

## Successful operation moving into expanded facilities

A company that services the oil and gas industry is building a new facility in Swift Current and sees a bright future for the southwest.

When Sanjel, Canada's largest privately owned oilfield services company, opened a Swift Current district office in 1995, business was slow.

Not anymore.

Last April, the operation employed 17 workers. Today, it has 40 on its payroll. In addition, it's more than doubled its complement of equipment.

The business, which is currently located in the RM of Swift Current, will move to a new facility now under construction at the junction of Chaplin St. E. and Highway #4 early in the new year.

"Everybody is excited about moving in. We've outgrown this place and it'll be really nice once we get settled," said local manager David Cote.

"The new facility will house five bays, a bulk plant and office space. The site also allows for future expansion, an option that may be necessary in view of heavy activity in the oil and gas industry in the southwest," Cote said.

While the local Sanjel operation also serves the oil industry, the majority of its work is in the natural gas sector.

The huge Shackleton Reserve Area natural gas development northwest of Swift Current has benefited the business. However, Cote added that finds in other areas of the southwest also are encouraging.

Cote offered October's sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights as an example of the high level of interest in this corner of the province.

The October sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights generated \$36.8 million in revenue for the provincial government, the largest amount in nine years for a land sale.

The Swift Current area received the most bonus bid activity with sales of \$21.7 million. The highest price received for a single parcel was \$2,542.365. Prairie Land & Investment Services Ltd. of Regina purchased this 35-section exploration license, located near Consul.

"We'll be busy. With the land sale that happened a couple weeks ago, it looks like new companies are moving into the area," Cote said.

Given the activity in the southwest, he believes that may give incentive to other businesses in the oil and gas industry to relocate in the city.

"A new find brings new companies, new businesses. They go wherever the work is."

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