

2008 Oil and Gas Activity Update for Manitoba

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Manitoba has had elevated oil industry activity levels during the past four years. The industry provides employment for 1500 people and, during this four-year period, has spent over \$1.5 billion on development and exploration. In 2008, 314 wells were drilled and production was valued at over \$800 million. This presentation will discuss developments in the Manitoba oil industry during 2008 and the role of the Petroleum Branch.

The Petroleum Branch of the Mineral Resources Division of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines administers provisions under the Oil and Gas Act and the Oil and Gas Production Act relating to exploration, development, production and transportation of oil and gas. It develops, recommends, implements and administers policies and legislation to provide for the sustainable development of Manitoba's oil and gas resources, and deals with matters relating to well spacing, pool designations, salt water disposal, enhanced recovery projects and unitization. One of the major functions of the Petroleum Branch is to encourage exploration and development of the province's crude oil and natural gas resources in an orderly, safe and efficient manner.

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Keith Lowdon has been employed with the Province of Manitoba since 1982 and is Director of the Petroleum Branch. He was previously employed as the Manager of Digital Information Services for the Petroleum Branch. Prior to that, he worked as a Petroleum Inspector out of the Virden and Waskada offices. He has a B.Sc. in Computer Science and strongly supports the use of technology to promote the mandate of the Branch. In his off time, he may be found in his basement, guitar in hand, hunched over his computer audio-recording equipment. Email: keith.lowdon@gov.mb.ca