

ALBERTA'S 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE 2010

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It's no secret that Alberta's economic future depends heavily on its generous endowment of natural resources. But while the deposits of oil and gas, the fields of cattle and crops and the majestic timber forests are important assets, it is the people of the province who are its most valuable resource. In this, the 14th annual list of the Alberta's 50 Most Influential People, we have collected a sampling of that resource, an impressive collection of entrepreneurs, elected officials, entertainers, environmental gurus, and other esteemed Albertans who have made a difference in leading the push towards prosperity over the past year and into our future. >

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Ferguson's new role will be to focus Cenovus on oil sands and will be selling off \$500 million worth of natural gas assets. With an emphasis on steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) technologies to extract bitumen, the company's growth lies in its projects in Foster Creek and Christina Lake, which Ferguson announced in April would be accelerating its expansion.

Community Activism

NICHOLAS GAFIUK Democracy champion

Based on the principles of Preston Manning, former leader of the Reform Party and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance, the Manning Centre in Calgary is led by managing director Nicholas Gafuik. Gafuik is one of the youngest leaders of a Canadian conservative think-tank, with the purpose of encouraging discussion and community among Canadian thinkers and activists that share the same conservative and democratic views. In support of democracy, he also ventured to Cambodia and Ukraine to serve as an election observer.

Philanthropy

HARLEY HOTCHKISS Big giver

You get what you receive, and for philanthropist Harley Hotchkiss, this sentiment is more than true. In November, Hotchkiss donated \$39 million to an endowment fund at the University of Calgary in support of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute. Added to his long-time friend T. Boone Pickens' \$25-million donation in 2008, the fund is now the largest endowment program in the university's history, at \$64 million. His legacy of support for mental health and neurological research and education continues, and it's only fitting the man was also named a Companion of the Order of Canada that same month.

Energy

GORDON HOWELL Sun worshipper

Today solar energy strikes most people as a self-evidently good idea, a reasonable solution to the challenges presented by the emerging carbon economy. But in 1985, when Edmonton engineer Gordon Howell founded Howell-Mayhew Engineering, it probably seemed more like a subplot from the next *Back to the Future* movie. But Howell stuck with it, working to identify and resolve barriers to connecting solar power systems to the utility grid and helping people get their own systems in place. Now, the prophet of solar power in Alberta is a key player in cutting-edge green initiatives, most notably the Riverdale and Mill Creek NetZero Projects, homes that are functional (and fabulous) living embodiments of the very best in environmentally innovative technology and design.

Business

SCOTT HUTCHESON Land king

The term landlord doesn't quite do justice to the operation that Scott Hutcheson, the chairman and CEO of Aspen Properties Ltd., oversees on a daily basis. With nearly \$1 billion in assets comprised primarily of 2.2 million square feet of office space and 2,270 parking stalls in Edmonton and Calgary, Hutcheson might be more accurately described as a land king here in the province of Alberta.

Financier

PENTTI KARKKAINEN Dealmaker

When he headed RBC Dominion Securities Oil and Gas Research, Pentti Karkkainen was one of the top oil and gas analysts in Canada. Though he founded venture capital firm Kern Partners in 2000, in the last year the general partner has been active, overseeing the October 2009 transition of Calgary-based Wave Energy Ltd. to Crescent Point Energy Corp. for over \$665 million, and the August 2009



Arts

ARTS IMPRESARIO MARY E. HOFSTETTER

THE ARTS WORLD IS a place of almost constant change, but there are some enduring realities. Chief among those is the need for funding and donors and the importance of cre-

ative collaboration and professional partnerships, and they are all areas in which Mary Hofstetter has more than her share of expertise.

Hofstetter arrived at her current position as the president of the Banff Centre in 2001 after careers as a teacher in Switzerland, president of a community college in Ontario, and as the general manager of the celebrated Stratford Festival.

Hofstetter has encouraged changes in both the programming and organizational structure of the Banff Centre. She is currently leading the implementation of a new campus master plan with redevelopment projects of over \$100 million, and is the driving force behind the Campaign for the Banff Centre, one that has so far generated over \$120 million that will go towards capital funding and programming endowments.

Her influence springs from her belief in the projects she undertakes. "It's where the professional and personal come together and it's built from experience and curiosity and having kicked around long enough to figure things out," Hofstetter said.

"The bottom line is making a difference - making a legacy, creating an impact. Influence is not static. It has to be a call to action and creating and creativity is what the Banff Centre is all about and it's kind of what life has been all about as well."

The ability to push a project from inception to completion is something that you develop over a lifetime, Hofstetter said. "These days when you're seeking collaboration and partnerships, and I very much include donors as collaborators and partners, you're looking at building relationships for the long term. When it all comes together and you've got people who are so keenly engaged, it's pretty cool."

- Bill Sass

transition of Medora Resources Inc. to Legacy Oil and Gas Inc. Kern is also in the process of taking MEG Energy Corp. public.

Retail

BRUCE MARTIN Green grocer

When Community Natural Foods first opened in Calgary in 1977, owners Garry and Peter Wilkes couldn't have foreseen the popularity of organic, natural food. Or maybe they did. Now with two locations and Bruce Martin at the helm as general manager, Community Natural Foods is making a name with its strategic business strategy, cooperating with like-minded businesses, focusing on fair trade and living wage, selling local food and supporting healthy living. In the last few years, the organic food shop

has waved goodbye to plastic bags and single-use water bottles.

Technology

CHRIS MOORE Tech guru

Edmonton's tech-savvy chief information officer is making the City of Champions a little more user-friendly. And by doing that, Chris Moore strongly believes in helping local software developers by giving them some work. Moore helped the city cut down on expensive IT costs as his department invested in open source applications instead of relying on apps from Microsoft. Moore's department is also turning Edmonton into a 3-D virtual world on the web by showcasing it on Second Life this summer. The move could mean big bucks for tourism.

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Nicholas Gafuik, Gordon Howell, Scott Hutcheson and Pentti Karkkainen