

## ABOUT FORMER RESIDENTS

# Growing up on a farm has been invaluable experience for Regina lawyer

A few childhood experiences have proven to be useful for one Regina man's career as a lawyer.

Growing up on a farm near Canora has helped Jon Kalmakoff understand environmental law, which is part of his job at SaskPower. He also participated in drama and debating clubs at school, which has helped to develop his public speaking abilities for giving presentations at work.

"Believe it or not, the common sense that I learned on the farm has probably been the single biggest asset, in some ways more important than having the law degree itself, when it comes to dealing with problems and situations of a legal nature," he said.

"Sometimes if you try and address a matter in sort of a textbook way and just look for an answer somewhere in a book, you're probably not going to find it," Kalmakoff said.

Basically, his job is to make sure SaskPower stays within the boundaries of the laws of the province. He has been working for SaskPower since 2000.

Environmental law has been one of Kalmakoff's interests since he was young, so he said it's great working for a corporation that deals with it on a regular basis.

Before his job at SaskPower, Kalmakoff did private practice for a large corporate firm in Regina, where he saw many different types of clients.

"In private practice, it changes almost on a daily, if not hourly, basis."

The job also required him to work longer hours than the job he has now, so having a little extra time is nice because he has a family.

Kalmakoff got married three years ago and he has a nine-year-old stepdaughter and one-year-old daughter.

He is also able to bring them along on some of his business trips. Due to the nature of his job, Kalmakoff travels quite frequently.

"It allows me to travel to different parts of the province and see and experience things that I might otherwise not," he said, adding that he went on a business trip to Tokyo, Japan two months ago.

Another benefit the job brings is the chance to meet all kinds of people.

Over the next 18 months, SaskPower is working on a clean coal project, which is the first of its kind in the world, Kalmakoff said.

And he couldn't be happier about it.

"It's the single most exciting project I've ever had the chance to work on."



It not only produces zero emissions, but it also has the potential to produce cheaper electricity, he said. When the coal is burned, the emissions are captured before they go up the smoke stack and are stored deep underground.

He said SaskPower's goal is to make a "go, no-go" decision in July, 2007.

Aside from environmental law, another interest of Kalmakoff's is researching Doukhobor family history in the Canora area, which he's been doing for more than 10 years. The Doukhobors are a Russian religious group that settled in the Canora area in the late 1800s, said Kalmakoff. He has dedicated a website to it: [www.doukhobor.org](http://www.doukhobor.org).

With his parents, Larry Kalmakoff and Oney Pollock, still residing in the Canora area, Kalmakoff says he tries to visit them on a regular basis.

### About the writer

Jolie Toews is a fourth-year journalism student at the University of Regina. She grew up on a farm near Carman, Man. and received her Grade 12 diploma from Western Christian College in Dauphin. She likes hiking, swimming and taking photos and plans to move to B.C. after she obtains her journalism degree.

