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[20529001]

TransCanada PipeLines Ltd. said it plans to shift its headquarters to Calgary , Alberta , from Toronto next year to cut costs and be closer to the upstream natural-gas industry .

[20529002]

Gerald Maier , president and chief executive officer of the natural-gas pipeline and marketing concern , said the company 's future growth is " increasingly linked " to decisions made by Calgary-based gas producers .

[20529004]

It 's a matter of being close to those suppliers ; many of those companies do n't know us as well as they should . "

[20529005]

TransCanada transports all gas that moves eastward from Alberta .

[20529007]

Walter Litvinchuk , vice president of Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. , a Calgary-based gas marketing concern , said the industry will welcome the move .

[20529009]

Since the cost of transporting gas is so important to producers ' ability to sell it , it helps to have input and access to transportation companies . "

[20529011]

All 700 Toronto-based employees will be offered positions in Calgary , the company said .

[20529012]

The company will save between C\$ 4 million and C\$ 6 million annually in office expenses and other administrative costs by moving to Calgary . Mr. Maier added .

[20529013]

Part of both the costs and the savings could be passed on to shippers on the TransCanada pipeline through tolls , which are based on the value of the pipeline system and the cost of operating it .

[20529014]

TransCanada is 49.1 % owned by Montreal-based holding company BCE Inc .