

# KEITH WITHERS

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

# Beef club elects executive

A total of 38 young people registered in the Grande Prairie 4-H Beef club this year, making it the largest single project club in Alberta.

The club elected Brian Davies president and Keith Withers as vice-president. Mary Dall is secretary and Bill Dall is treasurer. Canteen president Rod Porter will be assisted by canteen treasurer Neil Withers and club reporter Donna Diederich.

Leaders of the club are Neil Meen and Charles Dall, with assistants Mary Marcy, James Dall, Marj Wendt and Frances Dall. Junior leaders include Wendy McNally, Brian Davies, Dianne Marcy, Rod Porter, Mary Dall, Laurence Thompson, Keith Withers, Billy Dall and Donna Diederich.

The members weighed their new calves in Saturday.

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# Pe<sup>2</sup>ople

Keith **Withers** has been elected president of the 31-member Grande Prairie 4-H beef club. Other executive members include vice-president **Bill Doll**, secretary **Trudy Diederich**, treasurer **Janet Bulford**, and reporter **Danny Lange**. Leader is again **Neil Moon** and committee chairmen include **Joan McNally** for entertainment, **Mary **Withers**** for the canteen, **Mrs. Marcy**, **Mrs. Friesen**, **James and Charles Doll**. Junior leaders include **Everett McDonald**, **Bill Doll**, **Trudy Diederich**, **Janet Bulford**, **Ernie Lange**, **Keith **Withers****, **Dana Marcy**, **Dianne Marcy**.

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# Alberta truckers getting \$2M in green help

REMO ZACCAGNA  
Herald-Tribune staff

Local trucking companies say they will take advantage of a provincial incentive program announced Monday that seeks to encourage truck operators to modify their fleets to be more energy efficient.

Environment Minister Rob Renner said the \$2 million fuel efficiency program would reduce 97,000 tonnes of the trucking industry's greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of taking approximately 20,000 cars off the road by 2020.

Starting today, the program will offer rebates to truck operators who install energy-efficient technologies like skirts, fairings, auxiliary power units, cab heaters, and hybrid drive-trains.

"With 80% of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the tailpipe, we all have a crucial role

to play in improving Alberta's fuel efficiency," Renner said in a news release. "Alberta's trucking industry drives our economy and this program is an environmental and economic win-win for the sector and province."

The program, which will be run by non-profit Climate Change Central, has received positive feedback from local operators who say they intend to take advantage of the rebates.

"It's all positive, I mean where it's going to help is with fuel mileage and greenhouse gases. The government gives us incentives and we're going to work with them, I'm sure," said Alex Hogg, owner of Kinetic Transport Ltd.

Hogg said he currently has a fleet of 20 trucks that are already energy efficient, but will look into applying for rebates under the program.

**“The more rebates we get as we update our fleets the easier it is to keep up.”**

Alex Hogg, Kinetic Transport Ltd.

"The more rebates we get as we update our fleets the easier it is to keep it up," he said.

Yad Minhas, owner of Minhas Bros. Holdings Ltd., likes the government announcement but said he feels it could go further.

"It's not where they should be but at least they started," he said. "It's a very good program but it's too late and too small, but at least the government started here. So I'm very pleased with this."

Minhas said the company would look at retrofitting some of its 42 trucks.

"We'd like to start as soon as this program starts and it will

help us," he said.

But Keith Withers, senior vice-president of Withers I.P., said the technologies being offered rebates are not conducive to trucks that primarily work in industries like the oilfield.

"The problem with what's going on here is that it's geared more towards more of the highway hauler, than the people in our business," he said.

The hybrid rebates is not something he expects to take advantage of.

"They're an electronic nightmare right now because they're new, so you won't see hybrids in our industry for several years

yet," he explained.

"But as far as putting these little auxiliary heaters in so that it cuts down idle time, that's something that we can work hard on, that works for us."

Withers said the rebate program is a positive step.

"It's definitely the future, and it's getting better all the time and this is just another step towards cleaner emissions."

Bill Reilly of Reilly Transfer Ltd. said he is unsure as to what kind of cab heaters are offered in the program.

He said he is hopeful that they are the Webasto or Pro-heater brands.

"When we get -30C and colder, most companies will idle their diesel vehicles, simply because they will not start even when plugged in," he said.

"We use (cab heaters) because it saves on engine wear and fuel, but we don't put them

on the small units because it's too expensive," Reilly added. "So with the smaller units, we either try to park as many as we can inside, but the ones we can't park inside we'll let them idle only at 30-below."

Reilly said he is "excited" about the program and plans to participate in it.

"If the Alberta government thinks that this program is an incentive, they are absolutely right. However, to think that two million will do it, I do not think so," he said. "I guess it is a good start and a step in the right direction. We will take advantage of this."

The rebate program also entitles owners and operators access to educational workshops and 25 companies will receive a tailored fleet analysis showing them how to make their fuel go further.

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