

Weekly NEWS



An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending February 28th, 2020



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**Comments & submissions
are welcome!**

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CALGARY COMPANY RECYCLES THOUSANDS OF MATTRESSES, WANTS TO DIVERT ALL CITY MATTRESSES FROM LANDFILL

(Source: Calgary CTV News) CALGARY -- After recycling more than 150,000 mattresses in southern Alberta over the last five years, a Calgary mattress recycler wants to partner with the City of Calgary to divert every mattress destined for the dump.

How much space would that take, you ask?

"On a yearly basis, we have enough mattresses that we recycle right now that would fill up McMahon Stadium," said Shawn Cable, business operations leader for Re-Matt.

"If we can get in to work with (the City) then I think we can 100 per cent divert every mattress that's being discarded in the whole city," he added.

Re-Matt currently collects mattresses from Banff, Airdrie, Strathmore and even some southern municipalities in British Columbia, but does not operate at the City of Calgary landfill sites.

All the mattresses it collects are broken down at its warehouse in the Highfield neighbourhood.

The coil springs are collected and sent off for scrap metal or to smelters. Wood is broken down into shavings, foam is shredded and re-used as underlay for carpeting. The fabric materials are compacted and sent to landfill.

Cable says the mattresses that end up at landfills take up excessive space and slow down the decomposition process which he says is "essentially like burying air."

Ward 7 Councillor Druh Farrell said the city will look into it.

"We're supposed to be meeting certain waste diversion targets within a certain period of time. As we learn more about recycling we need to add more of these services," Farrell said.

A City of Calgary spokesperson sent a statement to CTV News which stated that, "We encourage citizens to donate or ask their mattress retailer if they offer a recycling program or to contact local mattress recyclers (such as Re-Matt, fees apply). Citizens can bring large pieces of furniture like mattresses to the city landfill (landfill charges apply).

It added that, "We are currently looking into what would be involved with a mattress recycling program. Any future management of a mattress recycling contract would be determined through city procurement processes."

Calgary residents who wish to recycle their mattress in the meantime can do so by dropping it off directly at Re-Matt's facilities for a \$20 fee.

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ALBERTA TRUCKING COMPANY FINED \$175,000 FOR FUEL SPILL IN B.C.'S SLOCAN VALLEY

(Source: Vancouver: Sun) An Alberta trucking company has been fined \$175,000 for its role in a 2013 jet-fuel spill in B.C.'s Slocan Valley.

On July 26, 2013, a truck overturned on a service road in the valley, spilling an estimated 35,000 litres of jet fuel into Lemon Creek just outside of Nelson. The incident caused environmental damage, led to residential evacuations and cost Calgary-based Executive Flight Centre Fuel Services Ltd. about \$5 million to clean up.

It also led to a rare prosecution launched by a member of the public. Slocan Valley environmental activist Marilyn Burgoon laid charges against both the Province of B.C. and executive flight centre, under the Fisheries Act.

Burgoon died late last year, but the case wrapped up Friday in Nelson provincial court, when executive flight centre pleaded guilty to one count of a deleterious deposit into waters frequented by fish — punishable by a fine up to \$300,000.

Instead, executive flight centre was ordered to pay a little over half that amount. The majority of the fine, \$165,000, will be used for fish-habitat conservation efforts in the valley, according to the B.C. Conservation Officer Service.

The truck driver, Danny Lasante, was subsequently convicted of one count of introducing waste into environment causing pollution, and fined \$20,000. The province, meanwhile, was acquitted of all charges related to the spill.

NEW CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED TO PROTECT SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting and conserving nature and wildlife. They are an important legacy for our kids and grandkids. Canada's Southern Mountain Caribou are an iconic species and are vital to Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia, but their numbers are in serious decline, and their recovery is unlikely without immediate action.

This is why the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, today announced that Canada has reached two final conservation agreements with British Columbia and the West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations to advance the recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou. He was joined at the signing in Vancouver by Chief Ken Cameron of the Sauteau First Nations; Chief Roland Willson of the West Moberly First Nations, and British Columbia ministers including the Honourable Doug Donaldson, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; the Honourable George Heyman, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and the Honourable Bruce Ralston, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The two agreements entered into under Section 11 of the *Species at Risk Act* commit the signatories to immediate and long-term actions to stabilize and recover populations of Southern Mountain Caribou across British Columbia and demonstrate a collaborative approach to species at risk conservation.

The signing of these two agreements represents historic collaboration between all levels of government, including Indigenous partners, to implement measures such as habitat protection and restoration, recreational management, and maternal penning.

The partnership agreement includes commitments that the parties will make in support of expanding protected habitat for caribou, including in Klin-se-za Provincial Park; initiating an Indigenous guardians program; participating in collaborative knowledge sharing and research; and continuing the implementation of successful caribou recovery measures, such as maternity pens.

The bilateral Section 11 agreement between Canada and British Columbia establishes a framework for cooperation to recover the species. These measures include commitments related to habitat protection and restoration, herd planning, predator management, primary prey management, hunting, science, Indigenous knowledge, maternal pens and captive breeding, and monitoring.

Taken together, today's agreements demonstrate a clear path and set out achievable goals to stabilize and recover the Southern Mountain Caribou. The agreements also provide a model for caribou recovery efforts across the country moving forward. The final conservation agreements were drafted following consultations and engagement with relevant communities, First Nations, and stakeholders. The links to the agreements can be found below.

Quick facts

- The partnership agreement between the West Moberly First Nations, Sauteau First Nations, Canada, and British Columbia includes commitments to protect hundreds of thousands of hectares of important caribou habitat in northeast British Columbia.
- The West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations will initiate an Indigenous guardians program for caribou conservation in consultation with Canada and British Columbia.
- Canada will contribute technical expertise and funding to support the caribou recovery and restoration actions in these agreements.
- The bilateral Section 11 agreement between Canada and British Columbia establishes a framework for cooperation and sets out immediate and long-term measures in support of Southern Mountain Caribou conservation and recovery in each of the northern, central, and southern groups of the species in the province.
- These measures include commitments related to habitat protection and restoration, herd planning, predator management, primary prey management, hunting, science, Indigenous knowledge, recreation management, maternal pens and captive breeding, and monitoring.

Related products

- [Background on Section 11 and partnership agreements for Southern Mountain Caribou](#)

MONITORING BIODIVERSE HABITAT HEALTH TO PROVIDE BETTER CONSERVATION

(Source: www.environmentjournal.com) A study was recently published in the *Canadian Journal of Zoology* that addresses habitat loss threatening the extinction of an ever-growing number of species. Many wildlife advocates and conservation professionals rely on the proverbial "canary in the coal mine", or monitoring and protecting a single representative species to maintain healthy wildlife. However, this new research from University of British Columbia (UBC) suggests that habitats are better served if conservation efforts focus on a collection of species rather than a single species.

"Efforts around the world are going into countering a decline in biodiversity," says Adam Ford, study author and Canada research chair in Wildlife Restoration Ecology at UBC (Okanagan campus). "While we would love to be able to protect all

habitats for all species, organizations tend to focus their efforts on a few species and not everyone shares the same priorities.”

According to Fort and his research team, the problem with surrogate species is that people rarely agree on which species that should be and there is a tendency to favour charismatic species like grizzly bears and wolves, over lesser-known but equally-important species. To address that imbalance in selecting surrogate species, the researchers began looking at how to group species together to present a more objective and representative sample of the habitats that need protecting.

Using a publicly available dataset of species-habitat associations, the team of researchers compared the surrogacy value for 1,012 species and 64 habitat types in B.C. They used a conditional entropy metric to quantify pairwise associations between species via their occurrence in different habitat types.

The analysis reveals that game and non-game species surrogacy groups do not significantly differ in either the frequency of captured pairwise associations or their coverage of species. These results suggest that funding game species conservation is likely providing some benefits to non-game species, but optimal habitat-based conservation outcomes will come from a combination of taxa. This analysis provides an important step in influencing management decisions for the preservation of biodiversity.

“We discovered what we called an ‘all-star’ team of species for each of the province’s nine wildlife management units, as well as an all-star team for the province as a whole,” says Sarah Falconer, graduate student at Laurentian University and study co-author. “Our findings suggest that if we commit to preserving these collections of species rather than just the charismatic megafauna, we’re likely to achieve much better conservation outcomes.”

Adds Ford: “Perhaps we should not be focusing on figuring out which species is the best conservation surrogate, but which groups of species bring the most people together to protect the most biodiversity.”

The study, “Evaluating policy-relevant surrogate taxa for biodiversity conservation: a case study from British Columbia” received funding from Canada Foundation for Innovation, the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canada Research Chairs program. To read the full study, click [here](#).

DILUENT RECOVERY FACILITY RECEIVES APPROVAL IN ALBERTA

(Source: www.environmentjournal.com) The Province of Alberta announced on February 25, 2020 that it has approved a Gibson Energy project that will increase the province’s ability to ship oil to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

This diluent recovery unit (DRU), to be built at the Hardisty rail terminal, will increase Alberta’s takeaway capacity. Prior to loading onto rail cars, the DRU technology will remove diluent from blended bitumen, freeing up rail car capacity for additional oil. The recovered diluent will be reused by upstream oil sands producers.

The government’s approval allows the project to proceed to the next stages of development, including additional environmental approvals, before construction can begin.

“Approving this project demonstrates our government’s commitment to supporting innovative technology and enhancing our reputation as a leader in responsible energy development. Projects like this attract new investment, create jobs and strengthen our energy industry,” said Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy. Before submission for government approval, the development plans require stringent review by the Alberta Energy Regulator.

The project, which is located just outside of Hardisty, southeast of Edmonton, will have the capacity to process up to 100,000 barrels of bitumen blend per day.

Gibson’s environmental policies are designed to minimize waste and emissions and promote resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Environmental protection measures are undertaken from the planning and construction phases of a project through to daily operations. There are specific programs for air quality monitoring, secondary containment systems to protect land and water resources, preventative maintenance for tanks and pipelines, and strategies to minimize of impacts to wildlife.

Gibson estimates the project could be operational as early as the second quarter of 2021.

N.W.T. MINISTER SAYS CLEANUP COST OF CAMERON HILLS NOT KNOWN

(Source: CBC News) Northwest Territories taxpayers will likely have to pay "tens of millions of dollars" to remediate an oil and gas field south of Kakisa, N.W.T., said a Yellowknife MLA.

Strategic Oil and Gas is legally responsible for cleaning up its Cameron Hills project, which consists of more than 40 wells, winter roads, a camp, a gathering system and a small pipeline.

But the company went into receivership late last month when a restructuring effort failed, and there are big concerns that the security deposit it was required to post will not be enough to cover the cost of remediation at the sprawling site.

"Our government is poised to assume tens of millions of dollars in environmental liabilities associated with the Cameron Hills sour gas field," said Frame Lake MLA Kevin O'Reilly in the legislature Tuesday.

Last year O'Reilly rang alarm bells about the project, noting the security deposit is far less than the \$12.2 million dollar estimate that was assigned to the cleanup by a firm that was handling Strategic's attempt to restructure.

On Wednesday, the N.W.T. minister of lands said the government has cashed a \$2.9 million security deposit held by the Mackenzie Land and Water Board. Lands Minister Shane Thompson said more security is held by the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations, but said the amount is confidential.

Thompson said Strategic's Cameron Hills project got regulatory approval in 2010 and the government had no indication of the financial trouble the company was in store for.

"The government of the Northwest Territories had a reasonable expectation that it would continue its operations until it was wound down according to regulatory requirements," said Thompson in the legislature.

But the government did not assume responsibility for the site until three years later, when it signed the devolution agreement.

Leading up to the signing, N.W.T. government officials and their federal counterparts negotiated which of the many contaminated sites in the territory are the responsibility of the territory and which are the responsibility of the federal government. The devolution agreement includes a list detailing the outcome of that negotiation. Cameron Hills is among the sites the N.W.T. agreed to accept responsibility for.

At the time the devolution agreement was signed, production at Cameron Hills was dropping, the U.S. boom in cheaper shale oil and gas was driving down prices and Strategic's share price was in the midst of a two-year plunge from 28 dollars to just over two dollars per share. Ten months after the devolution agreement came into effect, Strategic shut down all operations at Cameron Hills.

O'Reilly said taxpayers have heard the same story before. "We've seen this happen again and again and again in the North, whether it's Giant Mine, Colomac, you name it," said O'Reilly. "Name me one site that's actually properly reclaimed here."

Thompson said three government departments and the regulator of oil and gas are reviewing what went wrong in an effort to avoid the same outcome in the future. He said the government does not know how much it will cost to remediate the site because Strategic never finalized a cleanup plan. But he said the security posted is enough to do work the company was ordered to do months ago to reduce the immediate environmental risk.

CANADA HAS PUMPED NEARLY 900 BILLION LITRES OF RAW SEWAGE INTO WATERWAYS SINCE 2013

(Source: On-Site Magazine) OTTAWA—Canada's old-fashioned city sewer systems dumped nearly 900 billion litres of raw sewage into this country's waterways over five years, enough to fill up an Olympic-sized swimming pool more than 355,000 times.

Data Environment Canada posted to the federal government's open-data website earlier this month shows in 2018, more than 190 billion litres of untreated wastewater poured out of city pipes that carry both sewage and storm water.

That is 14 per cent more than in 2017, and 44 per cent more than in 2013. Mark Mattson, president of Swim Drink Fish Canada, said the amount should shock people. "It shows you the problem," he said. "It should wake people up." But Mattson said it's also not even close to the full picture. "There's lots of holes in the data," he noted.

The number does not include wastewater that leaks out from systems that don't use combined sewage and storm water pipes or any data on non-sewage related pollution that isn't treated by wastewater plants, such as pharmaceuticals. Quebec is also excluded from the data in 2018 because that province signed an agreement to report it to Ottawa in a different way.

Some cities also only monitor leaks during six months of the year and many of them use computer modeling to estimate the amount of sewage that leaks, rather than measuring it. The city of Kingston, Ont., began measuring leaks in 2017 and found its models had underestimated the amount of sewage that was getting out.

But Mattson is still excited the data is being posted online for anyone to download. "This is something we think is a very powerful tool," he said.

Among the data that was released is the total amount of effluent, or untreated wastewater, that escapes from combined sewer and storm systems like those found in major cities such as Toronto, Ottawa and Edmonton. These systems are often release untreated sewage when storms overwhelm them, to prevent backups and floods. Between 2013 and 2018, the data says 890 billion litres of effluent escaped.

In 2018, 10 cities were responsible for more than 90 per cent of the venting, led by Port Alberni, B.C., which pumped out nearly 47 billion litres, followed by Richmond, B.C.'s 42 billion litres.

Conservative environment critic Kerry-Lynne Findlay said Thursday she thinks the data shows a failure of the federal Liberals to make clean water a priority.

"There is no reason in 2020 that major cities should not be addressing their wastewater," she said. "We need this to become a priority. We have the technology. It's a matter of having the political will to do it."

The Conservatives promised during the fall campaign to stop the dumping of raw sewage, a promise that was partly aimed at Quebec voters. Several cities in that province have purposely dumped untreated wastewater into rivers in recent years, mostly during construction or upgrades to existing systems.

Moira Kelly, spokesperson for Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, said Thursday the Liberals approved more than \$1.5 billion for 1,452 wastewater projects between 2015 and 2019.

"Unlike the Conservatives, we are not proposing cutting billions of dollars from much-needed infrastructure projects across the country, which was the Conservative campaign plan," she said. "Our government will continue to make investments in infrastructure to grow the economy and protect water."

The new data also looks at the number of times wastewater systems failed to stay within set limits for pollution. Between 2015 and 2018, systems exceeded a standard for dissolved oxygen 1,815 times and a standard for dissolved solids 2,338 times. Those standards only took effect in 2015.

Mattson said there are some municipalities doing better than the standards and being transparent about their remaining problems. Calgary, he said, has such good wastewater treatment the Bow River "is as pure leaving the city as when it comes in."

Many big cities are also spending billions of dollars to replace combined sewer systems with separate pipes, which should eventually significantly reduce the leaks. Toronto Mayor John Tory said in December he was hoping to speed up his city's 20-year plan to replace its combined sewers to complete it in half the time.

The bigger issue for many cities is how wastewater is treated and what the standards are for the treated water when it is released. The federal government set new standards in 2012, but they don't take effect for the highest-risk systems until this year, and won't be completely phased in until 2040.

A lot of cities are treating water for sewage but not for other things, like microplastics and drug residues. And Mattson said the water that flows from storm-water systems alone can be polluted from all the things humans and vehicles leave on the ground that get swept into storm pipes when it rains.

New ESAA Member

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

Full Member:



Pure Environmental

850, 400-3rd Ave SW

Calgary, AB T2P 4H2

Phone: (403) 234-8590

Web: <https://pureenviro.eco/>

Ramin Bogzaran, VP Corporate Development

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Profile

Pure Environmental provides responsible and sustainable solutions to our customers in the oil and gas, mining, industrial and public sectors. We work to protect the air we breathe, the ground we walk on, and the water we drink. Leveraging our expertise and decades of operational experience in environmentally responsible waste management, Pure Environmental is engineering, constructing and operating world-class facilities in strategic locations in Canada and the United States as well as providing unique and differentiated environmental services in managing our customer's environmental liabilities.

Upcoming Events



SMART Remediation 2020 in Alberta

Smart Methods in Advanced Remediation Technologies (SMART)

is a series of technical learning seminars for environmental professionals. We bring the North American environmental community together to enhance our collective understanding of cutting edge characterization and remediation technologies. Our seminars are full of technical information on how-to's, latest tips 'n tricks and up-to-date techniques.

We have a great line up of speakers once again for SMART Edmonton and Calgary. This year we are also bringing back the Demonstration Corner. **Want to know specifically what we are presenting....** All abstract summaries and speaker bios are listed on the [website](#) for the upcoming events in Edmonton and Calgary.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Includes Breakfast & Conference: 7:30 - 3:00 pm.
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Early Bird Pricing of \$169 in effect until February 14, 2020.

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March 12, 2020 – Calgary
Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire
255 Barclay Parade SW
Calgary, AB T2P 5C2

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2020 ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY SUMMIT

Environmental Business International's summit is taking place next month in San Diego, California (March 18-20, 2020).

We thought you might be interested. This event brings together over 170 C-Suite environmental industry executives. We will be having various discussions related to the following topics:

- The State of the Environmental Industry
- PFAS as an Emerging Market
- Digital Transformation Market Disruptors
- The Expanding Role of M&A in Strategic Growth
- Infrastructure Outlook
- Climate Resiliency & Adaptation Markets

In addition, we will have many other interesting topics. You can find more information and register for the summit through the following link:

For more information, visit: <http://ebionline.org/san-diego-environmental-industry-summit/>

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.

Job Title	Organization	Application Deadline	Term	Details
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
Municipal Approvals Engineer	Government of Alberta	2020-03-05	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
Waste Management Specialist	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	more
Environmental Engineer Project Manager - Contaminated Sites & Remediation	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	more
Ecology & EIA Lead	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	more
Hydrogeologist	North Shore Environmental Consultants	2020-03-12	Full-Time	more
3544C - Environmental Practitioner II	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-14		more
Environmental Assistant	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-18		more
Soil Handling Monitor	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		more
Intermediate Vegetation Ecologist	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		more
Soil Surveyor	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		more
Environmental Inspector	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-18		more
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