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For Immediate Release

### **Living Heritage of Coal in Coronach Project**

The Living Heritage of Coal in Coronach Project will be publicly presented in the Coronach Community Hall, Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This event will recognize and celebrate the importance of coal to the Coronach region's past and present. Plan to attend this public event for the premiere viewing of a documentary film and the launch of a printed booklet.

Coal has been historically important in the Coronach and surrounding Big Muddy region and has become the economic mainstay of the community since the development of the Poplar River Mine and the Poplar River Power Station in the 1970s. In the early days of Coronach's settlement, underground room and pillar as well as strip coal mining provided local residents with affordable, accessible fuel to heat their homes and businesses. Since the development of the power station, the Coronach region's coal provides electricity to thousands of Saskatchewan homes and businesses. The coal industry provides hundreds of permanent jobs in the area.

This *living heritage* project's aim was to document the heritage of coal mining in the Coronach area from its early beginnings in locally owned and operated mines during the 1920s-1950s; the establishment of the power station and mine in the 1970s; and the present-day methods of strip mining and land reclamation, and its use in generating electricity for the province of Saskatchewan. As Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, Canadians have the opportunity to tell stories of their past and present. Coal's historic and current importance in the Coronach area, and to the province of Saskatchewan, is an important story that deserves to be told. As the coal industry faces an uncertain future, so too do the residents of rural, southern Saskatchewan communities that rely economically on the Poplar River Power Station and Poplar River Mine.

Project partners for this initiative include: Poplar River Mine (Westmoreland Coal Company); Polar River Power Station (SaskPower); Town of Coronach; R.M. of Hart Butte No. 11; Coronach Economic Development Board; and Coronach Museum board.

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