

# ACCESS

## SASKATCHEWAN

April - June 2003

### Northern Accord and Agreement Signed to Assist Northern Communities

by Heather Waldern Hinds

Officials met in October 2002 to sign the **Northern Development Accord**, a framework for coordination of government actions in northern Saskatchewan. Public Works and Government Services Minister Ralph Goodale and Saskatchewan Northern Affairs Minister Buckley Belanger were on hand to sign the Accord that will improve living conditions and increase economic opportunities available to northerners.



Stephen Owen (L), Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development), and Minister Belanger (R) also signed the \$20-million **Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement**.

“While both governments helped finance [the Agreement], it’s only the ideas, partnership and sense of reality from

our Northern communities that will allow these people to realize business development opportunities,” said Secretary of State Owen.

WD contributed \$10 million to the Agreement that provides opportunities to improve economic infrastructure, employment prospects, educational and business expertise, innovative practices and help attract business investment. It resulted from negotiations over mining industry activities and their potential impact on the people and on economic conditions in the region.

Gary Merasty and Max Morin, co-chairs of the Northern Development Board Corporation (NDBC), witnessed both documents which the NDBC helped to develop. NDBC includes representatives from First Nations in the region and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, as well as representatives from northern municipalities and communities.♣



## INNOVATION

# Centre's Greenhouse Gas Research

*by Heather Waldern Hinds*

The new \$8.5 million **International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture (ITC)** at the **University of Regina** was officially opened by Public Works and Government Services Minister Ralph Goodale, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources Minister Eric Cline, University of Regina President David Barnard and industry representatives on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Capture techniques studied at the ITC will help decrease the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere and pave the way for new storage methods and new industrial uses for the gas.

When the \$5.6 million **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Technology Centre** is commissioned later this year, the university will be home to a one-of-kind world facility that will play a significant role in greenhouse gas emissions reduction research.

Burning fossil fuels is a large source of greenhouse gases – gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and nitrous oxide. These gases trap heat and warm the air in the atmosphere, creating a risk that increased emissions will change the planet's climate.

Under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, industrialized countries indicated their intent to reduce collective emissions of greenhouse gases by the period of 2008 to 2012. In December 2002, Canada ratified its target of six per cent below 1990 levels. The technologies studied at the centre will be “critical pieces in the Kyoto toolbox,” according to the

University's Director of Energy and the Environment, Malcolm Wilson.

The ITC can do laboratory bench-scale size test runs, through to medium and large-scale pilot plants sizes at its Regina site. Industry-scale test runs take place at the coal-fired Boundary Dam plant which is an effective test site because it is affected by environmental factors that can't be duplicated in a lab — weather, load on the power system and coal quality. This continuum of knowledge gives industry confidence to apply the research results directly to their design and costing work.

Wilson feels that fossil fuels will continue to be important for at least the next 30 to 40 years. To meet Kyoto targets, he says, this kind of technology is needed. But, its cost has to be brought down and, as capture technology is ‘site dependent,’ a suite of them has to be developed.

“We should look at all opportunities for reducing emissions,” he explains. “But, if we want to make significant reductions, we need technologies that help us use fossil fuel in an environmentally-friendly manner. The centre is leading key research into carbon dioxide capture.”

The facilities currently employ approximately 20 people, and have helped in retaining graduate students in the province, according to Wilson. Some have trained here and gone on to industry and academic employment elsewhere. Others have stayed at the University to teach and lead research programs.

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# INNOVATION

## n Addresses Kyoto Protocol Issues



*The International Test Centre is comprised of a \$5.2 million pre-commercial scale technology demonstration plant at SaskPower's Boundary Dam Power Station near Estevan (L) that has been operational since fall 2002, and a \$3.3 million multi-use pilot plant at the University of Regina (R).*

"The dynamic and innovative research our faculty will be doing in the Greenhouse Gas Technology Centre will benefit the Saskatchewan community and beyond," said University of Regina President David Barnard at the GHG Centre announcement in 2001. "We will be searching for solutions to problems that threaten the well-being of the planet."

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) contributed \$2.83 million in capital costs for the GHG Technology Centre,

which oversees the ITC. The Department also provided \$1.5 million for the ITC through the **Canada-Saskatchewan Western Economic Partnership Agreement**. Other contributors to the two projects include the University, a Saskatchewan crown corporation, the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Natural Resources Canada and numerous energy sector companies.

For more information, contact WD at 1-888-338-WEST or visit our Web site at: [www.wd.gc.ca](http://www.wd.gc.ca). ♣

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WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Shashi Behl – a Saskatchewan Youth Business Success Story

by Heather Waldern Hinds

Shashi Behl is so pleased with the help she received from the **Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)** to set up her first business, that she is giving back twice over.

The CYBF is a non-profit organization that provides funding up to \$15,000, as well as online business development assistance, networking and mentoring to young entrepreneurs across the country.



*Shashi Behl at her Regina Twisted Goods store.*

Behl, who served on the Alberta CYBF loans committee for two years, was nominated to its national board of directors in fall 2002 as its only youth board member. She is in the company of a prestigious collection of Canadian businesspeople and public figures, including Clearwater Fine Foods President and CEO John Risley, as well as former Newfoundland premier and federal cabinet minister Brian Tobin. She has also participated in Saskatchewan loan committee meetings.

Raised in Saskatchewan, Behl moved to Calgary in 1995. In 1996, she received CYBF's first western Canadian loan to manufacture a line of children's clothing that blocks ultraviolet rays. The CYBF is a lender of last resort and Behl could not get funding anywhere else. She has repaid the \$10,000 loan and **Body Blocker Co.**'s outfits are sold

wholesale to boutique stores across Canada.

Her next business idea was to open **Twisted Goods**, specializing in "home décor with a sense of humor." The Saskatoon and Regina stores have created 12 jobs. With her established entrepreneurial history, Behl walked into an Alberta bank and got a loan in an hour, and plans to expand Twisted Goods into Alberta.

"If it hadn't been for the CYBF loan, I wouldn't be where I am now," explains Behl, who is now working with a CYBF mentor to stay up-to-date on operating and accounting procedures as her businesses grow. "At that time, [the loan] was everything. It was a trampoline for where I wanted to go."

In April 2001, Western Economic Diversification Canada contributed \$900,000 over three years to open a Saskatchewan CYBF office, create a \$500,000 loan fund and establish its mentorship program. To date, CYBF has helped 26 youth-owned businesses start in Saskatoon and Regina.

For more information on the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, visit their Web site at: [www.cybf.ca](http://www.cybf.ca), or call Western Economic Diversification Canada at 1-888-338-WEST. 🍁