

## 24-year-old Calgarian named Everyday Political Citizen by Samara Canada

Nabaa Alam says he hopes he can inspire people to tackle problems in new and innovative ways

By Sarah Rieger, CBC News Posted: Dec 08, 2017 9:36 PM MT | Last Updated: Dec 12, 2017 1:58 PM MT



Nabaa Alam, a 24-year-old Calgarian, was named an Everyday Political Citizen by civic engagement non-profit Samara Canada on Dec. 7, 2017. (Samara Canada)

1268 shares



Facebook



Twitter



Reddit



Google



Share



Email

### Related Stories

- Here's where Alberta's carbon tax dollars are going
- Renewable energy jobs provide new opportunities for Alberta workers
- Alberta investing \$35M to help Indigenous communities address climate

A 24-year-old Calgarian has been named an Everyday Political Citizen by civic engagement non-profit Samara Canada on Thursday.

When Nabaa Alam was in his last year of chemical engineering studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, he was a student on a process design team working on a project sponsored by SBI BioEnergy that fractionated conversion products into renewable gasoline, diesel and bio-jet fuel.

SBI BioEnergy CEO Inder Pal Singh is the inventor and innovator of a process to convert canola oil into renewable gasoline, diesel and bio-jet fuel.

In March 2016, the Alberta government said it would give SBI BioEnergy \$10 million from the carbon levy for a \$20 million refinery that the company was building at the Edmonton Research Park.

#### ■ Carbon levy cash to finance biodiesel refinery in Edmonton

At the time, the government said the investment was expected to pay off by reducing carbon emissions by 112,000 tonnes by 2020 — the equivalent of taking 23,000 cars off the road for a year.

Shell purchased licensing rights for the biofuel plant in June 2017. The biofuel plant is currently designed to convert 10 million litres of canola oil each year, but Shell is hoping to do 240 million litres a year.

Alam currently works with Imperial Oil where he helps plants improve energy usage efficiency.

He told *The Homestretch* on Friday that his goal is to be a leader in the

### Stay Connected with CBC News



ADVERTISEMENT

### Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
5°C	0°C	7°C	1°C	-4°C

More Weather

### Latest Calgary News Headlines



- Calgary police morale slides to 'its lowest level' in 2017
- Alberta to launch court fight after Saskatchewan ignores licence plate ultimatum
- Cenovus Energy eyes 500 to 700 staff cuts as it adopts lower 2018 spending plan
- Alberta's wind farm deal scored 'pretty remarkable price,' energy researcher says
- Gas stations that hike prices overnight and lower them when competitors reopen outrage Airdrie residents

change

energy industry, and to find a balance between renewable energy and fossil fuels.

"I'm trying to improve the oil and gas industry and work with oil and gas companies to make sustainable ways of making energy affordable for everybody," he said.

He said he hopes he can inspire people to tackle problems in new and innovative ways.

"It's everybody's responsibility, I don't think you have to be an elected official," he said.

"It's everybody's right and responsibility to make an impact on the world."

Alam said his inspiration and drive to accomplish so much at a young age come from his parents, who grew up in Bangladesh before immigrating to Canada.

He was short-listed for the prize by Senator Douglas Black, one of the jurors, along with Margaret Atwood, Rick Mercer, Desmond Cole and Preston Manning.

- **MORE CALGARY NEWS | Alberta funds \$560,000 grant to tackle opioid crisis in Calgary's South Asian community**
- **MORE CALGARY NEWS | How a pair of Calgary whooping cranes are helping to save their species**

With files from *The Homestretch*

### Clarifications

- An earlier version of this story may have given the impression that Nabaa Alam invented a process to convert canola oil into renewable gasoline, diesel and bio-jet fuel. In fact, the process was invented by SBI BioEnergy CEO Inder Pal Singh. When Nabaa Alam was in his last year of chemical engineering studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, he was a student on a process design team working on a project sponsored by SBI BioEnergy that fractionated conversion products into renewable gasoline, diesel and bio-jet fuel.  
Dec 11, 2017 11:40 AM MT



[Report Typo or Error](#) | [Send Feedback](#)

### Top News Headlines



■ **'It broke me': Six months later, witnesses to London's Grenfell Tower fire still have flashbacks**

- **These are the things that Bank of Canada's Poloz says keep him awake at night** 285
- **Judge denies request for mistrial at Laura Babcock murder trial**
- **Grandparents being sued for child support: 'We love her to pieces. But she's not our child'**
- **4 dead in Hydro One helicopter crash near Tweed, Ont.**

### Most Viewed

- **Location, location, location: How your health-care coverage is linked to where you live in Canada**
- **Tiny bungalow in Alberta's Foothills costs \$2.9M but promises never interrupted mountain views**
- **Almost 34,000 positions unfilled in Alberta as job vacancy rate rises**
- **Derek Fildebrandt charged with illegal deer kill on private land**
- **Killers' and victim's families clash outside court as Calgary judge accepts manslaughter pleas**
- **Couple packs home with 90 Christmas trees adorned with thousands of ornaments**
- **Body found east of Calgary identified as Jammie Lee Miller**
- **Red Deer pair face nearly 200 charges after RCMP seize dozens of firearms**
- **Calgary beats heat record, warm temperatures expected to continue**

### Don't Miss

<b>NEW</b> Six months later, witnesses to London's Grenfell Tower fire still have flashbacks	These are the things that Bank of Canada's Poloz says keep him awake at night	Judge refuses Dellen Millard's request for mistrial at Laura Babcock murder trial	North Bay grandparents being sued for child support	<b>UPDATED</b> 4 dead in Hydro One helicopter crash near Tweed, Ont.	Canada's electronic spy agency and military get new orders to prevent sharing information gained by torture	<b>UPD</b> 16-ye Fond thoug die' b



### Explore CBC

- CBC Home
- TV
- Radio
- News
- Sports

[Music](#)  
[Life](#)  
[Arts](#)  
[Kids](#)  
[Local](#)  
[Documentaries](#)  
[Comedy](#)  
[Books](#)  
[Parents](#)  
[Indigenous](#)  
[Digital Archives](#)  
[Games](#)  
[Contests](#)  
[Site Map](#)

---

## Stay Connected

[Apps](#)  
[RSS](#)  
[Podcasts](#)  
[Newsletters & Alerts](#)

---

## Services and Information

[Corporate Info](#)  
[Public Appearances](#)  
[Commercial Services](#)  
[Reuse & Permission](#)  
[Terms of Use](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)  
[CBC Shop](#)  
[Help](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Jobs](#)  
[Doing Business with Us](#)  
[Renting Facilities](#)