



Tuesday, February 02, 2016

Message from Gary Redmond, Executive Director

It's my pleasure to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2016!

With oil prices low, many synergy groups will see fewer issues to address, but that's not to say there's nothing to do. We have long learned the benefit of keeping synergy groups alive during slow times, even if it's just for the social component of bringing everyone together. Developments will occur again and there's bound to be some local challenges. It can also be a great time to plan for the future, continue energy literacy initiatives or reach out to new members.

At Synergy Alberta, we are looking forward to working with Pembina Institute on their Land Owners' Guide as well as CSUR (Canadian Society for Unconventional Resources) on their wealth of educational materials on oil and gas. We hope to be engaging synergy groups to provide some feedback in the next few months. As always, let us know if there's anything we can do to support you or if you'd like me to attend any of your meetings coming up.

Conference Talks Now Available Online

Did you miss the 2015 Synergy Alberta Conference, or a session you were interested in? Not to worry! The Conference Talks are now online. [Check them out today!](#)

We will be announcing the date for the 2016 Synergy Alberta Conference in the coming weeks. We're excited to celebrate our 10 year anniversary during the conference! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and Twitter (@SynergyAlberta) to stay up to date!

Catching up with Chris Montgomery, Manger of E&P, Communications and Engagement at CAPP

What is CAPP's history with Synergy Alberta, and when did you get involved on the Board of Directors?

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) was one of the initial founding funders of Synergy Alberta, dating back to about 2006. We saw synergy as providing a valuable role right from the outset. I personally was appointed to the board in 2014, as the CAPP representative on the Synergy Alberta Board of Directors.



Why does CAPP support the concept of synergy?



It's not just industry or government that have a stake in oil and gas development - it's important that landowners also have a say and are involved.

To have orderly and inclusive input they need a stake in the development.

When we can find solutions in a collaborative way, finding common ground, it benefits everyone.

In this changing economic climate, what do you see as the role and value of synergy groups in Alberta?

We have gone from larger scale and faster moving projects, to managing issues that we see in everyday activities. In some cases companies are struggling to survive, so we are starting to see issues like liability for abandoned or suspended wells, and how to manage that appropriately.

With the extra time on their hands, companies are now able to turn their attention to things they may not have had time to focus on in past years. We are seeing more community issues being discussed and addressed, including safety and farming issues, such as managing club root and reducing wellhead strikes.

It is important for industry to continue to hold and build on relationships with communities because the economy will eventually recover. Now is the time to look at different issues, continue supporting the communities in which we operate, and keep those relationships and synergy groups in place.

CAPP represents companies, large and small, that explore for, develop and produce natural gas and crude oil throughout Canada. CAPP's member companies produce about 90 per cent of Canada's natural gas and crude oil. CAPP's associate members provide a wide range of services that support the upstream crude oil and natural gas industry. Together CAPP's members and associate members are an important part of a national industry with revenues from oil and natural gas production of about \$120 billion a year. CAPP's mission, on behalf of the Canadian upstream oil and gas industry, is to advocate for and enable economic competitiveness and safe, environmentally and socially responsible performance.

Issues Big or Small: Working Together in Rimbey Alberta

The Rimbey Regional Synergy Group (RRSG) came into existence the same way many throughout the province did – in response to growing concerns around oil and gas development in Alberta.

“In the early 1990s a local group, known as RADCAP, raised concerns about air quality in the Rimbey area, centering on flaring and plant emissions,” explains Rick Anderson, RRSG Facilitator. “The group leveraged the power of dialogue and working together to face these concerns collaboratively.”

Through this process, coupled with improved public awareness, changes in regulations and in technology, improvements related to flaring and emissions were seen in the area. This momentum kept up, as local landowners decided to continue pursuing other issues of concern, and formed the Rimbey and District Stakeholders Group.

“These landowners were able to sit at the table with some of the companies that operated in the area and seek solutions to issues and concerns arising from local industry activity,” says Rick.

Increased activity in the area in 2012 saw the group increase in size and participation, requiring more structure and budgeting needs. In 2013, the group officially changed its name, developed a terms of reference, built a budget and now operates as the Rimbey Regional Synergy Group (RRSG).

“This group has been relatively small over the years, but has remained in place to support the community and

act as a forum to address the community issues- big or small,” says Rick. “RRSG provides a place for community members, industry, the regulator, local businesses and agencies to come together, share information, ask questions and build relationships.”

Rick adds that as the group moves into 2016, it will continue to find little ways to support working together as a community in navigating these challenging times in our province, remembering ‘the little things ARE the big things’!

