

Weekly NEWS



An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending February 14th, 2020



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**Comments & submissions
are welcome!**

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EnviroTech 2020

April 27-29, 2020
Hyatt Regency Calgary

Draft Program Now Available

ESAA is pleased to announce that the draft program for *EnviroTech 2020* is now available. The program will feature:

- 42 presentations covering a variety of subject areas including: Air, Emerging Contaminants, Forest Management, GHG Measurement and Monitoring, Project and Data Management, Regulatory, Remediation, Sediment, Subsoil Salinity Tool, Tools and Technology, Waste Management Water
- Opening Keynote and Discussion with **Andrew Coyne, National Post and CBC**
- Tuesday Lunch Keynote: **"Modernity and the Role of Travel in a Climate-Concerned World"**, Mark L. Hinline, **Author of Ground Truth: A Guide to Tracking Climate Change at Home**
- Wednesday Breakfast Talks: **"An Introduction to the Yamnuska Wolf Dog Sanctuary"** and **"More Wild Shameless Shorts"** from **Brian Keating**
- Wednesday Closing Lunch Keynote: **"Canadian Resources"**, **Rex Murphy, National Post and CBC**
- Two networking receptions
- Workshop and Field Trip details to be announced in the weeks ahead.

The full program can be found online at: www.esaa.org/envirotech/agenda/

Registration options:

- Full conference passes for members and non-members
- Day Passes for Tuesday or Wednesday
- Discounted full conference passes for members when purchasing multiple passes

For full details visit: [Register Now](#)

Exhibit Opportunities: Eight (8) exhibit spaces are still available for **EnviroTech 2020**. **EnviroTech 2020** features an all new floor plan and additional exhibit space. For the new floor plan and a list of current exhibitors, visit: <https://www.esaa.org/envirotech/exhibitors/>

Exhibit space includes:

- One or two complimentary booth worker passes (depending on booth package chosen) which provide access to the trade show, all meals, receptions, and coffee/networking breaks.
- 10' wide x 8' deep booth space

- 3' high side wall and 8' high back wall drape
- 6' table
- 2 padded chairs
- One 110v power outlet

If you are interested in receiving the exhibitor brochure, please contact: lorrine@tl2.ca

Sponsorship Opportunities: A very limited number of sponsorship opportunities are still available. For additional details, please contact: lorrine@tl2.ca

Thank you to all of our current sponsors for your generous support:



We look forward to your continued support of ESAA events and look forward to welcoming you to [EnviroTech 2020](#).

RESIDENTS NEAR EDMONTON MILITARY BASE WARNED OF POSSIBLE WATER CONTAMINATION FROM FIREFIGHTING FOAM

(Source: Edmonton Journal) Some property owners around Edmonton's military base are being warned about a potentially harmful chemical found in firefighting foam that may have found its way into their water.

The Department of National Defence found [poly- and perfluoroalkylated substances \(PFAS\)](#) in the soil, groundwater and surface water at the 3rd Canadian Division Support Base Edmonton (CDSB Edmonton), formerly known as CFB Edmonton, and surrounding wetlands during environmental testing.

Captain Graham Kallos, with CDSB's public affairs department, said the base is being proactive by reaching out to neighbours as a precaution.

“In the event of any adverse findings, residents will be notified immediately if there’s any need to discontinue using their well water,” he said. “We’re very committed to our neighbours and promoting the health and safety of folks around the base.”

While there’s no evidence the chemical has contaminated residential wells, the base is now reaching out to some property owners to see if their water needs to be tested. Those using municipal water from the City of Edmonton and Sturgeon County are not affected.

Prolonged and high exposure to PFAS can have serious health impacts, according to Alberta Health Services. It has been linked to cancer, and can affect the immune system, interfere with hormones, decrease fertility and increase cholesterol levels. It can also affect fetus and child development in terms of growth, learning and behaviour.

Kallos said they believe firefighting foams used in training exercises from the 1970s until just over a year ago are what caused the chemical to seep into the soil and water at the base.

“When you need to use an actual piece of equipment or a type of chemical during a rescue, you want to know its effects in the real world,” he said. “They were using that under the guidelines and regulations that we had at the time for firefighting foam, and now we’re starting to discover that maybe PFAS isn’t as good for us as we maybe thought it was.”

CDSB Edmonton members practise putting out fuel fires in a northeast area of the base, just south of the Edmonton Garrison Saddle Club, in a pit with a metal structure used to represent the body of a helicopter. Only water has been used in firefighting exercises since 2018.

The base isn’t disclosing which properties outside the base are being tested, citing privacy concerns.

But Postmedia obtained a survey and letter delivered to a property owner northwest of the base on Tuesday about the testing.

It asks if landowners use any water sources other than those supplied by the City of Edmonton and Sturgeon County; if they have private potable water; if there are ponds, creeks, streams, wetlands, or other bodies of water on the property; and if water other than from municipal sources is used for livestock, irrigation or recreation.

2BK Vegetable Farm, located northwest of the base, was visited by CDSB Edmonton but wants to assure customers its produce is safe.

Spokeswoman Amanda McIntyre said people shouldn’t be worried as the farm only uses city water for irrigation. She said the soil was tested last year and their produce is safe to eat.

“We’ve talked to the base as well, and we’re totally on board with them checking, but we’re more than confident, because we are uphill, that it wouldn’t affect our soil,” she said.

CDSB has hired Dillon Consulting to test properties that may be contaminated, and it will take four to six weeks to see results. Owners will be called if there is a problem.

Anyone with questions about the water-use survey are asked to contact the CDSB Edmonton’s public affairs office at 780-973-4011 ext. 8018.

KEY APPROVAL FOR CANMORE’S COUGAR CREEK DAM

The province has approved a new flood mitigation project for Canmore that will help ensure public safety and lower the risk of flood damage, like that experienced in 2013.

In addition to homes and businesses, the Cougar Creek debris flood retention structure will protect critical infrastructure, including Highways 1 and 1A, the Canadian Pacific Railway main line, a school and the RCMP detachment. Electric transmission lines and a high-pressure natural gas pipeline will also be protected.

"People in Canmore understand the devastation caused by severe flooding, including damage done by mountain debris. The Cougar Creek Dam will help mitigate the public safety risks posed by debris floods by providing a reliable level of protection for homes, businesses and critical infrastructure in Canmore." - *Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks*

"The Town of Canmore is excited to receive the final approval for the construction of the debris retention structure on Cougar Creek. This structure is key to our long-term mitigation, and will protect thousands of Canmore residents during a flood event while safeguarding critical infrastructure vital to our community. We have been developing this major project in partnership with the province, and thank both the federal and provincial governments for committing 90 per cent of the funding for this important project." - *John Borrowman, mayor, Town of Canmore*

The \$48.8-million project is funded by all three levels of government, including \$30.3 million from the province. Provincial funding has been fully allocated for this project and the Town of Canmore is responsible for ongoing maintenance and operating costs, so there are no implications for Budget 2020.

"This is an important project for the residents of Canmore, who can now be assured that they – and their community, family, friends, and wildlife neighbours– are protected from future flooding. I'm glad to see this project not only approved, but fully funded. This is a great step towards a future of continued growth and confidence for Canmore's residents and business community." - *Miranda Roisin, MLA for Banff-Kananaskis*

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) originally released its decision affirming that the project is in the public interest in November 2018. A modified submission by the Town of Canmore was accepted by the NRCB in October 2019.

The NRCB approval includes conditions to ensure environmental impacts are minimized, commitments made to Treaty 7 First Nations are honoured, and plans for health and safety and emergency management are completed to the satisfaction of Environment and Parks.

Quick facts

- The debris flood retention structure will be located on Cougar Creek, approximately two kilometres northeast of the Trans-Canada Highway.
- The dam will be nearly 33 metres high and capable of holding back up to 760,000 cubic metres of water and mountain debris.
- During a flood event, water and mountain debris will be temporarily held behind the dam, with water released back down Cougar Creek in a controlled manner.
- Construction is expected to begin in summer 2020, with the project estimated to be operational by 2022.
- The funding breakdown for this project is:
 - \$29 million from Environment and Parks
 - \$1.37 million from Transportation
 - \$14.5 million from the Government of Canada's New Building Canada Fund
 - \$4 million from the Town of Canmore

Related information

- [NRCB – Board decision on Cougar Creek debris and flood retention structure](#)

AER: NEW VERSION OF THERMAL IN SITU (TIS) WATER PUBLICATION

Today, the AER released a new version of our [Thermal In Situ \(TIS\) Water Publication](#), which tracks each company's water use and recycling in Alberta's in situ oil sands.

There are no changes to reporting requirements. The format of the TIS publication has been updated to better align with recent [updates](#) to *Directive 081: Water Disposal Limits and Reporting Requirements for Thermal In Situ Oil Sands Schemes*.

SEARS PLUME SAGA: APPEAL BOARD UPHOLDS ORDER AGAINST SEARS AND SUNCOR

(Source: CTV News) CALGARY -- The original owner of a northwest Calgary gas station and its predecessor have been ordered to pay to clean up contaminated soil from a leak known as "the Sears plume."

In its decision released Tuesday, the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board also said it would take 15 years for the remediation work to be properly completed, but the total cost is unknown.

According to court documents, Sears Canada Inc. owned and operated a gas station from 1958 to 1984 located where the city's North Hill Centre now sits.

The facility was taken over by Suncor Energy Inc., which ran it until it was decommissioned in 1994.

The gasoline leak was first discovered in 1984 and the contamination spread into a commercial property to the west and a residential neighbourhood, known as Hounsfield Heights, to the south.

Sears had been working on remediation until December 2017 when it announced it was going bankrupt. It told Alberta Environment and Parks that, as a result, it would not be able to continue.

An Environmental Protection Order (EPO) was issued soon after and named Sears, Suncor and Concord North Hill GP Ltd., the company that purchased the former site from Sears in 2015, as "persons responsible" for the site.

Representatives from all three organizations named as persons responsible for the plume attended a hearing in December to appeal a number of issues that arose in connection with the EPO.

During those proceedings, representatives of Sears said there was "no identified risk to human health or safety" in the property. They also said Concord, which purchased the land when Sears' financial operations were deteriorating, contended the mall owners knew of the leak and were therefore responsible under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA).

Concord told the hearing that when it agreed to purchase the site from Sears, they had agreed to remain responsible for maintaining the site and assume liability of the leak. When the EPO was ordered, they added they were not directly or indirectly responsible for the leak and a significant amount of work had already been done on the site prior to Concord's purchase.

A representative of Suncor told the panel that the gas leak occurred sometime before 1972, prior to the company's operation of the service station. It said its involvement at the site ended in 2000 and it has not been involved in any remediation there since then.

As a result, the board said the EPO would be amended to drop Concord as a "person responsible" under the EPEA but both Sears and Suncor would remain.

The order would also be changed to ensure that the remediation of the Hounsfield Heights neighbourhood would be the first priority and the plan would be updated and reviewed on an annual basis.

It would also be made available to residents of Hounsfield Heights and a contact person should be appointed to keep on constant contact with the community and work with the residents and parties to the EPO to develop an effective communication strategy.

Additionally, while the intervenors wanted the timeline for the remediation reduced to five to 10 years, the board said it likely wouldn't be possible for any reduction of the 15-year timeframe.

STARLAND COUNTY STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE AS OIL AND GAS COMPANIES GO UNDER

(Source: St. Albert Today) The pumpjacks scattered across the rolling golden fields behind Anita Mepham's family farm ground to a halt, like many did across southern Alberta's rural Starland County, when natural gas company Trident Exploration Corp. abruptly shut down, abandoning nearly 4,400 sites and leaving behind hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid debt and reclamation expenses.

"They're not paying the taxes, they're not paying the rent. All these wells here, we're not getting paid for," Mepham said.

Mepham feels the growing frustration shared by Albertans living in rural counties and municipalities who are getting burned by oil and gas companies skipping out on their bills – including property taxes, lease payments and site reclamation obligations – as weak provincial legislation leaves counties little hope of ever collecting on those debts.

“We have to bite the bullet and pay it,” Mepham said. “We’re the end of the line.”

When Calgary-based Trident suddenly ceased operations on April 30, 2019, after three months of negotiating with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), the company's board of directors resigned and left the Orphan Wells Association (OWA) – which oversees the closure of oil and gas wells, pipelines and facilities that no longer have a company to operate them – on the hook for \$329 million in associated site abandonment and reclamation costs.

When an oil and gas company in Alberta goes bankrupt, the Alberta Energy Regulator and the Orphan Wells Association collect first. In Trident's case, according to court documents filed in the Court of Queens Bench in Calgary, “the only stakeholders who can realistically receive any benefit from the sale of Trident’s assets ... are AER and OWA.” Once they take their share, there will be nothing left for anyone else to collect.

This includes millions of dollars in unpaid property taxes owed to Starland County.

Reeve Steve Wannstrom said Trident is just one of six oil and gas companies that owe the county a two-year combined total of \$6.8 million in unpaid property taxes – money that would normally go toward maintaining the infrastructure these companies use, such as repaving roads and repairing the county's 114 aging bridges.

Four of those companies are insolvent, Wannstrom said, but two are still operating.

Trident’s property taxes made up a quarter of the county's total tax revenue, Wannstrom said, and its closure blasted a \$3-million hole in Starland’s 2019 budget. The closure forced the county to hike property taxes on residents by eight per cent to make up half the difference. The rest requires the county to cut spending to cover only the barest necessities.

“You can only sustain that so long,” Wannstrom said.

As Starland County faces the largest drop in its tax base ever recorded, mounting pressure from the province downloading more costs onto municipalities (such as the costs of increased policing) is pushing its budget toward a breaking point.

“When do we get to say there is no more?” Wannstrom asked, throwing up his hands.

His county isn't alone.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), an advocacy association representing the province's 69 counties and municipal districts, estimates oil and gas companies owe \$173 million in property taxes alone, more than doubling an \$81-million estimate from March 2019.

Politicians have warned against pushing struggling companies too hard to pay off their debts to municipalities, as that could force more of them over the edge into insolvency.

“We’ve seen a number of bankruptcies in the past year, a number of them are barely hanging on,” said Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, addressing the issue on Jan. 21.

“They simply don’t have the cash in some cases to pay those property tax bills. If those businesses go under, then there is no revenue stream for linear taxation going to those municipalities, and in the worst case scenario, their liabilities for remediating their wells end up falling back to the Orphan Well Association and potentially to the Alberta Crown.”

Nate Horner, UCP MLA for Drumheller-Stettler – who represents some of the hardest-hit areas of the province – said he knows of at least three more companies as big as Trident on the verge of collapse, each threatening to send a “ripple effect” through their surrounding rural economies.

When they do, Horner warned, it will ultimately be Alberta’s taxpayers “on the hook.”

While Kenney said there are provisions under the Municipal Government Act for municipalities to take civil action against companies refusing to pay, Wannstrom said, “If you talk to any lawyer, they’ll say you don’t have a hope.”

This has created a climate of concession bargaining, Wannstrom added, where oil and gas companies that are still operating are striking deals to reduce the amount they’ll pay, knowing the municipalities can’t afford to say no.

"Every day, we get another call that an oil company wants to come in and make a deal – they don't want to pay any more," Wannstrom said.

Ron Huvenaars, chair of Action Surface Rights Group – a resource and energy development advocacy group representing around 200 southern Alberta landowners – said the provincial government has "sent the message to companies that it's okay to keep producing wells but they don't have to honour their commitments to the farmers or impacted communities."

On Jan. 23, the Action Surface Rights Group called on farmers and ranchers who are either going unpaid or undercompensated for the wells on their land to take matters into their own hands.

"It's time to safely turn off the power and safely shut off the valves until these delinquent companies pay the money they owe," said Action Surface Rights Group member Daryl Bennett.

Wannstrom does not support such drastic and potentially dangerous action from ranchers and farmers, but he understands the call is rooted in frustration from Albertans who feel they have little other recourse against unresponsive politicians and powerful oil and gas companies.

"You're trying to work together and keep everything afloat. It's a bad deal," Wannstrom said.

Wannstrom said his county's residents are getting burned at both ends. Many of those who are now facing an eight-per-cent jump in property taxes on their homes were also employed by shuttered oil and gas companies and have lost their jobs, or have unpaid leaseholds on their land owed by those same companies.

"They didn't get the last month or two of their wages, plus they get hit by higher taxes and they've lost their jobs," Wannstrom said.

Michichi resident Amber Spark says she has seen the property taxes on her home in the hamlet increase by \$150 in the last two years.

While her family has been able to absorb the extra cost, she knows that may not be as easy for others in her county. The latest MNP Consumer Debt Index survey, conducted quarterly by Ipsos, revealed nearly half of Albertans are \$200 away from insolvency at the end of the month, and half don't believe they can cover their living expenses without taking on more debt.

Spark also knows her county's council has little choice but to hike taxes. "It is what it is," she said. "Hopefully, one day it will go back down."

Mephram worries the economic crisis brewing in Alberta's rural communities as oil and gas companies flee or fail in the face of low global prices for their product could pose an existential threat to the rural way of life, making it harder for families like hers to afford to stay. "It hits people hard."

1.2M LITRES OF OIL SPILLED IN SASK. TRAIN DERAILMENT

(Source: CTV News) GUERNSEY -- The Saskatchewan government says about 1.2 million litres of oil spilled during a fiery train derailment in a rural area last week.

The amount of oil recovered is still being determined, but a significant portion was burned off, the province's Environment Ministry said in an email Tuesday.

The Canadian Pacific Railway freight train jumped the tracks near Guernsey, about 115 kilometres southeast of Saskatoon, early Thursday. Thirty-two of the train's 104 cars derailed and a dozen caught fire.

Flames and thick black smoke poured from the crumpled train cars and prompted an evacuation of about 85 residents from the area for more than 24 hours.

Reeve Jack Gibney of the Rural Municipality of Osborne, which includes Guernsey, said there is concern in the agriculture community over the second major oil spill in two months.

Another derailment in December about 10 kilometres away on the same set of tracks also caused a fire when 1.5 million litres of oil spilled. The rural municipality is to meet with CP officials Wednesday.

Remediation efforts were already underway at the site of the most recent derailment, the province said. The rail line was reopened on Friday.

The Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday that its investigators were continuing to work at the site. CP said in an emailed statement that crews were working to ensure the area was cleaned up and restored.

CP has contracted environmental consultants and contractors to assess any environmental impacts. The province said the rail company is responsible for all costs associated with the derailment, emergency response and remediation. Cleanup is expected to take several months.

The province said the spill was fully contained to railway and highway ditches, and the frozen ground helped reduce the risk of contaminants penetrating too far down.

Local officials have said there is concern over the safety of rail transport for oil and have suggested it's time to look to pipelines. Trains, often carrying oil and other dangerous goods, move through the Saskatchewan hamlet every hour, Gibney said.

After last week's derailment, the federal government ordered lower speed limits for all trains carrying large amounts of dangerous goods.

CP has also confirmed the tank cars involved were TC-117J types, which became the industry standard following the phaseout of the DOT-111 cars involved in the deadly rail disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Que., in 2013. Forty-seven people were killed when tanker cars loaded with crude oil derailed and caused an explosion. The TC-117 cars have additional safety features including thicker steel and thermal protection.

A retrofitted version of the TC-117 tank type was involved in crashes and subsequent oil leaks in the December derailment in Saskatchewan, as well as in other recent accidents in St. Lazare, Man., Iowa and Texas. It has a thinner shell than newer models.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Feb. 11, 2020

***GLOBE SERIES, TORONTO PEARSON AND CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
LAUNCH NEW CLIMATE AND SPORTS INITIATIVE***

(Source: EnvironmentJournal.ca) GLOBE Series, in partnership with Toronto Pearson International Airport and the City of Mississauga, launched the Climate and Sports Initiative on February 11, 2020 at GLOBE 2020 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This program is the first program of its kind in Canada that uses sport as a platform to educate, engage and empower Canadians to protect the planet for future generations. The multi-year initiative will harness the power of sports to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change and to equip the public with concrete actions they can take to address it.

The first campaign announced under the Climate and Sports Initiative is "Save Pond Hockey," a series of community events involving Canadian Olympians that kicks off at Toronto Pearson in summer 2020. The inaugural event will feature one of Canada's most decorated athletes, Hayley Wickenheiser, a former professional hockey player who represented Canada five times at the Winter Olympics. The event will invite members of the public to take part in a shoot-out with Wickenheiser and other VIPs, while also making personal climate pledges that will be supported by a social media campaign. Information stations and in-person experts will be on hand to provide tips on how Canadians can make a difference at home and in their communities.

Meghan Agosta, Olympic Gold and Silver medalist and member of the Canada women's national ice hockey team, attended GLOBE for the launch. "As a professional athlete, I am excited to be part of an initiative focused on two things I really care about: addressing climate change and preserving the game I love. It's inspiring to see business, government and the next generation of climate leaders working together on the Climate and Sports Initiative and making a difference," said Agosta.

“Pond hockey and playing on the outdoor rink has given me everything that I have in my life, and I want my kids and grandkids to have the same opportunity,” states Hayley Wickenheiser, former professional hockey player and five-time Olympian. “I’m proud to be part of the Climate and Sports Initiative, where we can use sports to engage, inspire and educate Canadians and people around the world to save our climate.” Click here to watch a [video message from Ms. Wickenheiser](#).

“Canada’s national sport provides a common language for talking about how our everyday choices affect the way we live, work and play,” said Mike Gerbis, CEO of GLOBE Series. “The Climate & Sports Initiative will empower every Canadian to get in the game when it comes to fighting climate change.”

The next phase of the program is expected to include a mentoring program that connects Canadian Olympians with schools and other community partners. The Olympian ambassadors will be trained on how people can take action so they can educate and empower communities to stop climate change in its tracks.

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) climate change initiatives focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) through energy reduction and adapting the airport to the changing climate. Because of these initiatives, it has received Level 3 certification in Airports Council International’s Airport Carbon Accreditation program. As of this year the GTAA has achieved a 20 per cent reduction in GHG emissions from a 2006 baseline, and aims to achieve an 80 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2050.

A [York University study](#) predicts that by the late 21st century, 35,000 freshwater lakes — across three continents and 50 countries — could see permanent ice loss from warming winters if the global climate warms beyond the two-degree target set by the Paris Agreement. More than 40 per cent of the lakes with reduced ice levels in the late 21st century are in Canada.

For further information about this initiative, click [here](#).

US EPA INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION WITH PFOA AND PFOS

(Source: Hazmat Magazine) The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently released interim [recommendations](#) for screening levels and preliminary remediation goals to inform the development of final cleanup levels for PFOA and/or PFOS groundwater contamination at sites being evaluated and addressed under federal cleanup programs, including CERCLA and RCRA.

The recommendations are consistent with existing EPA guidance and standard practices, in addition to applicable statutes and regulations. The recommendations may be useful for state, tribal, or other regulatory authorities.

In a news release, U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler stated, “The interim recommendations will provide clear and consistent guidance for federal cleanup programs and will help protect drinking water resources in communities across the country. This is a critical tool for our state, tribal, and local partners to use to protect public health and address these chemicals.”

U.S. Federal agencies and states have asked the U.S. EPA to provide guidance on this issue. After reviewing public comments on the agency’s April 2019 draft guidance, the U.S. EPA is finalizing these interim recommendations based on the available data and scientific information on PFAS toxicity. The U.S. EPA acknowledges that the scientific information on these compounds continues to evolve. As part of the PFAS Action Plan, the U.S. EPA is continuing to develop and assess toxicity information, test methods, laboratory methods, analytical methods, exposure models, and treatment methods, among other research efforts to improve the knowledge about this class of chemicals. As new information becomes available on other PFAS chemicals, the agency will consider additional recommendations as the agency advances its knowledge of these other substances.

WHAT IS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

The term “circular economy” has become an extremely popular concept throughout the last few years by our millennial generation. Nowadays, it’s not as simple as “take, make and dispose”. A circular economy is a reformative system where we try to minimize our resources. Focusing mainly on the reuse and reduce aspect of the 3 R’s and ensuring these two are fully manipulated before choosing to recycle. This process will aim to eliminate waste, not just from recycling procedures, but throughout the lifecycles of products and packaging.

Canada is working on new and exciting strategies to create a waste-free environment. Some provinces have already begun to implement the procedures in creating a circular economy like Ontario.

Individuals should focus on minimizing the use of raw materials, maximizing the useful life of materials and lastly, minimizing waste produced at the end of life products and packaging.

Why build a circular economy?

In order for Canada to grow, it is important that we move towards a circular economy. By improving our resource recovery we will lessen greenhouse gas emissions and ensure potentially dangerous materials are appropriately managed.

Benefits of a circular economy:

- Increases competitiveness
- It will encourage businesses to stay put
- Creates a more sustainable way of living and a cleaner environment
- Boosts economic growth
- Creates jobs
- Stimulates innovation

The Electronic Recycling Association is contributing to the growth of a circular economy by reducing unnecessary electronic waste throughout Canada over the last 14 years. They are one of the first leaders in addressing the growing problem of e-waste and the increasing 'digital divide'.

Their mission is to reduce electronic waste and the negative impact it has on our environment and to reuse unwanted computers and related electronic equipment through recovery, refurbishment, and computer donation programs.

Their vision is to foster a better community by reducing electronic waste and enabling the non-profit sector to achieve excellence by providing for their IT needs through computer donation and computer recycling.

For more information about the ERA, please visit their website www.era.ca. To book a pick up contact Julia@era.ca

New ESAA Member

ESAA's Board of Directors and staff would like to welcome the following new member:

Associate Member:



Alberta Recycling Management Authority

PO Box 189

Edmonton, AB T5J 2J1

Phone: (780) 990-1111

Web: www.albertarecycling.ca

RaeAnne Friedenber, Senior Manager, Development & Administration

e-mail: reception@albertarecycling.ca

Profile

Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) is an environmental stewardship organization responsible for managing the province's tire, electronics, paint and used oil materials recycling programs. ARMA also has contracts with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to administer a portion of their household hazardous waste program and with the Governments of the Northwest Territories and Yukon to administer the revenue portion of their electronics program and tire program (respectively). ARMA reports to the Minister of Environment and Parks and is run by a Board of Directors representing urban and rural municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry, environmental organizations, AEP and the public-at-large.

Upcoming Events

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: ESAA SESSION AT BEST 2020

ESAA has been invited by the British Columbia Environment Industry Association (BCEIA) to provide a technical session at **BEST 2020**, May 6-8th at the Chateau Whistler.



ESAA is inviting member companies to submit abstracts for consideration. The session of three (3) talks will focus on water issues and/or contaminated sites as related to Alberta projects. Potential topics include, but not limited to:

- groundwater contamination
- groundwater management
- surface water
- produced water
- modelling
- monitoring
- hydraulic fracturing
- emerging contaminants
- saline contamination
- industrial re-use
- risk management
- wetlands
- treatment
- difficult or unique locations

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words (including bio), should include a presenter biography, and be submitted as a Word Document by no later than midnight on Friday, February 7th, 2020.

Send abstract submissions to Joe Chowaniec via email to: chowaniec@esaa.org

For more information about *BEST 2020*, visit: <https://bceia.com/best/>

Note: Speakers are responsible for their registration fees and associated travel expenses.

AQUALITY HAS LAUNCHED A FREE ONLINE WETLANDS COURSE!

Aquality—in partnership with the Alberta Conservation Association—is now announcing the release of our FREE online course, ***Alberta Wetlands 101: Online Experience***.

The purpose of this free online course is to provide a barrier-free approach to wetland information, help fill the knowledge gap across Alberta's professionals and general public, and to help ensure that wetlands are protected as the Alberta Wetland Policy intended. Provincial legislation and tools are constantly evolving, and Aquality staff ensures that the public is receiving the most updated wetland information with all our courses.

Our wetland video series features eleven 5-minute videos each with a short corresponding review quiz. To learn more about our course and view the syllabus please see the attached document. To register for our free wetlands course visit www.albertawetlands.ca.

Aquality also offers a comprehensive wetlands course titled “**Alberta Wetlands: From Classification to Policy**” and is designed to help consultants, industry professionals, resource managers, not-for-profit organizations, and government regulators understand the theoretical component used in wetland assessments. We have had a variety of government/industry/non-profit groups host in-house training sessions. This course has had great feedback and would

benefit any who wish to attend. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in registering you can visit our website at <http://www.wetlandpolicy.ca/alberta-wetlands-from-classification-to-policy> to register and obtain further information.

The course dates scheduled for 2020 are:

1. **February 18-19, 2020 in Edmonton, AB**
2. **March 24-25, 2020 in Calgary, AB**
3. **April 14-15, 2020 in Edmonton, AB**
4. **May 5-6, 2020 in Calgary, AB**

Industry Positions Openings



As a benefit of ESAA Membership, ESAA Members can now post position openings on our website at no charge. Position opening ads also will appear in the newsletter at no charge. For full details visit: <https://www.esaa.org/news/job-board/>

Note: You must still complete the advertising form. After completing the order form, you will receive an email with a link to post your position.

Non-Members are welcome to advertise as well for a nominal charge. Visit [advertising form](#) to place your order.

<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Details</i>
Senior Environmental Specialist	LEHDER Environmental Group	2020-02-08	Full-Time	more
Archaeology Field Technician	H3M Environmental	2020-02-29		more
Intermediate Environmental Engineer	Secure Energy	2020-02-28	Full-Time	more
Senior Environmental Site Assessment Specialist	SNC Lavalin Inc.	2020-02-29	Full-Time	more
Field Director/ Supervisor	H3M Environmental	2020-02-29	Full-Time	more
Archaeology Permit Holder	H3M Environmental	2020-02-29	Full-Time	more
Junior Environmental Scientist	Trace Associates Inc.	2020-02-29	Full-Time	more
3544 - Business Lead (Calgary, Alberta)	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-07	Full-Time	more
3544B - Project Manager (Lloydminster, Alberta)	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-07	Full-Time	more
3544C - Environmental Practitioner II	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-14		more
Environmental Engineer, Scientist or Geologist - 2 to 4 Years Experience	Langan	2020-03-31	Full-Time	more
Environmental Engineer, Scientist or Geologist - 4 to 8 Years Experience	Langan	2020-03-31	Full-Time	more
Environmental Scientist or Biologist - 5 to 10 Years Experience	Langan	2020-04-30	Full-Time	more