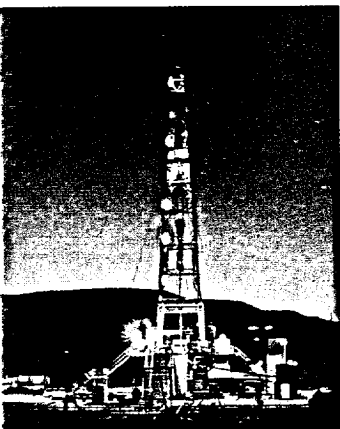




In addition to the reserves of conventional crude oil in Alberta there is research, development and production of non-conventional oil sources from tar sands and heavy oil deposits. Besides possessing its own oil and natural gas, Saskatchewan also has large concentrations of potash, believed to represent 50 per cent of known world reserves.

The early "European" exploration of Western Canada was carried out, to a great extent, by agents of the fur-trading Hudson's Bay Company. Relics of this era are still visible throughout the area, for example at forts in Edmonton and Brandon. (The territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, known as Rupert's Land, were ceded to the young government of Canada in 1870.)