

LET THE OLYMPIC CLEANUP BEGIN

Shougang Steel, Beijing's biggest steelmaker and one of its largest polluters, will cut production by about one-third by the end of the year, and all production by 2010. The sprawling plant has been in the process of relocating for several years as Chinese officials rush to clean up Beijing's polluted air before the 2008 Games.



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9 TO 5



'He's paying his medical bills by playing online poker.'

IN ON THE ACTION

The Mohawk reserve in Quebec hosts roughly 400 Internet gambling sites. Nobody knows exactly how much money that pulls in, but a rough guess would be a lot. Now an Alberta reserve wants a piece of the action. The Alexander First Nation band recently set up its own gaming commission to offer online gaming licences. But there's a problem. Internet gaming is illegal in Alberta and the province's solicitor-general, Fred Lindsay, says he will make sure that it doesn't happen. Now the Alberta Gaming Commission is investigating the Alexander First Nation. Meanwhile, the band's website is offering various Internet gaming licences — application fees start at \$20,000 US. And the band's website describes the Alexander First Nation as "a sovereign nation located in Alberta" and says gaming revenues would be "tax-free." Maybe that's the problem. Alberta currently rakes in \$1.3 billion a year from gambling, mostly from VLTs, casinos andingos.

BUSINESS BC TUESDAY

PLUGGING IN TUGS: Victoria-based tech company EdocSystems Group is easing the B.C. tugboat industry's transition into the digital era.

B.C. SNAPSHOT

Working capital

The January unemployment rate in Victoria was the second-lowest among major Canadian cities. Only Calgary, where employers line up at the



WARD PERRIN/VANCOUVER SUN

Abbotsford businessman Jatinder Sidhu is traveling to India to find investors for a \$20-million property development he's helping build in Abbotsford.

Valley links to booming Punjab

INDIA | Abbotsford entrepreneurs make the most of homeland contacts for new opportunities

BY JOANNE LEE-YOUNG
VANCOUVER SUN

ASIA
IN BUSINESS BC

Connaught Plaza Place is a \$20-million property development at the corner of Mount Lehman Road and Blueridge Drive in Abbotsford. When it is completed, it will include 18 townhouses, an office tower, an Esso gas station and a Tim Hortons.

This week, Abbotsford businessmen Jatinder Sidhu and Manjit Dhillon are in the city of Chandigarh, India, trying to sell this piece of the Fraser Valley to buyers in India's northwestern Punjab state.

"People are getting rich there [India]. They want to shift and have a better life," said Sidhu in an interview from Abbotsford. "There is lots of interest in doing business here."

India's booming middle class has caught the world's imagination. New Delhi airport and its top hotels are full of laptop-toting CEOs, investment bankers and fund managers from New York, London and Hong Kong. There is a stampede to make sense of the country's growth as its soaring stock markets break record after

record.

Against this activity, B.C. has been a laggard. A recent report by the provincial government's Asia Pacific Trade Council said there is a "lack of awareness about business opportunities in India among B.C. firms," and the last decade has been one of "lost opportunity" while other players have established a major presence in India.

On a more upbeat note, it pinned much hope on B.C.'s "significant base of Punjabi Indo-Canadians," calling them our "beachhead" for networking and sparking trade in India.

To get behind this bureaucratic babble, meet these Fraser Valley-based Indo-Canadian entrepreneurs as they make inroads to Punjab from Abbotsford and Surrey, home of the highest concentration of Indo-Canadians in Canada.

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