



Media Release

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2009

More than 200 new Northern customers will have natural gas this winter

SaskEnergy's natural gas pipeline system will begin serving new customers on the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the town of Air Ronge, and the first businesses in La Ronge in time for the winter heating season. More than 200 new customers in these communities will have the availability to connect to natural gas in the coming weeks.

Customers in these three communities are joining new SaskEnergy customers served by the project last fall in Weyakwin and Ramsey Bay.

"I'm excited to welcome the newest SaskEnergy customers in these three communities, who will get to enjoy the economic benefits of natural gas in time for the cold Northern winter we know isn't that far away," said Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister responsible for SaskEnergy. "Our strong partnerships with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and the towns of La Ronge and Air Ronge region mean that the arrival of natural gas as an energy source creates the foundation for new business investment – and with that, new jobs and opportunities for Northerners."

More than 850 residential, business and institutional customers have committed to natural gas service in the region. Additional customer connections will be made in all areas in 2010, with significant focus on commercial customers and initial residential areas in La Ronge. Homeowners can still sign up for SaskEnergy service by calling toll free at **1-800-567-8899**.

"SaskEnergy's La Ronge natural gas project is extremely important for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and its members. Converting to this fuel source will mean better opportunities for our people," said Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. "We are a progressive First Nation, and innovation is key to our success. We fully realize the benefits of natural gas, and we are proud to be partners with SaskEnergy. In the future, any residential or commercial development that occurs for the band will have natural gas as its heating source."

Natural gas offers savings of up to 40 per cent as compared to other fuel sources. Now that natural gas pipelines are operational in the La Ronge area, in order to maintain the safety and reliability of the system, any home owner or business planning a project that involves excavation is reminded to call Sask 1st Call, toll free at **1-866-828-4888** before digging.

Residents are also reminded that if they smell natural gas, to call SaskEnergy immediately at 1-888-7000-GAS (1-888-700-0427).

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