

# Neighbour rants against rail yard

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A Strathcona County man vows to fight an industrial rail yard a stone's throw from his house.

John Kristensen, 59, this week fired off letters to Ottawa politicians, accusing CN and Cando Contracting Ltd., of breaking federal legislation and railway operating rules by going ahead with the project.

But those responsible for the project say they've done nothing wrong — and received all the necessary approvals.

Kristensen takes issue with the rail yard being built in the southwest corner of the county on CN land, about 160 metres from his house.

The land is being leased by Cando Contracting, and will be used to store empty petroleum cars for Imperial Oil.

Kristensen said local landowners weren't given sufficient notice of the project.

He argued the project is not



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Letters to Ottawa

a good fit for the area, noting there are two protected areas nearby.

Kristensen said there will be impacts on local drainage and farming activities.

He said he's also worried property values will tumble.

"The fact they just came in here with no notice, start building this thing ... it's

almost unheard of in Canada," said Kristensen.

"It just kinda blows us away, to be quite blunt."

Bob Feeney, director of business development with Cando Contracting, said all the rules were followed for the storage yard.

He said the land has been designated for railway use.

"We have all the permits in place and constructing is proceeding," he said.

"We're a Canadian-owned company and we're operating within the laws and following the regulations in place."

Feeney said he hopes construction will be complete by the end of the year.

Kristensen, who's lived in the same home since 1978, said he found out about the project in late May and construction began a month later.

He said he's written several federal cabinet ministers with his concerns.

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