



The Round-Up: May 21st 2008

Posted by [Sam Foucher](#) on May 21, 2008 - 11:22am in [The Oil Drum: Canada](#)
Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Gas price energizes Canadian inflation rate](#)

Higher gas prices in April led to the first monthly increase in the inflation rate in half a year, Statistics Canada reported Wednesday. StatsCan's Consumer Price Index was 1.7% higher in April compared with the same month of 2007. That's up from a 1.4% year-over-year jump in March, and it's the first time inflation has risen since November, 2007. The CPI rose 0.8% in April from March.

[An environmental quagmire](#)

In the past year, a network of nongovernment organizations, on the ground and afar, has taken up the antioilsands cause, aiming at least to slow down development, at most to shut down altogether what has become the backbone of Canada's economy.

[Tailings ponds sticky dilemma](#)

Syncrude Canada Ltd. built the giant basin, which measures 21 kilo-metres in circumference, in the mid-1970s as part of the joint-venture's massive open-pit oilsands mine. Billions of litres of water are needed to separate bitumen, a thick, sticky form of crude oil, from the oilsands. The by-product of the extraction process is a toxic slurry of water, sand, clay and bitumen that is dumped into tailings ponds such as Mildred Lake to allow the sand and clay to settle out.

[Oilpatch gears up for a comeback](#)

Buoyed by surging natural gas and record oil prices, the western Canadian oilpatch is gearing up for a recovery in the second half of 2008. Industry observers say confidence is growing among small and intermediate-sized producers, with many having already tacked another 10 per cent to 20 per cent to 2008 capital spending plans, which were created last fall when natural gas prices were half today's levels.



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