

# Letters to the Editor

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## ...change of attitude

After participating in the Clearing the Path Workshop in Yorkton on April 3, I have a better understanding of the pressure that communities are under to resign oní to the governmentís obsession with Economic Development...at all costs, it seems.

The first activity of the workshop was for everyone to form groups, and list the assets of their communities and what kind of economic development those assets would support. It was interesting that at the top of most lists were clean air and clean water with easy access to hunting, fishing, camping, golfing, even bird-watching (North Americaís fastest growing recreational activity which generates millions of dollars of revenue every year) - all sustainable, no-regrets type of development. Down the list of most groups were things like agribusiness (ie. pig fac-

ories, feedlots, ethanol plants), gas and oil, mining, etc.

However, as soon as proponents of the government-funded Clearing the Path scheme got to the mike, one could hear the *épep talkí* kick in. We heard how great life could be ...just like in Ogema where Big Sky is setting up another government-funded pig factory...all it takes is a *échange of attitudeí*!

I agree that we need a *échange of attitudeí* but not quite like the Mayor of Ogema suggested in his *éget rid of the cave mení* presentation.

The change of attitude must put the environment FIRST, ahead of all other activities. Ahead of expansion of unspeakable gigantic pig factories or feedlots, ahead of using our wonderful food-producing soil to produce fuel for our gas-guzzling SUVs and long-haul

trucks, ahead of fouling our water, air, soil (our kidsí food) with *ékillerí* pesticides, antibiotic-resistant pathogens, uranium, and pollutants from tarsands and coalbed methane developments.

There are sustainable alternatives - it just takes a change of attitude ... of the policy-makers!

Without it, we have no grounds to complain about how much of the Provinceís budget is being swept up by medical and prescription costs. We better get used to it! This can only get worse as the addiction for *ébusiness as usualí* continues to put prevention of pollution at the bottom of the list.

How enthusiastically we offer up our children to the idol of greed and power!

— Elaine Hughes  
Archerwill, SK