



## ALBERTA'S CENTENNIAL 2005

### **Industrial History**

Alberta started its first century as a rural, agricultural economy with a large coal industry. Today, it is Canada's economic powerhouse, with a vibrant and diverse industrial base in advanced technology, agri-foods, energy, forestry products, manufacturing, tourism and telecommunications.

Alberta's exports of goods and services more than doubled from 1993 to 2003, to \$62.8 billion. Exports of manufactured goods almost tripled from 1993 to 2003.

### **Agriculture**

Alberta produces almost half of Canada's beef and is Canada's leader in spring wheat production.

1914: The Canadian Pacific Railway finishes building the Brooks Aqueduct, the longest concrete canal system for irrigation in the world.

1935: 50 per cent of Alberta's wealth comes from agriculture.

2003: More than 51 million acres are used for crops and livestock, producing \$7 billion in farm cash receipts.

### **Other Industries**

**Aerospace:** includes 60 companies with about 4,500 skilled workers.

**Call Centres:** more than 300 call centres serve 600 members, including Ford Credit Canada, Neiman Marcus and TD Waterhouse.

**Forest Products:** Alberta is 58 per cent forest; three of five acres of forest are commercial land base.

2003: Shipments of lumber, plywood, bleached wood pulp and newsprint total \$4.7 billion.

**Electronics and Microelectronics:** includes more than 250 companies with about 11,000 employees.

**Nanotechnology:** Alberta is home to the National Institute for Nanotechnology, expected to be one of the top five research centres in the world

**Software Development:** includes 17,000 companies.

2005: Edmonton's BioWare Corp, the maker of Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic™ is honoured with the Premier's Award of Distinction.

**Telecommunications:** includes 500 companies with about 33,000 employees.

**Tourism:** accounts for over \$4 billion in annual revenue.

### **Energy**

2003: Energy revenues are \$55.5 billion, 63 per cent of Alberta's total exports.

### **Coal**

Alberta's important energy resource in 1905 was coal. Seven major mines still produce 30 - 35 million tonnes a year, mainly to generate electrical power.

1911: Mining begins in Nordegg and Drumheller.

Drumheller has 124 producing mines until 1960.

1914: Canada's worst mine disaster kills 189 men at the Hillcrest Collieries Company mine in Crowsnest Pass.

1919: Coal mines help attract immigrants to Alberta; 90 per cent of Crowsnest Pass miners are immigrants.

1923: Nordegg is Alberta's largest coal producer.

1926: Alberta's first geological map charts coal reserves.

### **Oil and Gas**

Alberta is Canada's largest producer of synthetic and conventional crude oil and natural gas. The Athabasca oil sands have the largest oil reserves in the world at 1.6 trillion barrels, twice the size of Lake Ontario. About 315 billion barrels are considered recoverable with current technology.

1914: In Turner Valley, Arthur W. Dingman strikes wet gas so pure it can be used as car fuel.

1923: Alberta's first oil refinery opens in Calgary.

1929: Alberta produces 92 per cent of Canada's petroleum. Dr. Karl Clark patents his hot-water process for separating oil from oil sands.

1930: Alberta gains control of its natural resources from the federal government.

1947: Oil is discovered at the Leduc #1 well by Imperial Oil's Vern "Dry Hole" Hunter. This is a 200 million barrel discovery, 10 times the size of the 1914 Turner Valley discovery.

1950: The Interprovincial Pipeline is constructed coming east out of Edmonton. This crude oil pipeline is now one of the longest in the world at 2,857 kilometres.

1953: Pembina oilfield is discovered.

1964: Great Canadian Oilsands Co. (now Suncor) starts construction of the first large-scale commercial mining and production operation in the Athabasca oil sands. The Syncrude consortium is formed to research the economic and technical feasibility of oil sands mining.

1973: Alberta establishes the Heritage Trust Fund with oil revenues.