



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

**LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA CANADA S4S 0B3**

**Saskatchewan Oil Sands Seminar
Regina, December 12, 2007
Premier Brad Wall's Remarks
(Check against delivery)**

Thank-you, June Kim for that introduction.

And thanks to the folks at Wellington West Capital for hosting this conference and the work they've been doing in promoting Saskatchewan's energy resources.

I'd like to begin by introducing Saskatchewan's new Minister of Energy and Resources, the Honourable Bill Boyd.

Bill is a wily veteran of the Saskatchewan political scene and a good friend of mine.

I know I speak for a lot of people in the industry and in the province when I say Bill, thanks for coming back.

It's also my pleasure to introduce the MLA for Meadow Lake, Jeremy Harrison.

I've appointed him Saskatchewan's Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Resources, with specific responsibility for Northern Resources and Oil Sands Development.

The world is facing some serious issues when it comes to security of energy supply.

And this is causing people in many countries to start asking some important questions.

Increasingly in the years ahead, I'm hoping Saskatchewan will become the obvious answer to those questions.

About a year ago, the Economist magazine surveyed the globe and found evidence of a profound shift in the balance of power.

Economic might is moving away from the *developed* world, to the *developing* world.

And developing countries are chewing-up over half of the planet's energy.

They can also pay for that energy, since they now hold most of the world's foreign exchange reserves.

The investment house Goldman Sachs predicts that within 30 years, the ten biggest economies will include countries like Brazil, India and China.

So, combine half a billion new people in the world's labour force with a looming energy supply shortage and that raises some serious questions.

If we're not going to rely on the Middle East for oil, where's the best place in North America to invest right now?

The answer is Saskatchewan.

Which jurisdiction is the second largest oil producer in Canada and is best positioned to provide security of supply?

The answer is Saskatchewan.

Where has oil production more than doubled in the last 15 years?

Right here, in Saskatchewan.

And our future potential is enormous.

Estimates are that this province is producing only 15 per cent of our discovered oil-in-place.

That's the amount of oil identified in underground oil reserves.

And thanks to the work of Dr. Carolyn Preston and researchers at the world-famous Petroleum Technology Research Centre, we're going to find a way to get at the remaining 85 per cent.

That is why in the recent election I committed to providing an additional \$4 million in funding over four years to the Centre.

And that, like every other promise I made in the election campaign, is a promise I'm going to keep.

In addition to our conventional resources, Saskatchewan, of course, also has oil sands.

And that's what we're here to talk about today.

As I have been frequently pointing out over the last few years, the dinosaurs didn't stop dying at the Saskatchewan-Alberta border.

The exploration and development work completed so far by Oil Sands Quest is giving us a much clearer picture of the potential for future development.

Preliminary estimates indicate as much as 1.5 billion barrels of bitumen in place.

And yes, there is still the question of how much of this is economically recoverable.

However, I entered politics because I'm an optimist, and I think we can leave this province better off than we found it.

So, I think that resource can be recovered in an economical and sustainable way.

And, I'm excited about the possibility of future development of the oil sands.

I'm excited about the prospect of bringing growth and prosperity to Saskatchewan.

However, as we said in our Speech from the Throne this week, growth and prosperity are not ends in themselves.

They are a means to an end.

The end is a safe and secure lifestyle for all of the people living in Saskatchewan.

Right now, our First Nations are experiencing high rates of unemployment.

Future energy development in the north represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring jobs and prosperity to these people.

Yes, with development of the oil sands comes environmental concerns, particularly with the use of water.

However, here—once again—Saskatchewan can be the answer.

Our post-secondary institutions can and will grow into Centres of Excellence for research into environmentally sustainable technology for oil sands extraction.

There are opportunities—not only for Saskatchewan but for the entire New West—to provide leadership in Canada and around the world in new technology.

There are partnership opportunities with Alberta.

The potential is virtually limitless.

So, let's work together to position ourselves, our province and our nation as the answer to some very important questions the world is beginning to ask about the security of energy supply.

Thank you.