



Sask. should look at nuclear power: Lingenfelter

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A former NDP cabinet minister is trying to refuel the nuclear debate in Saskatchewan.

Dwain Lingenfelter, who was once considered a possible successor to former Premier Roy Romanow before leaving government, has been talking about the merits of nuclear power lately.

It's a message he brought to business leaders in Saskatoon yesterday.

Lingenfelter's idea is to build a nuclear power plant in Saskatchewan for Alberta's massive oil sands.

"The opportunity is big. The only question is can we reach out and grab it?" Lingenfelter said in a speech to the North Saskatoon Business Association Tuesday.

The Saskatchewan NDP is officially opposed to nuclear power and it's rare someone from the party takes such a pro-nuclear stance.

But Lingenfelter, who went to work for a Calgary oil company after leaving the NDP government, insists this is not about politics.

"It's got to do with what's best for the economy and the environment at this moment," he said.

Although the current government favours uranium mining, it doesn't want nuclear waste or a power plant.

Lingenfelter said that's hypocritical. If the province will not move forward, he suggests, uranium mining should stop.

On that point, one anti-nuclear lobby group couldn't agree more.

"For both economics and social economics it's better not to mine," said Michael Poellet, who speaks for Saskatoon's Inter Church Uranium Committee.

Lingenfelter said it's important for people to speak up about the future of nuclear power in Saskatchewan, whether they support it, or not.