



**"Politics hates a vacuum; if it isn't filled with hope, someone will fill it with fear."**

**Naomi Klein**

## September 2017

## WasteLess.ca Wins Gold

**Reuse Rendezvous.** Week-end of September 8, 9 & 10. Visit Environment Lethbridge for more: <http://environmentlethbridge.ca/reuse>

SAGE meeting Wednesday September 27 at the Lethbridge Public Library, downtown.

It's a new membership year for SAGE (\$25 by mail or online). We appreciate your continued support.

Conversation about healthy forests with FRI Research. Oct 25th, Calgary. For more: <https://friresearch.ca/>

Rural Alberta Innovation & Learning (RAIL) Commons. September 29 to October 1. [www.rail-commons.ca](http://www.rail-commons.ca)

Gilles Leclair (of Lethbridge Sustainable Living Association) is demonstrating his Geo Studios. View online at [www.geostudios.ca/](http://www.geostudios.ca/)

The WasteLess project, as part of Environment Lethbridge, has been awarded a SIA Summit Creative Award in Public Service for its interactive website. WasteLess makes the case for waste reduction in Lethbridge through an animated tour of Lethbridge's trashy secret. The site can be viewed at [wasteless.ca](http://wasteless.ca).

The purpose of WasteLess.ca was to raise awareness of waste disposal and recycling and practices in Lethbridge; to provide access to current and factual information about Lethbridge's environmental footprint; and to provide data

for informed decision making on recycling and consumer behaviour and provide solutions to ensure environmental sustainability.

The Summit International Awards (SIA) organization is dedicated to furthering excellence in the marketing communications industry. Throughout its 23-year history, its Creative Award has established itself as a premier arbiter of creative and communication excellence. It administers three distinguished advertising and marketing award competitions throughout the year with the goal of raising the

awareness of companies and individuals who have the creative and marketing talent to go beyond the ordinary.

There were 41 other contestants in this category, and only 50 of 5000 entries were awarded a gold. The project will be entered into the Digital Alberta's Ember Awards in the Fall

Contratulations to the creative design team: Christine Clark, Kiri Stolz and Taelynn Graham!

***P(oo)lease, Keep the Date!***

### **Saturday October 7th**

SAGE & Helen Schuler Nature Centre will be participating in a Coulee Clean Up of the Scenic Drive Dog Run.

That's right! This is a chance to join your friends and family in a Community Poo Pickup.

Watch the SAGE website for more information as this important date approaches.

## MRF Budget Approved

The 2018 to 2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including a budget for curbside recycling and a Materials Recycling Facility, has been approved by Lethbridge City Council. The CIP also includes a plan to manage landfill gas and leachate (toxic liquids) produced in a landfill.

It is expected that the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) will provide a service for the region to separate recyclable materials to become resources, diverting them from the landfill. Closing the resource cycle reduces the extraction of virgin resources and the environmental damage related to these industrial activities. Curbside pickup will increase diversion of recyclable materials from a current 15% to an expected rate of 70%. The additional cost to homeowners is \$7 per month.

## Alberta's Carbon Levy & Energy Efficiency

At the beginning of the year, the Government of Alberta introduced a carbon levy as a component of the more comprehensive Climate Leadership Plan.

The Carbon Levy is expected to raise \$5.4 billion over three years by adding a \$20/tonne CO<sub>2eq</sub> in 2017 and \$30/tonne in 2018 levy on carbon emissions.

Roughly 80% of Alberta's emissions will be encompassed by the levy: exempted emissions include farm gas, fuel purchased on reserves, natural gas used at wellheads, and inter-jurisdictional flights.

This levy is expected to cost the average household an additional \$300 to \$500 each year in both direct and indirect costs. A rebate program has been implemented to protect vulnerable families and small businesses. It is expected that 60%

of households will receive a rebate to cover the additional costs of the levy.

The cost of the rebate program will be approximately \$1.5 billion over three years. The remaining \$3.9 billion raised will be directed to green infrastructure (\$1.3 billion), large scale renewable energy and coal transition (\$1 billion), energy efficiency (\$566 million), reduction of the small business tax (\$565 million), coal phase-out agreements (\$291 million), and assistance to indigenous communities for a green transition (\$151 million).

In addition to greening electricity generation in the province, the [energy efficiency program](#) will focus

on making households and business more efficient through lighting, insulation, water heating, and micro-generation with rooftop solar installations. You may consider signing up for the [No-Charge Energy Savings Program](#) online.

The economic impact of the carbon levy is expected to be a 0.05% reduction per year on GDP growth, or between 0.3% and 0.4% by 2022. The drag this tax will have on the economy is expected to be offset by improved market access for Alberta's energy products – the so-called 'social license' of reducing emissions to compensate for the continued sale of fossil fuels.

### Watch for the WasteLess.ca Photo Contest

Lethbridge is a beautiful city and significant progress has been made over the past few years in better managing our waste and keeping it out of the landfill. This is being accomplished by reducing consumption, reusing materials in creative ways, and recycling them at the end of their useful life.

We invite you to submit a photo of people making a difference by reducing our waste stream. If you know of a person who has made an impact or has inspired others to reduce, reuse and recycle capture their story in a photograph.

The contest will begin September 18st, 2017. Adult, Youth & Social Media categories.  
Watch for more information at [WasteLess.ca](#)

### Interesting Links:

*Who Invests in Energy Efficiency and Why.* <http://aceee.org/blog/2017/07/who-invests-energy-efficiency-and-why>

*Indicators of Local Energy Resilience* <http://aceee.org/sites/default/files/resilience-indicators-0817.pdf>

OWC's *Beyond a Shadow of a Drought ...* <http://oldmanwatershed.ca/blog-posts>

Rabble's *Environmental Law Review Recommends Changes to Fisheries Act, National Energy Board*  
<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/other-hand/2017/06/environmental-law-review-recommends-changes-fisheries-act-national>



**Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE)**

**A Leading Voice for a Healthy and Environmentally Sustainable Community.**

Visit us at: <http://sage-environment.org/>

If you are interesting in getting involved, contact us at:

[sage-communications@sage-environment.org](mailto:sage-communications@sage-environment.org)

## Okja (Netflix 2017)

## Movie Review

With an audience of over 100 million and streaming in 190 countries, Netflix productions play an influential role in global popular culture. Premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, *Okja* is an engrossing film with a very strange tale to tell.



The lead is a large and not very cute super pig, genetically engineered in the dank subterranean lair of corporate Mirando labs. The task for Mija, the young girl who raised Okja on an idyllic South Korean mountain farm, is to keep her companion from becoming pork chops. Assisting girl and pig are a multicultural, pacifist and vegan team from the Animal Liberation Front. ALF won't use violence to bring about the caring revolution (and definitely repudiate lax transla-

tions), but they will use social media & every available technology to prevail.

Some of the film's strangeness derives from a simply discordant tone. Okja is no Disney beauty and is at times, oddly threatening. Conflicted as Mirando corporation's Swinton character is, and as peculiar the film's

Obama references are – nothing is so off kilter as Jake Gyllenhaal's often hysterical and definitely drunken, mad scientist. But in an ethos of super beasts manufactured to solve global hunger, capitalist appropriation of environmental concerns, corporately owned militias, deliciously cheap pig jerky, selfies and bloated human egos all overlaid with the specter of death in a slaughterhouse – could there be sane scientists?

The satire is not brutally sardonic, but it's a stretch to call this a comedy, regardless of welcome comedic moments. The soundtrack is replete with John Denver and Mamas and Papas hits, which though anachronistic in the millennial era, set a both jarring and soothing tone. Still, this is not a picture for younger children.

Roast up some organic, fair trade popcorn, douse with nutritional yeast and grab a glass of tap water to stream this eccentric & bumpy ride from producer Bong Joon-ho. You're so not going to want a ham sandwich in front of you.

3/5 Okjas

Trailer: [youtu.be/AjCebKn4iic](https://youtu.be/AjCebKn4iic)

The indigenous inhabitants of this land had a wise saying - "Every time you take something from the Earth, you must give something back."



## Word on the Street presents:

### Trevor Harriot - *Towards a Prairie Atonement*

The Lethbridge Public Library (downtown) will be hosting the 2017 [Word on the Street](#) festival September 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SAGE will be co-sponsoring "Trevor Harriot, an award-winning author and a naturalist. Married with four children, Trevor and his wife, Karen, have a home in Regina, Saskatchewan, and a small cabin in the Aspen Parkland prairie south of Indian Head."

He will be sharing readings from his new non-fiction book titled, *Towards a Prairie Atonement*. Trevor is the author of many books celebrating the prairies, including *Grass, Sky, Song*; *The Road is How*; and *River in a Dry Land*.

You will want to read and share Trevor's *Towards - a Prairie - Atonement*. The book is an elegant mixture of history, politics, and a passion for preserving the prairie ecosystem.

The curious title is illumined in his discussion of our collective inability or unwillingness to see the failure of our current worldview and our need for atonement: "Colonialism, we have learned too late, is an utterly unreliable narrator. The work of decolonizing, of atonement, begins with the act of recognizing and honouring what was and is

native but has been evicted from the land – native plants and animals but the original peoples, cultures, and languages too" (p.13).

Harriot clearly delineates the issue of diminishing natural grasslands as "you and I share a province where 80 per cent of the natural cover on the prairie has been scraped away and more of it is disappearing every year down the throat of a beast whose appetite cannot be satisfied. Only 3.5 per cent of the native grassland in Canada's

Prairie Ecozone has any form of protection. Some endangered species are now at less than 10 per cent of their populations forty years ago. The little that remains, our fragments of old-growth prairie, are every bit as diverse and irreplaceable as Canada's last refuges of old-growth forest, but they are under siege from forces ranging from privatization and cultivation to resource extraction and ranquette development. And the worst of it is that damned few people seem to notice" (p.19).

Later in the book, Harriot introduces the *Wiihtigo* (from Anishinaabe, Ojibwe, and Cree mythology) as a metaphor for this relationship with the earth: "The *Wiihtigo* is a demonic force often personified as a gluttonous monster whose hunger can never be satisfied. Watching traders gather and ship thousands of tons of meat and hides out of the prairie, the old and wise might well have warned

that *Wiihtigo* was taking charge" (p.107).

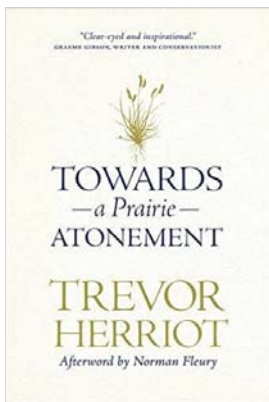
*Towards a Prairie Atonement* weaves our current predicament with the history of the Metis as the author explores a cemetery with an elder, Norman Fleury (who appropriately writes an afterword to the book). The story describes the very point where the possibility of preserving the prairie, with a more harmonious and self-sufficient bond with the ecosystem, was lost to conversion and exploitation.

Plaintively, Harriot shares his love of the prairie:

"A lark sparrow lands on a headstone, opens its mouth, and fills the air with its jumble of clear, high notes and a glissando of buzzy trills on a lower register. It is the song of one who has travelled from the grasslands of central Mexico to look for a savannah just like this, with sandy soil and sparse grass next to trees.

It sings to claim a place on the prairie, but its title, and that of many other grassland creatures, has been placed at risk by the same failure to reconcile and bring justice to the land" (p.81).

*Towards a Prairie Atonement* is a wonderful book that will haunt you long afterward. Will *Wiihtigo* continue to terrorize? Do the opportunities lost preclude atonement? Can justice be brought to this land?



## ***No Is Not Enough: Resisting the new shock politics and winning the world we need. (2017)***



*No Is Not Enough* reads like an expanded magazine article. Naomi Klein is a gifted writer who is able to convey issues that span the particular to the universal. She studiously avoids jargon, which works well for her writing.

This book places Trumpismo as a natural outcome of four decades of neoliberalism, resulting in gross economic inequality, resource wars, de-democratization, and climate disruption culminating in much greater precariousness in the lives of average citizens. Klein deconstructs the brand-name 'Trump' and his pack of wealthy advisers and shows a business-as-usual style of leadership without the necessity for them to don the mask of civility or consideration: the Emperor has no clothes but, in this allegory, no longer cares.

"But in so many ways explored in these pages, Trump is not a rupture at all, but rather the culmination—the logical end point — of a great many dangerous stories our culture has been telling for a very long time. That greed is good. That the market rules. That money is what matters in life. That white men are better than the rest. That the natural world is there for us to pillage. That the vulnerable deserve their fate and the one percent deserve their golden towers. That anything public or commonly held is sinister and not worth protecting. That we are surrounded by danger and should only look after our own. That there is no alternative to any of this" (p.257).

As such, Klein suggests that deleterious trends (economy, war-

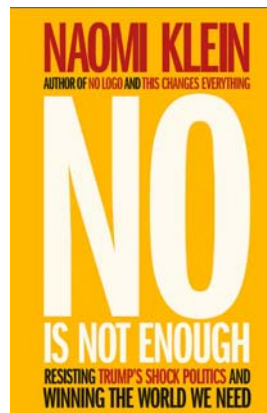
mongering, climate disruption, de-regulation, privatizing common wealth, etc.) are expected to continue unabated. More concerning, per Klein's *Shock Doctrine*, is that these plutocrats are waiting for their own crisis so as to be given the excuse and the power to ram through their pet projects, from privatizing education and eradicating public services to lowering taxes for the uber-rich.

What to do? Klein offers *The Leap Manifesto* as a flexible template providing the values required to reclaim democracy, social institutions, and the economy to benefit everybody. These are the values that would underlie future policy. This is not a gradualist Manifesto, or one trying to return to the good ol' days — but, rather, a progressive and radical 'leap' in a new direction. Any opposition to the current state "must embrace the task of telling a new history of how we ended up here, in the perilous moment. A history that compellingly shows the role played by the politics of division and separation. Racial divisions. Class divisions. Gender divisions. Citizenship divisions" (p.100).

"So many of the crises we are facing are symptoms of the same underlying sickness:" Klein argues, "a dominance-based logic that treats so many people, and the earth itself, as disposable. ... these divisions and compartmentalizations — the hesitancy to identify the *systems* we are up against — are robbing us of our full potential, and have trained too many to believe that lasting so-

lutions will always be out of reach" (p.233).

The problem, as is typical of manifestos, is that it is long on values and short on action. Transforming society is a big project. And we should remember that a third or more of the citizenry think they are still 'winning' in the game and support power & order, mass surveillance, oppression of the 'other'. And we should remember that militarized police and private security personnel relish the idea of 'kicking-some-['other']-ass'; the 'other' covering a wide swath of race, religion, gender, as well as rights- and issue-protectors. Transforming society is not only a big project — it is a revolution. I don't sense that *No Is Not Enough* considers this adequately: 'Citizens want a revolution without a revolution', Robespierre once lamented.



*No Is Not Enough* is a worthwhile read — it is smart, it is clear, and it represents the values we require as a society to avoid ruin (democratic, economic, and environmental). Unfortunately, like her book *This Changes Everything* which identified capitalism as a source of our environmental ills without discussing capitalism, this book provides a foundation for revolution without discussing revolution. But this is understandable, given the intention of influencing as wide an audience as possible.

**The AER has decided to extend the leases to Granite Oil Corp. for oil & gas development on the Milk River Ridge.**

**The Statement of Concern presented by SAGE in May (see June 2017 Newsletter) will stand with respect to the new application.**



BY E-MAIL ONLY

July 5, 2017

Cheryl Bradley  
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**STATEMENT OF CONCERN NO. 30721  
GRANITE OIL CORP.  
INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED MULTIWELL PAD PROJECT**

<b>APPLICATION NO.</b>	<b>SURFACE LOCATION</b>
<b>1885437</b>	<b>08-003-18W4M</b>
<b>1885444</b>	<b>08-003-18W4M</b>
<b>1885446</b>	<b>17-003-18W4M</b>

Dear Cheryl Bradley:

This letter is to inform you that Granite Oil Corp. has withdrawn the subject applications. Granite has resubmitted the applications and the numbers are 1893274, 1893275, and 1893277. As such, the attached correspondence will be linked and considered in the review of the applications. Please note that your Statement of Concern number 30721 will remain the same.

Section 49 of the *Alberta Energy Regulator Rules of Practice* (Rules) requires that all documents filed with the AER be placed on the public record. However, any party may file a request for confidentiality of information under Section 49 prior to filing the information with the AER. Any request under Section 49 must be copied to the other parties to the proceeding. Section 49 of the Rules is available at the AER website at [www.aer.ca](http://www.aer.ca).

Should you have any questions regarding registration of your SOC, please contact the undersigned at 403-297-3431 or email [SOC@aer.ca](mailto:SOC@aer.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maribel Arguello".

Maribel Arguello  
Participant Involvement Coordination Team