

MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

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Oil Sands Developers Group responds to Government of Alberta's Climate Change Funding Announcement

Fort McMurray, Alberta – The Athabasca Regional Issues Working Group (RIWG) applauds the government of Alberta's announcement today of initiatives to take decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta.

Don Thompson, the President of RIWG, says the Stelmach government's announcement of support for projects to capture CO₂ from key components of Alberta's energy economy such as coal fired utilities and oil sands production facilities, and either use it to maximize resource recovery in the province or store it underground, is an important step in addressing climate change.

“Carbon sequestration is still a relatively new process and the technology associated with capture and sequestration of CO₂ is still very expensive. We expect these costs will come down with the advancement of technology which can only be made possible through the construction and generation of actual projects and the ongoing efforts and investment of industry with the support of government through initiatives such as this.”

Mr. Thompson also supports the Alberta government's recognition of the importance of reducing demand-side, consumer emissions as part of addressing climate change concerns

The ongoing growth in the oil sands region in response to increasing demand for energy requires the continued engagement of all parties to ensure that growth occurs in a sustainable fashion. Mr. Thompson says RIWG and its member companies look forward to continuing to address cumulative environmental impacts through its actions and its interactions with local stakeholders.

“With more than \$100 billion in oil sands projects under construction or in the planning phase, there is clearly much to be gained through an effective, collaborative effort to address important oil sands issues such as climate change.”

About the Athabasca Regional Issues Working Group

The Athabasca Regional Issues Working Group (RIWG) works closely with industry representatives, oil sands developers, local and provincial governments, aboriginal peoples, and numerous other regional organizations to identify and help resolve issues related to oil sands development in the region around Fort McMurray.

For more information:

Jacob Irving
Executive Director
T. 780-790-1999
jacob.irving@riwg.ca