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*Wind power project*

# Benefits set to blow through Parkland

By M. A. Nyquist  
Herald Reporter

Change is in the wind for the areas surrounding Winnipegosis and Mossey River.

Mossey River Energy and the SkyPower Corporation of Toronto announced the development of the Parkland Wind Power Project, May 11.

Cory Basil, vice-president of project development for SkyPower said the project was primarily driven by the provincial government, putting Manitoba on the map.

"Both a national map as well

as an international map for wind power development," he said.

The Parkland Wind Power Project, Basil explained, is based on a proposal develop 30-to-50 megawatts in the Mossey River municipality near Winnipegosis with up to 30 turbines of various sizes, covering up to 30,000 acres.

"It will provide sufficient power, when completed, to power approximately 10,000 households per year," Basil added.

The estimated life of the project is 20 years, he said, which is consistent to programs offered by Manitoba Hydro.

"It's one of the leading opportunities for wind power development in Canada. There are only, I would say, a handful of those and one of them is right here in Manitoba," Basil added.

Deputy-premier Rosann Wowchuk explained the project is an Energy Development Initiative through the department of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines.

The proposal must be reviewed in conjunction with Manitoba Hydro, she said, as negotiations are ongoing for transmission lines and costs.

See PROPOSAL A2



Skypower VP Cory Basil

Second part of this article can be found on page 2 of this document.

## Proposal heading to Hydro soon

### From A1

Basil pointed out the power purchase agreement will be with Manitoba Hydro.

"What we need to do to make this a reality, is we have to have an off-taker for the energy and in this province, that's Manitoba Hydro," he said.

Manitoba Hydro has indicated it is currently ready to acquire 300 megawatts of wind power in the province, Basil added.

The Parkland Wind Power Project will not only provide economic development to the region, he said, local organizations will share in its benefits through social and environmental programs through the Parkland Wind Community Program.

The Parkland equity sharing program, Basil explained, is a revenue generating opportunity for nine non-profit and charitable organizations, focussing on environmental, educational, youth and underprivileged community services.

With a two per cent equity ownership stake in the Parkland Wind Equity Sharing program, local charities will be provided up to 18 per cent of the profit of the project.

For cost of \$1, Basil estimated a potential average annual income between \$3,000 to \$4,500 over 20 years for local groups involved.

To date, participating organizations include the local Elks, Kinsmen, Knights of Columbus and Lions clubs, Mountain

View School Division Breakfast for Learning program, Parkland Crossing and Parkland Regional Library.

The Village of Winnipegosis will have a five per cent equity ownership stake and the Parkland Regional Fund will have a six per cent equity ownership stake.

"The Parkland Regional Fund consists of a group of all the Parkland communities and all Parkland communities will have access to these funds," Basil added.

The Parkland Wind Scholarship program will provide 10 grants of \$3,000 annually to Manitoba residents studying environmental studies or services at an accredited post-secondary trade institution, over 20 years.

A Parkland wind grant program will provide two local grants for a Winnipegosis Renewable Power Education Centre and for the Winnipegosis Community Centre Renovation Fund.

The Renewable Power Education Centre, Basil said, is an educational facility for the public, to learn about wind power which will receive a \$100,000 grant, well as an annual operational budget of \$15,000.

The second part of the program is a grant of approximately \$100,000 for the construction of the Winnipegosis Community Skating Rink, to be administered by the local council and recreation board.

Basil said the Parkland Wind Power Foundation

will have three members elected from the region and one representative each from Mossey River Energy and SkyPower, to administer all funds.

Representing a consortium of local landowners, Mossey River Energy is a partnership between SkyPower Project Development associate Ed Pakulak of Mossey River and Cameron Peterson of Winnipegosis.

"Ed and Cam's initial idea was to provide economic development to the region. I think they wanted to do it with clean energy and that's very important and really a noble goal that they have."

An independent Canadian renewable energy developer, Basil said SkyPower Corp. has interests in more than 50 renewable power projects at varying stages of development in eight provinces, as well as several US states, representing more than 7,000 megawatts of power.

Basil said SkyPower and Mossey River Energy have been working on the project since 2003 and anticipates they will submit a proposal to Manitoba Hydro by mid-July and expects the project will be awarded in 2008.

Deadline for proposals is July 17.

