

FINDING WORK

Alberta Canada

SOUTHERN ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET BULLETIN

Volume 3, Issue 11

See the *Construction Company Report for Southern Alberta* for contact information on contractors for major projects in Southern Alberta.

Lethbridge and Area

- October 2008 year to date residential building permits in Lethbridge totalled 449 compared to 809 over the same period in 2007. 2008 year to date construction value for these projects totalled \$48.1 million, a \$36.3 million decrease from 2007 year to date. Most local employers in the residential construction industry belong to the Lethbridge Region of the Canadian Home Builders' Association. Additional information on the industry and an employer list are available at www.chbalethbridge.com^{2f}
- October 2008 year to date commercial, industrial and institutional building permits in Lethbridge totalled 171 compared to 269 over the same period in 2007. 2008 year to date construction value for these projects totalled \$121.3 million, a \$61.8 million increase from 2007 year to date. Most local employers in the commercial, industrial and institutional construction industry belong to the Lethbridge Construction Association. Additional information on the industry, tenders and an employer list are available at www.telusplanet.net/public/lethcon/^{2g}
- Major construction projects permitted by the City of Lethbridge include:
 - \$3 million in new hospital construction to be located at 1802 Ninth Ave. S. by Stuart Olson Inc. for Chinook Health Authority;^{2a}
 - \$1.8 million in new storage/warehouse construction to be located at 3606 Sixth Ave. N. by Southwest Steel Products Ltd. for Dychem Investments Inc.;^{2b}
 - \$1.5 million in new retail/wholesale construction to be located at 70 3709 Mayor Magrath Dr. S. by Chandos Construction Ltd. for Sunrise Investments Co. Ltd.;^{2c}
 - \$1.1 million in foundation construction located at 259 Britannia Blvd. W. by Ward Bros. Construction Ltd. for the Lethbridge School District No. 51;^{2d}
 - \$600,000 in office building alterations and improvements located at 101A 920 2A Ave. N.;^{2d}
 - \$1 million in new daycare construction to be located at 4401 University Dr. W. for the University of Lethbridge;^{2d}
 - \$530,000 in office building alterations and improvements located at 201 Second Ave. S. by AJD Renovations Inc. for Nyrose and Saito Chartered Accountants.^{2e}

*Produced in partnership by the Lethbridge offices of
Government of Canada Labour Market Information Service and
Alberta Employment and Immigration*

1

- Plans for construction of the \$23 million Montana Alberta Tie Line, an electrical transmission line that will link Lethbridge and Great Falls, have been approved. The project is currently awaiting the agreement of 113 landowners. Construction is expected to start in the spring.^{8a}
- The Royal Canadian Legion has announced plans for renovation. Construction is expected to start in the spring.^{8b}
- The \$33 million planned renovation of the ENMAX Centre is expected to start in April. Plans for construction include construction of an additional 11 box suites, improved vehicle access, 350 additional parking spaces, increased concourse and lobby space, 600 additional portable audience seats, and a new lounge and banquet room.^{8f}
- Plans to convert the Netherlands Reformed Congregation Church into a native women's transition home have been approved. The project includes converting the parsonage into a residence for up to 15 families and constructing a seven-unit townhouse. Construction is expected to be completed in 2009.^{8c, 8d, 8e}
- Plans for renovation of the Coaldale Health Centre have been announced. Construction is expected to start in 2010.^{8g}
- A \$25 million new Red Crow Community College and Learning Resource Centre has been proposed for the Blood Reserve. The project includes construction of a three-storey building to include a library and an environmentally controlled archive. Plans for construction have not yet been announced.^{8h}

Crowsnest Pass

- The Blairmore/Coleman water interconnect project is currently underway. Chinook Pipeline Inc. is the contractor for the \$3.8 million project. Construction is expected to be completed by March 2009.^{6a}
- Upgrades to the Bellevue-Hillcrest lagoon wastewater treatment plant have been announced. The \$3.8 million project is expected to be completed by December 2010.^{6b}

Pincher Creek

- Construction on the Chinook Health and the Good Samaritan Society's Vista Village is currently underway. The project includes expansion of Vista Village to include 20 supportive housing suites, 10 designated assisted living suites and a 10-bed dementia care cottage. The \$7.7 million project is expected to be completed by May 2009.^{9a}
- A new multi-residential and commercial development has been proposed for the area across the highway from Wal-Mart by Pinchme Corp. The proposed plan includes construction of 497

*Produced in partnership by the Lethbridge offices of
Government of Canada Labour Market Information Service and
Alberta Employment and Immigration*

mixed single-family, duplex, fourplex and condominium units; and multiple commercial lots. Construction is expected to start in summer 2009.^{9b}

- A new multi-residential housing development has been proposed for east Pincher Creek. The proposed project includes construction of 28 townhouses and four apartment blocks.^{9c}

Claresholm and Area

- A \$6.6 million renovation of West Meadow School is currently underway. Genesis Building Corp. is the contractor for this project. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2009.^{4a,4b}
- The Porcupine Hills Lodge has proposed plans for the construction of 16 units to be located in the back of the current facility, and expansion of the lodge's water infrastructure.^{4c}

Vauxhall

- Upgrades to the elementary and high schools have been announced. Construction includes installation of new water and sanitary services and construction of a bus loop on Seventh St. Plans for construction have not yet been announced.^{13a}

Brooks and Area

- Work on the new multi-use arena has started. The following companies will be working on the project: Varsteel Ltd, masonry rebar work; Bry Sand Ice Arena Ltd., ice rink; Allmar International, door and hardware; Stoughton Fire Protection Ltd., sprinkler system; Plato's Superior Roofing, flat roofing; CBN Woodwork, millwork; Cascadia Sports, rink seating; Cal-Tech Glass Services Ltd., windows and storefronts; and Sport Systems, rink boards. The \$20 million project is expected to be completed in December 2009.^{1a}
- Encana Corp. has proposed plans for 1,275 new shallow gas wells to be drilled on Suffield's National Wildlife Area over the next three years. The proposed \$233 million project includes construction, decommissioning, abandonment and reclamation of the shallow gas wells, pipelines and supporting infrastructure.^{1b}

For more information on Encana Corp., including employment opportunities in Alberta, visit: www.encana.com

Medicine Hat and Area

- As of October, the Medicine Hat Real Estate Board indicates a 15 percent decrease in real estate sales in their area from previous year. This decrease is considered a return to normal sales volume.^{10e}

- The City of Medicine Hat has commented that developers are making cautious decisions but not substantial decreases in development or layoffs in the community.^{10f}
- Renovations have been announced for the Medicine Hat College. The \$23 million project includes renovations to the Trades wing, modernization of existing facilities and adding additional space for a multi-purpose lab. Construction is expected to start this winter and be completed by late 2009.^{10b}
- Road upgrades valued at \$2.1 million have been proposed for the South West Agro Industrial Area.^{3a,10c}

Alberta

- The Alberta government has announced plans to hire 110 new probation officers over the next three years. The new positions are expected to be filled by 2011, with 50 probation officers to be hired this year, 30 in 2009 and 30 in 2010.^{10d}

For more information on the government of Alberta, including employment opportunities in Southern Alberta, visit: www.alberta.ca/home/

Collection and Research Methodology: Information sources for this report may include newspapers, television, radio, websites, employers, business associations, industry associations, labour associations, governments and/or other sources. The information contained in this report was current as of the date shown. Salaries, employment outlook and educational programs may change. Please verify the information with additional sources before making any career or business investment decisions.

Specific sources cited:

¹Brooks Bulletin: ^{1a}Nov. 6, Nov. 14, Nov. 21; ^{1b}Oct. 30.

²City of Lethbridge: ^{2a}Nov. 5, pg. 2; ^{2b}Nov. 5, pg. 4; ^{2c}Nov. 5, pg. 8; ^{2d}Nov. 5, pg. 9; ^{2e}Nov. 5, pg. 10; ^{2f, 2g}Nov. 28.

³City of Medicine Hat: ^{3a}Sept. 9.

⁴Claresholm Local Press: ^{4a}Nov. 12, pg. 9; ^{4b}Nov. 5, pg. 4; ^{4c}Nov. 5, pg. 14.

⁵Crowsnest Pass Herald.

⁶Crowsnest Pass Promoter: ^{6a}Nov. 6; ^{6b}Nov. 14.

⁷Fort Macleod Gazette.

⁸Lethbridge Herald: ^{8a}Nov. 18, pg. A5; ^{8b}Nov. 20, pg. A5; ^{8c}Oct. 20, pg. A1; ^{8d}Oct. 21, pg. A1; ^{8e}Oct. 28, pg. A3; ^{8f}Nov. 20, pg. A5; ^{8g}Nov. 7, pg. A6; ^{8h}Nov. 15, pg. A5.

⁹Pincher Creek Echo: ^{9a}Nov. 21; ^{9b}Nov. 14; ^{9c}Nov. 6.

¹⁰Medicine Hat News: ^{10b}Nov. 13, pg. A4; ^{10c}Nov. 4, pg. A3; ^{10d}Oct. 23, pg. A1; ^{10e}Dec. 3, on-line; ^{10f}Dec. 5, on-line.

¹¹Taber Times.

¹²The 40-Mile County Commentator.

¹³Vauxhall Advance: ^{13a}Oct. 30, pg. 1, pg. 3.

¹⁴Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

¹⁵Petroleum Services Association of Canada.

¹⁶Nickles Publishing Rig Locator Report.

¹⁷Choose Lethbridge.

¹⁸Lethbridge Sun Times.