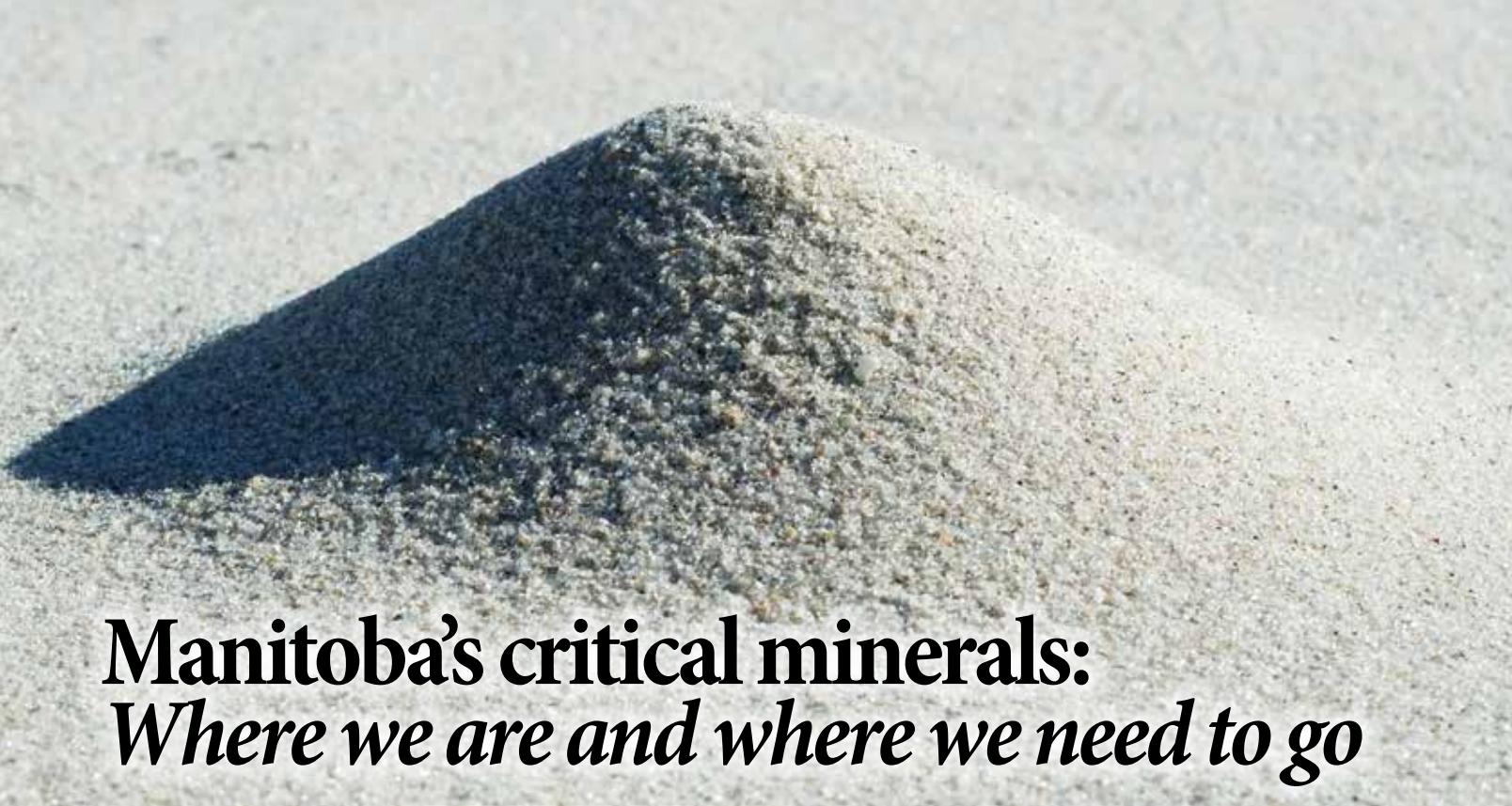


tomotive supply chain. Foremost will continue its exploration efforts at Dyke 1 with additional drilling planned to further define and expand the known zones of mineralization. Future exploration and drill programs also include drilling at its Jean Lake Property and summer exploration at

Peg North and its Grass River Property.

For further information please visit www.foremostlithium.com

Foremost Lithium currently trades on the Nasdaq under the ticker NASDAQ and on the Canadian Stock Exchange under the ticker FAT. ♦



Manitoba's critical minerals: *Where we are and where we need to go*

By Lyndon McLean

Critical minerals are used in a range of essential products we use every day, from mobile phones and electric vehicle batteries to solar panels and medical applications. And Manitoba is home to 29 of the 31 minerals on Canada's 2021 critical minerals list, including lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, copper (which has been mined in the province for over a hundred years), and rare earth elements.

These minerals are crucial for Manitoba's growth as a low-carbon leader and are essential to developing clean technologies, energy storage systems, electric vehicles and other technologies that advance net-zero targets.

"Critical minerals provide Manitoba with a new opportunity to focus on mineral resources and attract investments and opportunities," says MaryAnn Mihychuk, President of the Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association. "That means we generate wealth – for our province so our provincial governments that can pay for roads, fix our potholes, build schools, etc. Minerals have the best potential for wealth creation. And the new green economy needs critical minerals."

Sixty per cent of Manitoba lies within the Canadian Shield, which hosts gold, diamonds, nickel, copper, and lithium. But according to Mihychuk, the province is also fortunate to have a couple of critical minerals in the south.

"If you think about the south minerals, you may think of potash in Saskatchewan. You go along the highway and see potash mines," she says. "The Saskatchewan government receives between \$4 and \$6 billion a year on potash royalties alone, nevermind all the supply and services that are part of that economy."

"Manitoba has that opportunity with silica. Our silica deposit is 99.5 per cent pure silica, which is needed for computer chips and solar panels – and it's beneath our feet here in Winnipeg and in Beausejour. It goes almost all the way over to Brandon. So, the ability for southern communities to become part of the mineral economy is real. And that door is ready to be opened."

Mihychuk says Manitoba needs to be a leader and make the most of this, particularly with the price of silica reaching upwards of \$800 per metric ton.

One project on the way to approval is Canadian Premium Sand's Wanipigow Sand Extraction Project in Seymourville, near the Hollow Water First Nation. This would provide the rare high-purity silica sand needed for solar glass manufacturing. That deposit is at surface in Black Island in Lake Winnipeg, within the Winnipeg Formation. This high-purity silica deposit provides that whiteness that gives the appearance of snow near Grand Beach.

"We're just beginning," Mihychuk says. "With the project near Beausejour that didn't get approval, the science was there. They didn't seem to actually prove it sufficiently to the community to reassure them their water would be protected. But some 12,000 holes have been drilled in these rocks without any water contamination, so that's important. It's not like new technology. It's the same method used for the potash mine or to extract salt, so Manitoba has a history of using solution mining and doesn't cause pollution."

"But it may be a case of the neighboring community say this is a real opportunity to provide a job for every high school graduate, to have some money for that



community centre, or find a doctor and build our community. I think that we're looking at it as an opportunity, rather than being a NIMBY."

Lithium is another mineral explorers are having success with in the province, with the Tanco mine in Lac du Bonnet being a major source. Grid Metals is also working nearby, and companies such as Foremost Lithium, ACME Lithium, 1911 Gold, and several others are making inroads in the Snow Lake Belt.

Mihychuk notes that the Island Lake region has a lot of potential for critical minerals as well.

"From St. Teresa Point up to Red Sucker, the Ontario border, and over to Cross Lake – in that area, there are over 1,400 known mineral occurrences. That means companies might have an opportunity to go and check that out," she says. "We should have 600 companies working in that area, and we have zero. Perhaps once we work with the First Nations, who (must grant approval) must consent to the project along with the provincial government. The First Nations are looking at the industry but really haven't bought in. Once that happens, and they understand the opportunities available to them, it could change Mani-

toba's future in a very bright and positive way."

In general, the Manitoba Government is very positive on mineral development, in spite of being "stuck with regulatory red tape", as Mihychuk notes. "Companies are drowning in red tape, but it's easy to understand how much it would mean to the treasury, so that's very important."

The First Nations, on the other hand, haven't really received much or anything from mineral exploration and mining, which has left them with no benefits in their traditional territory. So they're wondering, why should we participate? What does it mean to us?

"But times have changed. Because of their hard work, First Nations have really challenged the Constitution and Section 35 that Pierre Trudeau brought in which recognized Indigenous rights, so there's a new platform. And our association, the MPDA, is like a small chamber of commerce. We are partnering with First Nations, and it's our number one priority for them to become full partners with us.

Mihychuk points to the case of Tahltan First Nation in Northern BC, who opened up to mineral development and saw benefits. Jerry Asp of Tahltan spoke at the

MPDA's reconciliation gala in March and told of how, in 20 years, they went from 98 per cent unemployment to 100 per cent full employment, with \$175 million in a trust account, providing dividends for every member of the First Nation.

"Jerry understands the power of minerals and the money involved, and he's part of the community," she says. "He understood that that could mean significant scholarships for the young people to go to school, to become geologists and engineers, environmental scientists, accountants, or lawyers. It's just transformed the community – and that's exactly what can happen here."

She also notes that Matthew Coon Come and the Grand Council of Crees around James Bay, Ontario welcome exploration companies because they understand that only one in 1,000 projects will be successful. In December 2023, they entered into the Kapisikama Agreement, regarding the development and operation of the James Bay Lithium project in Eeyou Istchee, a lithium open-pit mine in the traditional territory of the Cree Nation of Eastmain.

"So, they have 600 exploration companies working in their territories," Mihychuk says. "You want them to be searching

While there are currently almost 50 companies exploring for critical minerals in Manitoba, representing over 70 per cent of all exploration companies operating in the province, Mihychuk says she's not aware of any Manitoba exploration companies working here.

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in your area, and if they discover something, they have to negotiate a deal with the First Nations. And the Grand Council has seen massive investments in their communities, the same sort of benefits like the Tahltan.”

Another challenge of moving ahead with critical mineral exploration is the permitting process, which has been arduous. Prospectors, exploration companies, and associations like the MPDA have long lobbied for a smoother, quicker process, one that gives everyone a say and a share but doesn't take years. Again, Mihychuk points to another region, this one halfway around the world.

“There was an election in New Zealand recently, and the new Prime Minister has come in and said he's going to reduce permitting to six months. They used to take two years,” she notes. “Now every company in the world is looking to the land of Hobbits. You're going to have a very positive, supportive government that can quickly turn over permits, and money will be moving – but that's not what we want. We want that money to stay here. We want it in Manitoba, right? So, let's pay attention because the money flows so quickly. We must compete not only with Ontario, but with New Zealand.”

While there are currently almost 50 companies exploring for critical minerals in Manitoba, representing over 70 per cent of all exploration companies operating in the province, Mihychuk says she's not aware of any Manitoba exploration companies working here. There's a few of them, and none of them are working on projects in Manitoba. That in itself says something about how we must change and open things up. Open up the Mines Act – change it, modernize it, make us competitive.”

Manitoba certainly has critical mineral potential, but the feeling is, it's underexplored.

“If we can turn the page, if the door opens, we will see significant expansion and prosperity,” Mihychuk notes. “And those companies will come this way. They'll move where there's an opportunity. They don't know boundaries.” ♦



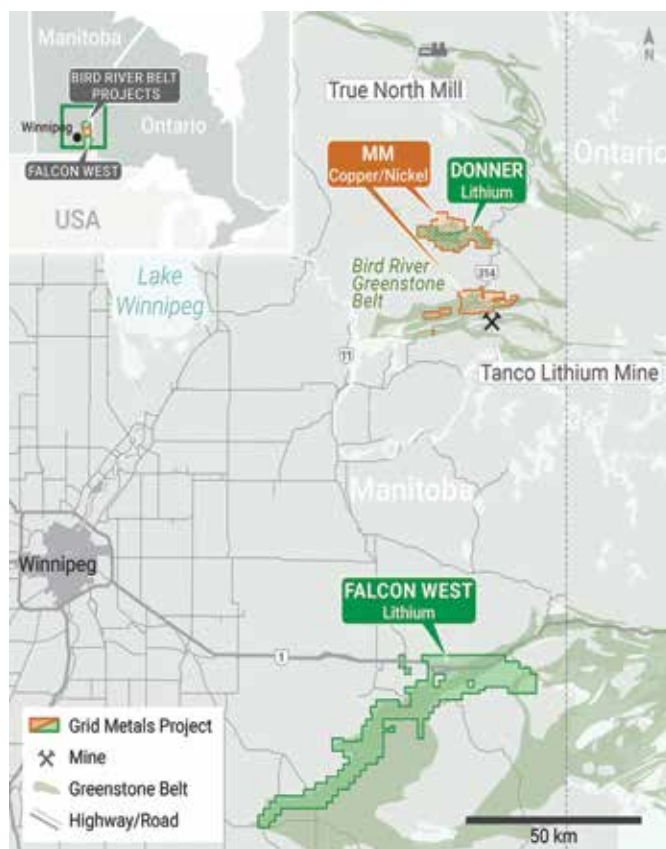
Grid Metals makes great progress finding lithium in Snow Lake

Grid Metals is a critical minerals developer with a copper/nickel project and two lithium projects in southeastern Manitoba. Our projects are less than a two-hour drive from Winnipeg. We are looking to develop at critical minerals hub in the region, which boasts excellent mining infrastructure.

Donner is our most advanced lithium project with an NI 43-101 compliant resource of 6.8 MMt grading 1.39 per cent Li_2O that is open for expansion. We have completed significant work toward a PEA with the project design being based on mining at Donner and trucking of the material to the True North Mill where Grid Metals has a lease agreement in place to reconfigure the mill to process lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate. We are continuing optimization work, including further metallurgical test work at the deposit and expect to complete a fully funded Fall drill program to delineate additional resources at depth. Leveraging the existing True North mill is a differentiator for Grid Metals and significantly reduces the initial capex required to get into production and expedites the permitting timeline. We expect to submit our mining permits before the end of the year with a focus on achieving permitted status in 2025.

At Falcon West, we completed our maiden drill program in early 2024, and we view the first-pass drill program as a success. We found some very-high grade spodumene near surface (including 4.7 per cent Li_2O) within what appears to be a highly fractionated complex pegmatite, more akin to the producing Tanco mine than what is seen in Ontario and Quebec. More work needs to be done at the project, but there is a lot of potential, and we effectively control the entire belt. ❖

Aerial view of True North mill complex.



Map of Grid Metal's properties in southeastern Manitoba.

CNA 2 - Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

Non-emitting nuclear energy working in partnership with renewables to meet future energy demand



By John Gorman, President and CEO, Canadian Nuclear Association

As home to one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world, Manitoba is significantly ahead of other provinces in the clean energy transition. Looking to the future, the challenge and opportunity will be to meet the anticipated doubling or tripling of clean energy demand that the province is projecting leveraging reliable, around the clock clean energy sources. Beyond meeting the enormous projected demand for clean electricity, provinces are challenged with decarbonizing heavy industry and transitioning away from their reliance on fossil fuels. For Manitoba, while electricity represents around 24 per cent of its energy demand, around 44 per cent of energy demand is currently met by petroleum products and 29 per cent by natural gas. The scale of the green energy transition across Canada is hard to fathom – but there is a path.

Growth in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro will be imperative to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050; however, reliance on renewables alone presents inevitable challenges and limitations. Barriers such as vast land footprint, reliance on the necessary weather patterns and envi-

ronmental conditions, the need for energy storage facilities due to the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources, and building the necessary energy infrastructure are just some of the reasons why Canada is leveraging non-emitting nuclear energy as an integral component of its clean energy transition.

As home to some of the nation's richest natural resources, from agriculture to mineral extraction, crude oil, mining, and forestry, Manitoba plays a fundamental role in Canada's long-term economic prosperity. As our nation transitions to a green economy, our ability to lessen reliance on fossil fuels and decarbonize heavy industry will be critical in achieving our emissions reduction goals. Non-emitting nuclear energy provides the opportunity to enable heavy industry to continue to drive economic prosperity for provinces across Canada, while helping these industries evolve to be part of the green economy by drastically reducing their carbon footprint.

While droughts impact our ability to generate hydroelectricity, solar energy relies on the sun shining, and wind energy requires Mother Nature to cooperate, nuclear is the only energy-dense,

carbon-free, and reliable energy source available around the clock. Manitoba has experienced firsthand the challenges in relying on the necessary environmental conditions to generate power 24/7, which can lead to power outages, pricing pressures, and reliance on gas-fuelled back-up generators. It's not about choosing renewables or clean nuclear energy. Nuclear plays a critical role working in tandem with renewables and is already one of the largest producers of clean electricity around the world and in Canada.

Like many other countries globally, Canada is leveraging both large- and small-scale nuclear technology innovations to tackle the climate crisis and build a green economy including through Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). Beyond SMRs' role in generating high-density clean electricity, they are uniquely positioned to decarbonize extraction and heavy industries and to power remote communities. With a much smaller land footprint than current reactors they are often factory-constructed and modular, which

means they are easily transported to remote or challenging locations.

As stated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), nuclear power produces less CO₂ emissions and the lowest carbon footprint over its lifecycle than any other electricity source, including wind and solar. It is also the most land-efficient means of producing clean energy – at least 15 times more efficient than renewable sources like wind and solar – and serves as one of the most affordable electricity sources worldwide.

Through our 70 years of experience with 19 nuclear existing generators, and with one of the world's largest natural reserves of uranium to fuel reactors, Canada is uniquely positioned to leverage nuclear technologies to help achieve provincial and federal emissions reduction goals. The task ahead cannot be underestimated – but there is a path to success with nuclear energy working in tandem with renewables. ♦



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Your heating system is the single largest user of energy at home; it can account for almost 60 per cent of your energy bill! To lower your electric heating costs, consider an energy-efficient heat pump. They transfer heat energy from the air or the ground to warm or cool your home. We also offer rebates on both air source and ground source heat pumps to make your upgrade more affordable.

Whyte Ridge Furnace and Air Duct Cleaning (a registered Efficiency Manitoba supplier) has installed air source heat pumps in homes throughout Manitoba.

“We’ve had amazing feedback from people that they’re reducing their electric bills,” says Taylor Adolphe, Operations Manager at Whyte Ridge. “The cost of installing an air source heat pump is higher than a traditional air conditioner, but when you do this with support from Efficiency Manitoba, it makes it a lot more reasonable to get it going, and you can save as you go.”

The contractor works with you to submit the required documents for our heat pump rebate, and we’re here to help every step of the way.

“Efficiency Manitoba is very quick to check over everything, so there’s a level of confidence that we’re putting in a product that works. Efficiency Manitoba



is on your side,” Taylor says. “When we have a question, we can reach out to Efficiency Manitoba’s heat pump team, and we can talk with them directly.”

Air source heat pumps can only operate down to a certain temperature (approximately between -10°C to -25°C, depending on the manufacturer’s specification), so you’ll need to have a secondary source of heating. Historically, air source heat pumps have been seen as only having electric back-up heat, but they can also work with a natural gas back-up, which is known as a hybrid system.

In a hybrid system, the heat pump operates as the primary source of heating, and the natural gas furnace provides the secondary source of heating. When the outdoor air temperature drops below the air source heat pump’s operation point, the home’s thermostat will switch the heating source to the natural gas furnace. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change.

With last year’s mild temperatures continuing through December, Taylor said people with a hybrid system were able to operate their air source heat pump well into the winter!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Before you upgrade your heating system, it’s a good idea to first improve the insulation, windows, and airtightness of your home. These measures are often more cost effective, reduce your energy bills, and could help lower the cost of your heat pump system by reducing the size of heating system that you need.

Once you’re ready to upgrade your heating system, we recommend getting quotes from several of our registered contractors (you can find one by using our supplier directory at efficiencyMB.ca/find-a-supplier). Be sure to send your application for approval before purchasing your heat pump or starting any work.

Learn more about our heat pump rebates at efficiencyMB.ca/heat-pump.

AIR SOURCE VS. GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

A compressor circulates refrigerant that absorbs and releases heat between the indoor and outdoor equipment. In winter, heat is pulled from the outdoor air to warm your home. In summer, the system pulls heat from within the home and transfers it to the outdoor air.

Benefits:

- Provides heating and cooling
- Easy to retrofit with your existing infrastructure
- Hybrid systems can reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces your electric heating costs by up to 30 per cent

GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

An electric pump circulates fluid through a loop of pipes buried underground. In heating mode, the fluid absorbs heat from the ground, which stays at a stable temperature. Heat is extracted from the fluid and delivered into your home. In summer, heat is redistributed back into the ground.

Benefits:

- Provides heating and cooling
- Low-carbon heating solution
- Ideal for large lots and open spaces
- Reduces your electric heating costs by up to 60 per cent

ABOUT EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

Efficiency Manitoba is Manitoba’s Crown corporation dedicated to energy efficiency. With legislated long-term energy savings targets to achieve, the organization has over 40 diverse offers available to help Manitobans save energy, money, and the environment.

This article was previously published in Efficiency Manitoba’s Spring 2024 Magazine and is reprinted with permission. ❖

*Always looking for new opportunities in
Manitoba and S.E. Saskatchewan’s oil patch.*



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Manitoba Geothermal Energy Alliance *energizes Manitoba's green future*

As the Manitoba energy sector prepares for another productive installation season, the Manitoba Geothermal Energy Alliance (MGEA) stands at the forefront of a promising wave of growth. After experiencing a few years of subdued installation numbers due to rising costs and stable energy prices, the MGEA is witnessing encouraging signs of expansion.

Under the leadership of Manitoba's Premier, Hon. Wab Kinew, the government has unveiled ambitious plans to foster the adoption of geothermal energy. With a commitment to install 5,000 new geothermal systems within the government's first term, Manitoba is poised to embrace sustainable energy solutions on a significant scale.

Existing funding mechanisms administered through Efficiency Manitoba provide crucial support for these initiatives. Moreover, the province continues to incentivize geothermal adoption by offering tax credits for installations, further bolstering its attractiveness to both homeowners and businesses.

For those seeking to stay informed about the latest incentives and opportunities in the geothermal sector, the MGEA's website serves as a valuable resource. Regular updates on incentives, regulations, and industry developments are available at mgea.ca.

Central to the MGEA's mission is not just the promotion of geo-

thermal technology but also the elevation of industry standards. The alliance remains committed to working with manufacturers, installers, and designers to enhance industry awareness, provide comprehensive training programs, and ensure robust oversight mechanisms. By prioritizing education and regulation, the MGEA seeks to foster a culture of excellence and reliability within the geothermal sector.

For prospective customers contemplating geothermal installations, engaging with an MGEA certified installer is critically important. Securing an MGEA permit is not only a prerequisite for eligibility for rebates through Efficiency Manitoba, but also a testament to the quality and legitimacy of the installation. By using MGEA certified contractors, customers can have confidence their geothermal systems are designed and installed to leading industry standards and will be eligible for the available incentives and tax credits.

With government support and financial incentives in place, Manitoba continues to lead the charge toward a more resilient and environmentally conscious energy sector. As the province charts its course toward a greener future, the MGEA will continue to work with all industry partners to continue fostering growth in geothermal adoption. ♦



GO EAST, YOUNG MAN: MANTL lends a hand with new technologies

The Progressing Cavity Pump industry is obviously well established in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but it's relatively new in the next province over. Manitoba's energy sector is growing, though, and it's getting a helping hand from one of its western neighbours.

Tony Sernick of MANTL Canada has been in the southeastern part of the oil patch his whole career. Starting in the early 1990s, he built his career around the Progressing Cavity Pump (PCP) form of artificial lift.

"While working on the service rigs, I experienced a PC Pump installation for the first time. The first thing that grabbed my attention was the chrome of the rotor. I took an interest to this new form of artificial lift and had to get involved. I started with Kudu Industries in 1999 and haven't looked back," Sernick says.



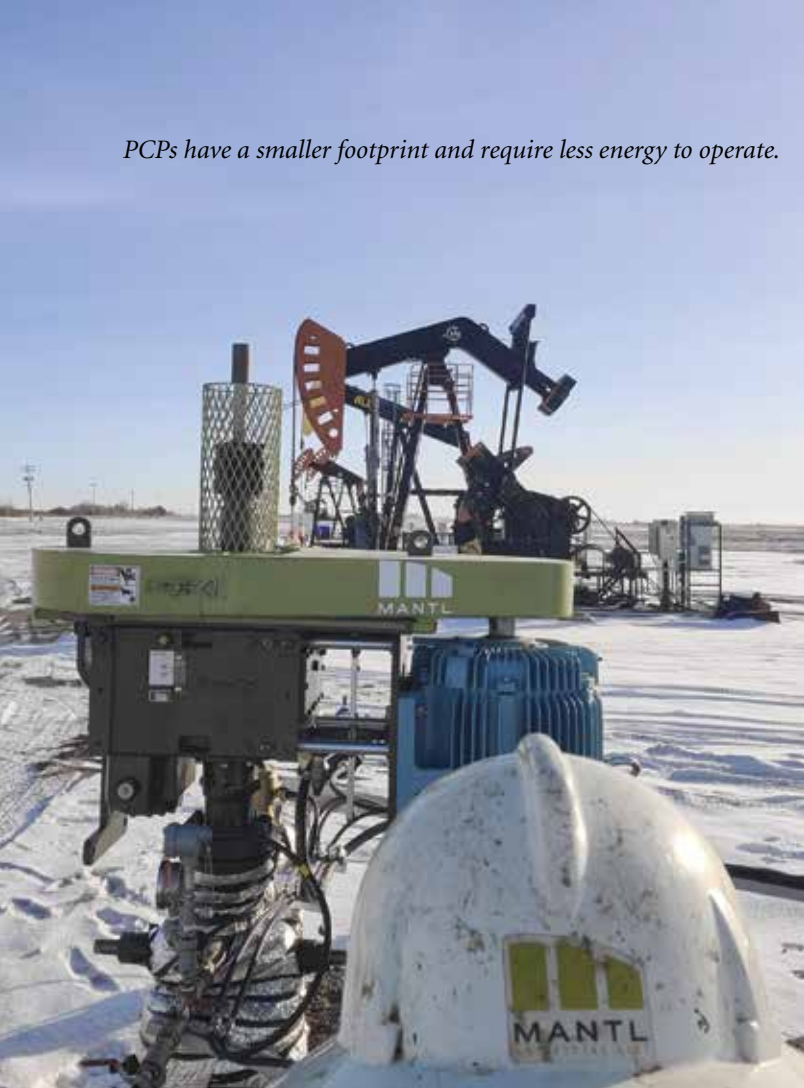
Tony Sernick on site at a PCP installation.

10 LOCATIONS ACROSS WESTERN CANADA



10 YEARS OF GIVING A S#!T

PCPs have a smaller footprint and require less energy to operate.



Introducing a new form of artificial lift into the market was no easy task.

“There were trials and tribulations but, in a few years, we had found the magic formula to make PC pumps a success in light oil applications. The next 15 years were a blur as we became more successful and built a viable business.”

That company he helped build was eventually acquired and Sernick knew he wanted to start a new chapter in his career. He joined a fresh start-up named MANTL, a group of peers from his former company.

“Starting a new company has its challenges on a good day, but in 2014, MANTL was born. MANTL started a company in the worst of times for the oil patch. Again, the trials and tribulations of starting a company were evident, but we had our past experiences to guide us through the storm.”

Sernick sees the continued growth of the southeastern Saskatchewan oil patch and the expansion of the Manitoba oil patch as great allies.

“Our experience in servicing the needs of the SE Sask and Manitoba oil patch has led us into making our customers successful. They are different environments but can share similar conditions. It’s about using what we’ve learned and applying it to the situation at hand.” MANTL opened up their service centre in Moosomin, SK in 2015.

“We chose Moosomin because it was the best location to service both the Saskatchewan and Manitoba sides of the border. We know there will be continued growth in Manitoba, and we are ready to serve those customers.” This growth has seen MANTL expand as well, and construction is underway for a new, larger shop, scheduled to open in the summer of 2024. The company’s website identifies themselves as “Local, Trusted, PCP Professionals.” MANTL is celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2024, and spirits are high that the market has rebounded and stabilized for the foreseeable future.

“We’re seeing investment come back and more positive attitudes surrounding the oil patch.”

As for the adoption of Progressing Cavity Pumps, Sernick says, “we know we can’t put a PC pump in every well, but there are applications where only a PC pump can be successful. A PC pump can be chosen for many reasons but the focus these days is capital cost and energy savings. The energy cost required per barrel is going up and is mostly out of the producer’s control. PCPs require less energy to operate and are worth a serious look.” ❖



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