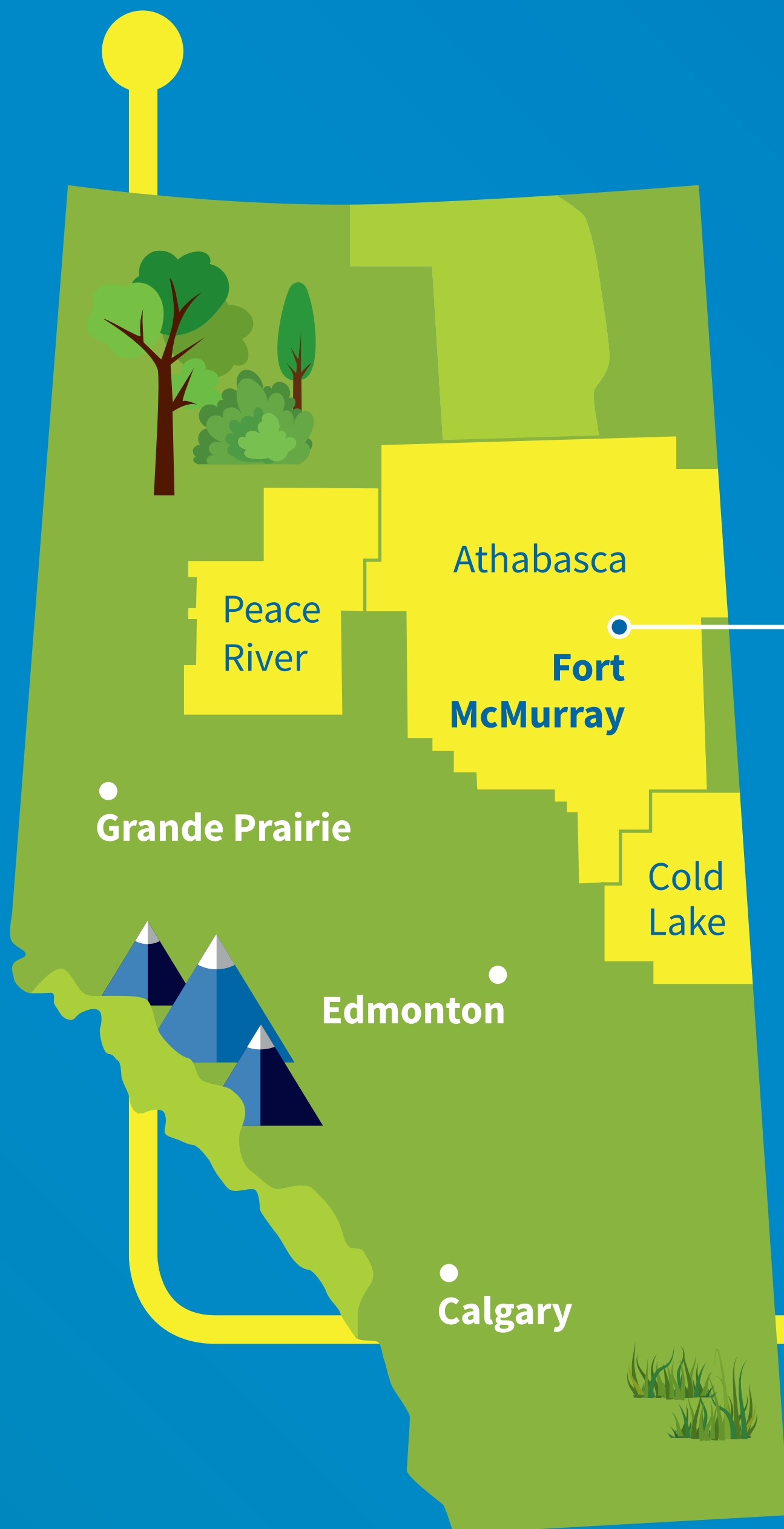


GETTING TO KNOW THE OIL SANDS

A powerful source of energy in Canada



OUR OIL SANDS OFFICE

- Our Fort McMurray office has a staff of three and is located in the centre of oil sands activity
- It opened in 2003 when our legacy organization, Oil Sands Safety Association, was established

FAST FACTS

- Canada has the third largest oil reserves in the world, 97% of these reserves are located in the oil sands
- Oil sands are a natural mixture of sand, water, clay and bitumen
- 100% of the land is returned to a self-sustaining ecosystem with local vegetation and wildlife

OIL SANDS ARE RECOVERED USING TWO MAIN METHODS:

1 DRILLING

Reserves too deep to be mined are recovered in place, or “in situ”, by drilling wells. Heat, usually steam, is injected into the reservoir to warm the bitumen so it can be pumped to the surface.

At 10°C bitumen is as hard as a hockey puck

2 MINING

If less than 70 meters below the surface, oil sands reserves are mined using large shovels, and trucks take the oil sand to crushers. Hot water is added to the oil sands and transported to the extraction plant where bitumen is extracted in separation vessels.

At the same height as a two-storey house, the Caterpillar 797 is one of the world’s largest trucks



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