



fall 2009

# explorer

## Uranium Exploration Company Keeps Close Ties with Athabasca Communities

Working in northern Saskatchewan, Hathor Exploration believes that maintaining close relationships with local communities and respecting the customs of the people is as essential as any business practice.

Hathor Exploration Limited is a junior uranium company focused on exploration projects in the Athabasca Basin. Hathor's main exploration properties are located in the eastern side of the Basin. The company has engaged Saskatchewan-based Team Drilling LP who provide surface and underground drilling services to companies throughout Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

"Demonstrating sensitivity to local issues and customs is essential to working in a new area", says Hathor President and CEO, Stephen Stanley.

"Local communities have rights, and these must be respected," Stanley says. "We have found that the best way to start any relationship is to listen."

"Hathor feels it is vital to allow time for all parties to fully understand the goals and the opportunities of each project," he says. "It is the best way to ensure that our ventures prove successful for all involved. The local communities have always treated Hathor fairly and with respect."

The approximately 40 local workers employed by Hathor represent the ideal labour pool, Stanley adds.

"Our workers rank among the best in the world. They are irreplaceable and we rely on them heavily. Because of the local involvement in our activities, the Athabasca communities have a genuine stake in the success of our company. Hathor has benefited tremendously from these relationships."

Team Drilling plays a key role in those relationships. "The company's professionalism is a major factor in Hathor's on-going success", Stanley notes.

"Their experience and expertise is on par or better than any company offering similar services in the world. They have consistently exceeded our expectations and provided Hathor with a wealth of knowledge that comes from being a highly motivated company with all of its roots firmly planted in the local community."

"Hathor has been a large supporter of ours, very large," says Team Drilling President and General Manager Robert Fleming.

"We definitely wanted to be involved with a company that had roots within the local communities," Stanley says. "The opportunity to have the people of the Athabasca region as stakeholders in our projects is the ideal scenario for Hathor."

Stanley adds that Hathor feels extremely fortunate to have the facilities

at Points North. The project's close proximity to this infrastructure hub, with its lodging, catering fueling and transportation, gives Hathor an advantage in the industry.

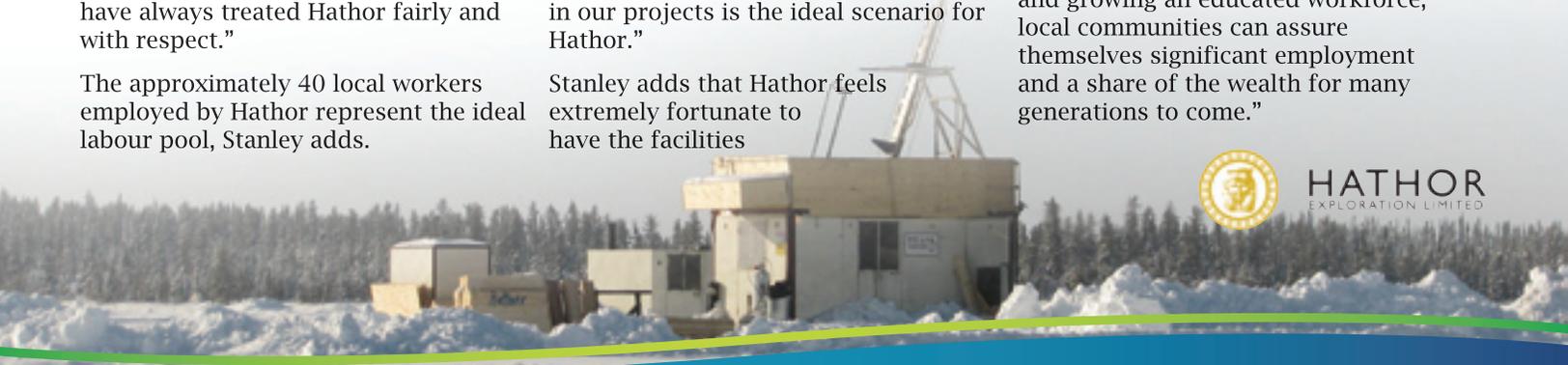
"We have found the services offered at Points North to be of a high quality and all run by professional and friendly people," Stanley says. "Arriving at Points North is a true pleasure."

Hathor sees the Athabasca region as an economic engine driving the growth of Saskatchewan.

"Already, the region is home to facilities that set the standard for the rest of the world," Stanley explains. "We see the area continuing to attract significant technologies and new industries."

"This is a very exciting time for the Athabasca Basin region and Hathor is extremely pleased to be a part of this story."

"The opportunities present in the Athabasca Basin are endless," Stanley continues. "As the current industries mature and new technologies arrive, it is vital that local communities ensure their participation through education and youth development. By maintaining and growing an educated workforce, local communities can assure themselves significant employment and a share of the wealth for many generations to come."



**HATHOR**  
EXPLORATION LIMITED



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## Message from ABDLP Board, Chair

On May 6th and 7th of this year, leaders, board of directors, educators, industry and Government, met in Points North, Saskatchewan to create the "Athabasca Employment Strategy." From this Strategy, we developed a goal; to be the best workforce in the

world. When employers are looking for employees, they will be asking for Athabasca Basin employees because they are the best! Some say this is an ambitious goal and I would agree, but it is achievable.



Now is the time for the people of the Athabasca Basin to focus on education. The school systems must continue to challenge students to be their best, and we as parents must play our important role, as we all begin our campaign towards the best education.

We will continue our momentum of seeing a Training Centre in the Athabasca Basin, and let's ensure that we capitalize on all of the training opportunities that are available. Mentorship, apprenticeship, scholarships, and career planning need to be increased.

Lately I've had the opportunity to work along side some great young tradesmen from the Athabasca Basin. Their dedication to hard work and their desire to learn more is impressive. With the technology of today's world there is so much to learn. When we are out there working, we must remember that we are representatives of the Athabasca Basin and we are carrying our children's future in our hands.

Let's begin our journey to becoming the "Best Workforce in the World."

**Glen Strong**  
ABDLP, Chairman

## Terri Daniels - A Legacy in the Making

When you meet Terri Daniels, there is no escaping her genuine and infectious personality. After over thirty years of working within the Athabasca communities, she remains as dedicated and involved as ever. Terri has been on countless committees, sat on numerous boards, and is currently involved with the Athabasca Working Group and the Athabasca Land Use Planning. She is also on her second term as a board member of the Northern Municipal Trust Account... a Minister appointed position.

Terri's involvement with the Athabasca communities of Saskatchewan started in 1974 when she was elected to the Local Advisory Council and later began working for the Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake. She stayed involved with the community through its change to a Northern Hamlet, and has served as chair since 1992. Between 1979 and 1982 Terri was an employment counselor for North Sask Native Outreach and worked with the Athabasca Communities. In 1992 Terri began working for Hatchet Lake Education which had just begun to set up their own program: "There were only two of us working to set up the program and I felt it was a success." She stayed on with the Hatchet Lake Band until 2000.

Her next step would bring Terri to where she is today. In 1999 she started working with Athabasca Economic Development and Training Corporation to assist Geoff Gay who was brought into the organization the year prior.

Today Terri works as Communications Coordinator for the Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership. Her finger stays right on the pulse of the Athabasca region and she continues her heavy involvement in the communities... and it has not gone unnoticed. She has received the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial medal for her regional and community work through the years.



Terri Daniels is a captivating storyteller, never afraid to tell it like it is. One consistent focus to her stories and conversations has been the road to the community. "I've been wishing for this road for over 30 years" Terri says of the Wollaston Road. "It's finally getting started...not fast enough". Regarding the Athabasca Seasonal Road, she feels lifted by the positivity in people's voices when they talk about driving to Points North in 3 or 4 hours today, where in the past this journey would have taken a full day.

Terri loves having the wilderness just outside her door: "I don't have to go very far to get out of town", she says. "Everyone needs that. When I'm in the wilderness, I just like to sit. In the fall, I love to be outside at night listening to the moose calling. I've always been an outdoors person; fishing, hunting... my dad never considered me much of a girl."

Terri considers employment training the key ingredient for the future of the Athabasca. "There has to be something beyond graduation from grade 12. Very few graduates head south to use what they have and are not ready for the outside world. This has to change."

"I want to see the communities go forward and not let things drag them down. I would like to see discouragement change to positive attitudes. This is my home and I wish good things for the future."

Terri says the best part about her current position as Communications Coordinator is working with people and staying on top of things: "I get to stay connected with all sorts of interesting people".

There is no doubt that when Terri Daniels decides to tell everyone to "get lost", as she says with a smile... she will have left behind one incredible legacy.

## Responding to Action

*An interview with Megan Anderson, Athabasca Basin Security (Mosaic K1 and K2 Mines, Esterhazy)*

Just west of the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border lies the town of Esterhazy. This prospering industrial and agricultural community of nearly 2,500 people is home to the Mosaic Company's Potash K1 and K2 mines, located just outside of town. The ore deposits here are believed to be one of the richest on the earth and the potash that is mined is used primarily in fertilizer around the world.

Athabasca Basin Security provides the physical security services to Mosaic K1 and K2 sites and Site Supervisor, Megan Anderson has been there since the contract began in 2007. "I really enjoy managing and working with the staff here, and I feel we have great communication and a strong relationship with Mosaic", says Megan. "I am surrounded by great people".

One of Athabasca Basin Security's highest priorities is responding to emergencies for the sick and injured. Megan is an EMT (emergency medical technician) and it gives her a great sense of well being to be able to respond to these emergencies with qualified response and a comforting manner.

There has been a lot of expansion at Mosaic K1 and K2 and this will continue on for at least the next five years. "When we first started with Mosaic, we had only two shifts; one day and one night shift with a total of four full time employees. We are now up to 11 full time positions with 24 hour coverage" says Megan.

Mosaic Company has requested internationally that the company's security policies and procedures be tightened up. At Esterhazy, Mosaic executives came to their local Athabasca Basin Security staff for suggestions. Upon presenting them with recommendations, Mosaic was impressed, and is now in the process

of implementing several of the changes at the Esterhazy sites.

Megan grew up in many places across Canada due to her dad working for the Government and as a school teacher. She came to Esterhazy for a holiday in 1977, met her husband to be, and has called it home ever since. "Esterhazy provides great country living for me and my husband. It is a pleasant place to live and provides a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. Esterhazy is a beautiful place and the boost that Mosaic gives to the economy helps keep it viable." Megan enjoys spending time on her ranch and continues to volunteer for Esterhazy's Emergency Response team.



## CEO's Message

I am very pleased to have recently extended my contract with Athabasca Basin Development LP to the year 2013. When I started as the first employee for the Athabasca group of companies in 1998 I had heard the stereotypes about First Nation and aboriginal organizations, and the lack of stability. My experience has been quite the opposite. The stability in our organization is the main reason why there was no hesitancy in signing to another long-term contract with ABDLP.

The strength in the organization starts with our Board of Directors, and continues through our company and partnerships.

If one looks at our board, you will see a makeup that the big companies in corporate Canada are striving to achieve. Our board is young, represents both genders equally, and has a strong belief in social responsibility

- balanced with profitability. The board of directors is made up of strong aboriginal representation (currently at 100%). The other relevant quality of our organization and board is consistency. Our chair has been in the position since the company's inception, and no less than 4 others have 10 years of experience or more with the board. The consistency on the board has ensured the partnership's progression each and every year.

If one looks at the managers of ABDLP, you will see diversity. I am very pleased to see that Terri Daniels is being highlighted in this newsletter. For me, Terri symbolizes what we would want from any employee: Consistency, Focus, and to the Point. As the company's second employee, she is still going strong and I am pleased she is getting the recognition she deserves.

If one looks at our various partnerships, you will see managers and employees with long, stable tenures, and we appreciate their commitment. It is important to our customers and industry that familiar faces exist, and this quality certainly proves that ABDLP is building a business for the long-term.

I thoroughly enjoy the work that we do, the challenges we face, and the people I work with. I look forward to entering my 40's with Athabasca Basin Development LP. There is lots of work to do!

**Geoff Gay**  
ABDLP CEO





## The Wollaston Road Begins

The road to Wollaston is the first new access road being built to “all season grade” in decades. Points Athabasca Contracting Limited Partnership was awarded the initial contract from Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure to complete the first 10 kilometers of a 110km road. The company began mobilizing at the end of July.

This project is very significant to the company; Manager, Brad Darbyshire explains why: “Points Athabasca Contracting was created to empower the region and its people to participate and benefit from the economic activity of projects such as this. Not only will this road provide employment, business opportunities, and

all season access to the rest of the province; it will build pride, capacity, and a sense of equality with the rest of society. Points Athabasca’s participation ensures the needs of the region, project, and provincial Government are met.”

As in many past projects, Points Athabasca is working with the community by partnering with Northern Career Quest to provide continued training for northern personnel. “We expect that most of the operators and all of the labourers will come from Wollaston Lake, and the foremen and project coordinators to be northern” says John Scarfe, Points Athabasca Operations Manager.

## Building the Ice Roads from Fond du Lac to Uranium City



Raymond Fern has been building the ice roads of the Athabasca for the past 20 years. Based out of Fond du Lac, Raymond has seen it all during this time and continues to learn more every year.

In addition to his contract with Athabasca Basin Road Services for the ice road from Fond du Lac to Uranium City, Raymond’s company - Sab’s Contracting also maintains the runway at the Fond du Lac airport. With this additional work, the business stays busy year round with seven employees during the winter season and two or three during the summer. “I stay very

busy, but I enjoy the work”, says Raymond.

Raymond and Sab’s Contracting are into their third year with Athabasca Basin Road Services and Raymond says “the relationship is good....we get along because we work good together”. Athabasca Basin Road Services Manager, Bart Smith, feels the same about the relationship. “We find Raymond and his company to be very proactive and they provide good ideas and solutions when required. They are continuously developing and looking to the future so that they are always prepared.”

## Athabasca Happenings

### #905 Seasonal Road Improvements

This August, Athabasca Basin Road Services completed various upgrades to the #905 Seasonal Road. Graveling was completed from Points North for 30km, and also at the north end of the road to Cree River Bridge. Upon completion, 41.3% of the road was gravelled. Funds were also used on the middle section of the road and included cutting hills, padding, and filling soft spots. By the end of the project, approximately 50% of the road will be gravelled. Athabasca Basin Road Services has been working to develop local contractors so that there is the necessary experience to draw on.

In the past three years, the #905 has been greatly improved. The drive from Points North to Stony Rapids is a driving distance of 187kms and the driving time has been brought down from 10 to 12 hours to about 4.

### ABDLP Explorers Fight Back Against Cancer

ABDLP entered a team in the Prince Albert Relay For Life, held on May 29, 2009. The Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life is more than just a fundraiser, it’s an opportunity to fight back in the hope of finding a cure.

The ABDLP Explorers team, made up of staff and board members, had at least two people walking the track at all times from 7PM to 7AM completing a distance of approximately 120 kilometers. “It was overwhelming to see the amount of cancer survivors that exist, even in a small place like Prince Albert”, said team member Geoff Gay.

Congratulations to the ABDLP team in their efforts to fight against cancer.

### New Division Launched

Athabasca Human Capital Solutions is a new division of ABDLP. The company will take on more responsibility in the management of internal human resources. In addition, Athabasca Human Capital will work with government funding partners to manage special training projects and source wage subsidies, while also marketing its HR Solutions to external clients. Athabasca Human Capital’s HR Solutions include online e-learning and up-skilling, psychometric assessment services, permanent placement services, and professional development programs.



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