

## Press Release

### Working Group Formed to Bring Natural Gas Service to South Central Manitoba

Representatives from 10 municipalities have formed the Growth and Prosperity Stakeholders Group (GPSG). They will work together to spearhead the construction of the South Central Natural Gas Project. The project is proposed to provide natural gas access to over 16 communities and 19 Hutterite colonies, and have the potential to service rural customers along the route.

Discussions have involved the Municipality of Norfolk Treherne, RM of Victoria, Municipality of Glenboro-South Cypress, RM of Prairie Lakes, Municipality of Lorne, RM of Argyle, Cartwright-Roblin Municipality, Municipality of Louise, RM of Thompson, and Municipality of Pembina.

The South Central region is the largest area that does not have access to natural gas in southern Manitoba. Now is the time to pursue this project as it will offer a lower emission option for those using coal to adhere to the upcoming coal ban by having a plan in place by 2017. Full gasification projected to be complete by 2020. The project design will be carbon neutral over its lifespan.

Natural gas is a low cost and reliable heating source for industrial and commercial uses, as well as for public hospitals, schools, and recreation facilities. It will lower operational costs and enable the region to maintain the ability to provide affordable frontline services to the general public. Investment in our communities now, will promote continued growth and make it desirable for future development.

The GPSG will be working with Manitoba Hydro on the logistics of bringing natural gas to the area and providing service. The project is estimated to cost \$54 million and anticipates annual fuel cost savings of \$2.4 million for the region. The objective is to fund one-third of the Project locally, with the Provincial and Federal levels of government contributing to the remainder.

Prior to the Project going ahead, the GPSG will be consulting with interested parties and the public. Check with your local municipality for dates and times or contact [manager.gpsg@gmail.com](mailto:manager.gpsg@gmail.com).