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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Premier Ed Stelmach to speak at “Oil Things Considered” King’s Interdisciplinary Studies Conference**

**Edmonton** – Hon. Premier Ed Stelmach, along with MLA Jeff Johnson and Federal MP Linda Duncan will join a number of distinguished speakers at King’s Interdisciplinary Studies Conference January 19 and 20. The conference theme, *Oil Things Considered*, and will examine the controversial Alberta oil sands.

While the oil sands continue to be a growth engine for Alberta and the rest of Canada, the environmental issues being raised have thrust the oil sands onto the international stage. The King’s conference brings together representatives from government, industry, environmental groups, First Nations people, and private citizens who will bring the debate to students and the public.

Roy Berkenbosch, director of the Micah Center & Interdisciplinary Studies at the King's University College in Edmonton wants students to listen for the worldviews that enter the discussion.

“Everyone comes to the conference with a particular perspective,” says Berkenbosch. “We want to encourage our students to look beyond the words, to separate fact from fiction, and to be able to recognize the underlying values and assumptions upon which the various viewpoints are founded.”

In addition to Premier Stelmach, conference speakers include:

- Andrew Nikiforuk, author of *“The Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of the Continent”*
- Melody Lepine, Director of the Mikisew Cree First Nation
- Don Thompson, President of The Oil Sands Developers Group
- Dr. John Hiemstra, Professor of Political Studies at The King's University College
- Jennifer Grant, Oil Sands Program Director at the Pembina Institute
- Dr. Vern Peters, Associate Professor of Ecology at The King's University College
- Randolph Haluza-DeLay, Associate Professor of Sociology at The King’s University College
- Wayne Prins, Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC)
- Gerda Kits, a King's Environmental Studies graduate
- Wayne Groot, a third generation potato farmer impacted by industrial development.

“There’s a lot of debate in Canada about the oil sands - it’s a big issue,” says Berkenbosch. “We have known it was there but it has only been the last forty or so years that technology has allowed us to extract it.”

All events are free of charge and will take place on the King’s campus located at 9125 – 50 street, Edmonton. A full schedule of events can be found on the King’s website at [kingsu.ca](http://kingsu.ca)

The King’s University College offers fully accredited Bachelor degrees in the arts, humanities, music, social sciences, natural sciences and commerce/management, as well as an education after degree. King’s currently serves over 700 students from across Canada and abroad, representing more than 16 nations. Faculty are highly qualified, dedicated Christians committed to academic excellence and communicating a Christian perspective in their teaching. Students are challenged both inside and outside the classroom to apply what they learn to their life and future career.

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