

Oil's Rural Reach: Social and Environmental Impacts in SK

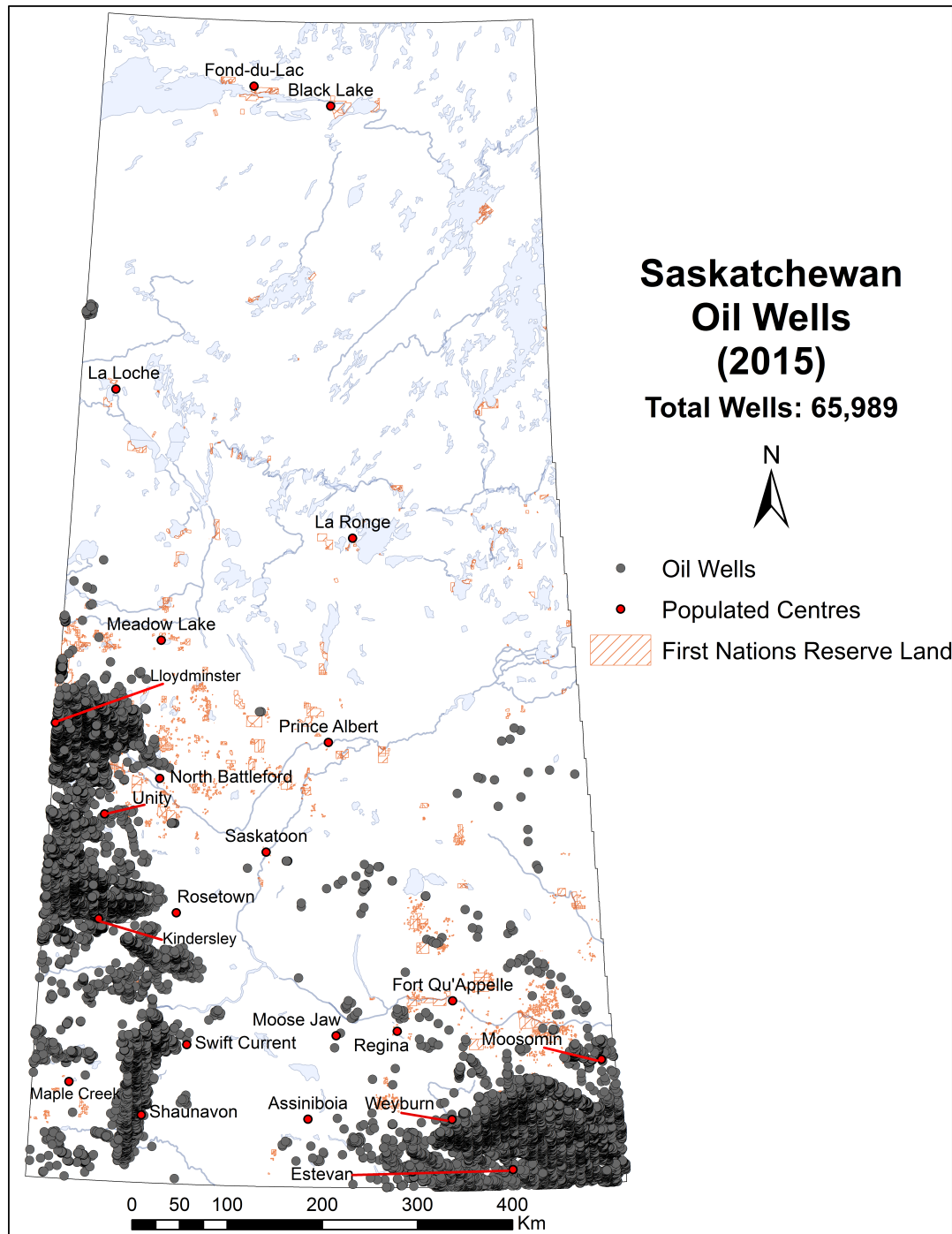
Emily Eaton, Ph.D.

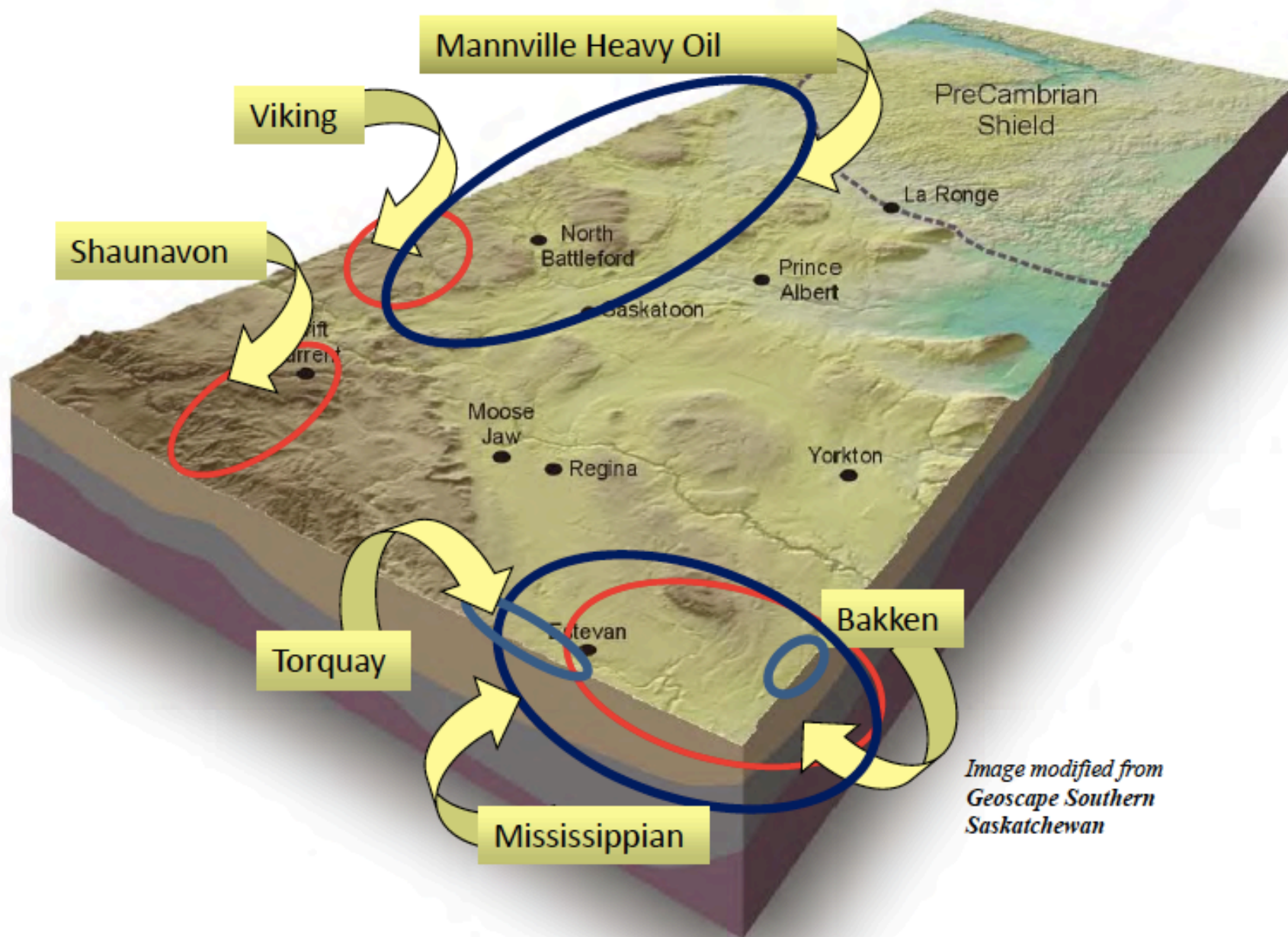
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www.saskoil.org

Photos by Valerie Zink







*Image modified from
Geoscape Southern
Saskatchewan*

My Research on SK Oil

- +80 interviews with (2013-2016):
 - Regulators, landowners, oil workers, PFRA staff, environmental consultants, municipal councilors, police chiefs, addictions and mental health providers, and more.
- Participant observation in the major oil-producing areas in SK (2014).



NOTES

TERRY

INSTRUCTION

INCLUDES

WELL SITE + ACCESS ROAD

FLOWLINE & SERVICE LINE RIGHT OF WAY 2011-12

NO.

LOCATION

NOTES

DESCRIPTION

4.

LSD A3-7^(Hurry 1970)

T.E.

THIS WELL SITE

IS NOT

OPTIMIZED

1 acre not 1 Ha as
shown

ACCESS ROAD A/R

IS NOT

(a) NOTE: No permission given to survey
off Lease and A/R pits 2011-12 (see
E.B. April or July 2012). Trespas

(b) Area staked 2011 + 2012 + 2013
W/S 1 Ha ?
A/R 20 metres ?

(c) Neither original (std) nor optimized W/
are pinned at blys.

(d) Property line Pinned at NW6 bd
Flowline IS NOT PINNED

Oil Impacts

- Spills and leaks
 - “We have a tremendous amount of problems keeping our product where its supposed to be” (SK regulator)
 - + 15,000 reported spills since 1990
 - Produced water is very salinated
 - impacts farmers fields and native vegetation.

- “They put a battery site over there and they had a salt water spill there and they never told me about it at all. It flowed off lease onto my land. When I went over to see it in the spring I couldn’t figure out what the heck had gone on, because you could see that they’d taken it and scraped something up...I couldn’t figure out why they had ever done that until that year, and along the battery site there, nothing would grow. So then I kind of figured out they had a salt water spill over here. They never said anything. And when Talisman took it over and I was fighting with them. I’ll tell you my sister-in-law was the one I was fighting with. I’d had enough...So I phoned Mines and Minerals down in Estevan and they came up and I took them out and showed them...He said there was never a salt water spill reported. So he went to Talisman. So she had to come with her tail between her legs and start paying me. So then they finally put in, they drilled a sump and they put a culvert in and they were pumping, surface water into a tank and disposing of it because there was salt water in the ground water.” (Landowner)

Oil Impacts

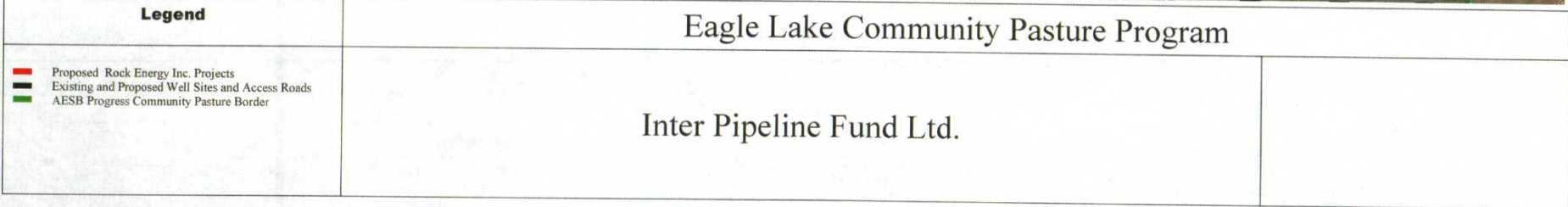
- Increase in venting and flaring
 - 17.4% of SK's GHG emission are from fugitive sources

Oil Impacts

- Significant loss of fresh water from hydrological cycle
 - 1% of SK water used by oil and gas
 - Landowners report that not all water is permitted and reported
 - 3,000 m³ per frack – up to 15,000m³ for multiple stages = 400 semi-tanker loads

Oil Impacts

- Fragmentation and loss of native prairie due to physical imprint
 - In 2001 estimated that 17-21% of native prairie remains in tact



“More fragmentation. I think that’s the bottom line... So the more activity the more chance there is for human error which leads to spills, soil issues such as admixing impacts and erosion. Our focus has been towards topsoil preservation...and that’s one of the most serious things I see going south with development is this topsoil loss. So the denser the surface lease is the more chance of oil risks to soil. The map I just sent you is on a pasture that has had a lot of development for the last 40 years. And there’s everything from 40-50 year old wells to last year’s wells there. And what the oil industry has done with that land, I do believe this land use is in question. There’s been all kinds of pipeline failures, surface spills from trucks, there’s been soil issues period...In the pasture on the map I sent you we have no material left on dugout banks or anywhere to make available to the oil industry anymore. And the spills are increasing there as far as pipeline failures, pipeline integrity is a huge issue. Wetlands are a huge issue.” (PFRA staff)

FAULT LINES

LIFE AND LANDSCAPE IN SASKATCHEWAN'S OIL ECONOMY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY VALERIE ZINK TEXT BY EMILY EATON



Hosting the Oil Industry

- 75% of mineral rights in SK are held by the crown
- Most farmers and ranchers have no say in whether or not an oil well will be placed on their land
 - Single surface lease = \$2000 - 3000/year
- Impacts: fragmentation of farming operation, spills, living beside flare stacks, noise, garbage, weeds, etc.

Working in the Oil Industry

- “It’s either feast or family”
 - Cyclical periods of boom and bust
- Very few women in the industry and a masculinist workplace culture



“It’s nice having one job. I may work a 12-hour day, I may work a 4-hour day it doesn’t matter. I don’t have to go home and get ready for the next one, I can just go to bed if I want to” (Mandy)

Oilfield vs. Non-Oilfield Wages

- Huge gulf between those serving the oilfield workers (accommodation, restaurants, bars etc.) and those making oilfield wages.
- Retention and recruitment is extremely difficult for many employers, especially non-profit and public sectors.
 - Day care ~\$800/month

FRONT DESK

DERRICK
MOTOR HOTEL



INFOR

Gendered Impacts

- Housing boom, low vacancy rates, strained social services.
 - Women stay in unsafe relationships for access to housing
 - Non-profit lost a deal with a local hotel to reserve one room for emergency shelter.
 - “Moose Jaw is probably the only community that we’ve had a little bit of movement in, but the housing list is still 3-6 months so you’re saying to people you need to stay with him. Where before, So we always used to have people call us and say we’ve got an extra room if you ever have a woman leaving. Within a week, within probably 24 hours we found them a place to live. Now it’s not even an option. It’s almost gotten to the point we don’t even look, because there is no place.” (non-profit working on spousal abuse)



New Directions: Social License

- Investigate how the oil industry shapes the every-day institutions of rural life
 - sports and recreation
 - cultural events
 - local governance
 - critical infrastructure
 - education

Company/ Organization	Date	Donation/ Sponsorship	Location	Notes
CCS Midstream Services	5/27/2011	\$15,000.00	Arcola	Arcola Family Health Clinic
T-45 Oil Corporation	5/27/2011	\$15,000.00	Arcola	Arcola Family Health Clinic
CanElson Drilling	8/10/2012	\$25,000.00	Carlyle	Carlyle and District Leisure Complex (Swimming pool)
NAL Resources	10/1/2007	\$2,000.00	Carlyle	Airport Revitalization (resurfacing airstrip)
CNRL	1/8/2010	\$20,000.00	Carnduff	Ambulance purchase Sun Country Health Region
Penn West Exploration	01/07/2011	\$20,000.00	Coleville	Replacement roof for Coleville Community Hall
Enbridge	11/9/2015	\$6,000.00	Estevan	St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation
Enbridge	1/13/2016	\$68,000.00	Kerrobert	Kerrobert Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Enbridge	6/6/2027	\$250,000.00	Kerrobert	KLD Wellness Centre
CNRL	Fall 2011	\$60,000.00	Lashburn	Lashburn Sportsplex
CNRL	early 2009	\$20,000.00	Maidstone	Maidstone Fire Department
Enbridge	12/21/2009	\$9,500.00	Moose Creek	Alameda/Moose Creek Fire Department (Equipment for Fire Truck)

Education: Direct Involvement

- Community responsibility to raise \$ for upgrades (playgrounds) and expansions
 - Eg. Oxbow – new Prairie Horizons School – 1.2m community fundraising (CNRL and Redhawk Well Servicing both contributed \$100,0000)
- CAPP's Energy in Action
 - Build outdoor classrooms + in-class presentations that deliver 'industry context'
- Industry sponsored scholarships and awards

Education: Indirect Involvement

- Perception of the value of education and enrollments suffer for males
 - “I have difficulties keeping the boys in the school until the end of grade 12, because they see the big money that people are making, or they perceive it’s big money, and keep them going towards their grade 12. That’s my biggest problem with the oil industry. I’ve had kids who would work summer jobs for an oil company – a drilling rig company or service rig company – come back to school in September and probably wouldn’t stay past Christmas. They get a little taste of money, and they’re gone.”

Education: Indirect Influences

- Gendered pay gap for females starting in highschool
 - “I had one grade 12 graduate...she felt she had to go and get a post-secondary education, because in this area, a female is not going to get a good-paying job without one...But I think the girls certainly see the difference as they are growing up in the high school because there aren't as many jobs outside of school hours that suit the female in this area. Unless it's those traditional female positions – you know, that might be the secretarial work for two hours after school with the minimum pay, compared to the [male] shop hand who might be making five dollars more an hour.”

Education: Indirect Influences

- Teachers supplement salaries to deal with inflated costs of living
 - “ A lot of teachers have summer jobs or they’re working a couple of jobs to keep things...or tons of teachers have quit to go to the oil field sector when it was booming because the wages were higher, benefits were better.”

Lessons on Social License

- Literature assumes social license must be continually renewed through transactional purchases by companies perceived as ‘outsiders’ developing greenfield sites
 - Sask Oil: Not ‘new’, industry seen as part of community, high level of trust, threats to industry understood as threats to cmtty.

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