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## Employee Profile: Christopher Catholic



Christopher Catholic, Site Security Supervisor, Athabasca Basin Security. Photo provided by Christopher Catholic.

Keeping people and property safe and secure is an important part of any industrial site, and security personnel are often the first people met by visitors. Working at a remote mine site, such as Cigar Lake Mine in Northern Saskatchewan, adds a unique aspect to this role. Beyond the friendly wave at the front gate (or not so friendly, depending on your purpose at the site), and the marked mobile patrol that provides a highly visible deterrent, there are people working hard behind the scenes that helps keep a site secure and running smoothly. One of these people is Christopher Catholic, a Site Security Supervisor from Black Lake.

Christopher has spent his entire life living in Black Lake, and has many friends and family who live there. "The best part of living in Black Lake is the people," he says, "It's a small community, but there's so much family, cousins, people you grew up with." Being able to live in his home community is very important to Christopher. Through his position with Athabasca Basin Security, Christopher has found a rewarding, long-term career that allows him to support his family and participate in his community and in traditional activities. "I love spending time with my girlfriend Joanne and my two daughters Cheyenne and Joanna," he says, "and also hunting and fishing with my

buddies is fun and helps save lots of money, which is important because groceries are so expensive here. I work one and one (one week in and one week out) and work is close to home, so I have time for all that and can support my family too."

For a man living in a small remote community, Christopher has a job that's fairly close to home. A twenty-minute drive takes him to Stony Rapids, and from there, a half hour flight takes him to Cigar Lake, where Christopher stays at a camp for the weeks that he is working. "It's really close, and the camp has everything you need," he says, "and the week goes by quick. But during my weeks off, spending time with my girlfriend and my girls, my week goes by even quicker!"

Christopher started with Athabasca Basin Security back in 2009 as a casual employee at McClean Lake. With his hard work ethic, he was quickly moved to a full time position at Cigar Lake in 2010, and has been supervising for the past three years. "I review what the other guards do," he says of his current role, "I oversee my guards, ensure they are doing their jobs properly and following procedures, correcting what they do, teaching them."

Looking into the future, Christopher plans to stay with Athabasca Basin Security. "The

company I work for is great," he says, "I plan to do the best I can, and keep working for this company for a long time." He would also recommend his career path to others. Unlike many security companies, Athabasca Basin Security offers benefits and pension plans to security officers, as well as ongoing training to help employees advance, which has led to the company having many long term employees in an industry known for its high turnover. "I really want to encourage others in the region to take courses like WHMIS, First Aid, Security and your drivers licence, and then apply for a job here," he says. "We try to look for people from the region and we do work in the region. There's often job openings in casual; that's how I started. But it's a great start."

Since 2002, Athabasca Basin Security has provided the Canadian mining industry's top companies with a full range of industrial security services in some of the country's most remote areas. For more information, visit [www.basinsecurity.com](http://www.basinsecurity.com)

# Message from the CEO and Board Chair



Geoff Gay, CEO and Anne Robillard, Board Chair

As leaders, we always strive for growth of our company. We want to see revenues climb year after year, number of employees increasing, profits growing. There are many things that influence the performance of a company, and some are beyond our direct control. We adapt to changing conditions as needed to continue growing a strong and stable company for our shareholders.

So even though the mining construction has slowed across the province, we are excited about where our company is at and what we have achieved this past year. Progress is still being made and our company today is stronger than it's ever been.

Our investments have demonstrated some very positive momentum, innovation and ability to adapt this year. The management teams are looking at new ideas, new directions, and are spending time planning for the future. In addition to West Wind expanding its operations, Flyer Electric opening a second office, and Athabasca Basin Security and Double Diamond creating new product lines, Athabasca Basin Development continues to look at new investment opportunities and we are working on some potential investment announcements for the near future. Stay tuned to our Facebook, Twitter, and email for up to date news in these areas.

There are also significant and exciting activities happening in the Athabasca region. The Ya'thi Néné collaboration agreement, the Tazi Twé Hydroelectric Project, the Gunnar Cleanup, the Northern Food Subsidy, the Six Rivers fund, and the increased public awareness of the road issues in the region are just a few of the activities that have had developments in the past few months. These activities and many others in the region

will bring opportunities for our investments and the people in the Athabasca communities.

When Athabasca Basin Development first began, the vision of the leadership in the communities was to build long lasting wealth for the communities. And while mining construction slowed significantly last year, our company continues to be profitable. Even in a more challenging year, our investment strategy continues to generate profits, we have a strong balance sheet, and we continue to pay dividends for the Athabasca communities that they can rely on in good years and in bad.

Knowing we are profitable even in a more challenging year shows that our company is strong and will be here for the long haul. By staying true to the original unity and vision of the Athabasca leadership, we strengthen our ability to give back to our shareholder communities. Through the pillars of building wealth, community distributions, building a reputation, building capacity and economic development, our donations program, as well as the continued support of our partners, we will continue to see success and make an impact into the future.

## Huawei, SaskTel Visit Black Lake Cell Tower



At the site of the Black Lake Cell tower, August 10, 2016. Left to right: Terri-Lynn Beavereye, Band Manager, Black Lake; Kristy Jackson, Director of Marketing & Communications, ABD; Todd Atamanchuk, Sales Director, Huawei Canada; Alain Foster, CFO, Huawei Canada; Oneill Gladue, Account Rep, SaskTel; Joe Renie, Councillor, Black Lake; Scott Bradley, VP Corporate Affairs, Huawei Canada; Claudia Ju, Corporate Communications, Huawei China; Greg Meister, VP Business Sales, SaskTel; John Toutsaint, Councillor, Black Lake; Delbert Bouvier, Councillor, Black Lake; Trevor Boneleye, Councillor, Black Lake.

On August 10, representatives from Huawei Canada, SaskTel, and Athabasca Basin Development visited the Black Lake cell tower site and spent the day learning about the impact the cell towers have had on the community. Reports from local people have

so far been very positive, and SaskTel produced an excellent video with interviews with customers in the Athabasca region about the impact these towers have had – visit our facebook page [www.facebook.com/AthabascaBasin](http://www.facebook.com/AthabascaBasin) to watch the video.

In 2013, Huawei Canada and Athabasca Basin Development partnered with SaskTel to build four cell towers in the Athabasca Region; the total cost for this project was \$6M and Huawei Canada provided \$385,000 in funding and telecommunications equipment and Athabasca Basin Development donated \$249,000. The Black Lake cell tower was the last of the four to be completed and it became operational in December 2015.



Claudia Ju, Huawei China, participate in a drum ceremony with Joe Renie, John Toutsaint and Delbert Bouvier from Black Lake.

# Giving Back

“Building a Future Through Investment” is accomplished through the pillars of building wealth for the Athabasca communities, donations, community distributions, building a reputation, and building capacity. The key to making all benefits possible is in building wealth for the communities; without this foundation, the other pillars would not be possible.

Here are a few recent examples of the ways Athabasca Basin Development and its investments give back:

## Star-Powered Kids on Ice

Athabasca Basin Development is proud to be a sponsor for Star-Powered Kids on Ice. On Monday, July 18, six kids from the Athabasca communities were at Schroh Arena in Saskatoon, to participate with about 30 other kids, for an on-ice camp with pro hockey stars Willie Desjardins, Bryan Trottier, Curtis Leschyshyn, Taylor Leier, Cameron Hebig, Lindon Vey, and Nelson Nogier. This event was held in conjunction with Driving Fore Prostate presented by Athabasca Basin Security to benefit St Paul’s Hospital Foundation, which raised \$128,296 in support of urology health. Thanks to sponsors Cameco, The Park Town Hotel, St Paul’s Hospital Foundation, West Wind Aviation, Saskatoon Blades Hockey, and presenting sponsor Athabasca Basin Security for making this event a reality!



Willie Desjardins, coach of the Vancouver Canucks (right), helps a young boy with his helmet at the Kids on Ice event in July.

## Connected North

On April 21, 2016, the Connected North program officially launched in Saskatchewan at Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake.

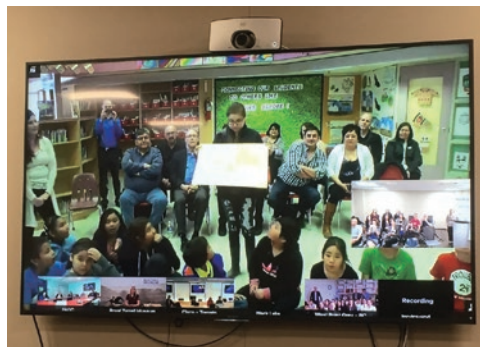
Connected North delivers immersive and interactive virtual education and digital healthcare services to remove communities through high-definition two-way video communication and collaboration technology. The aim of the program is to offer a fresh approach to student engagement, allowing teachers and administrators to expose their students to people, experiences, and ideas from other locations they may not otherwise have access to because of their remote location, and deliver two-way student exchanges using a high quality video experience.

The launch event included a live, virtual visit to the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, Alberta and was followed by an interactive literacy exploration between Father Porte Memorial Dene School and West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver. What was especially evident at the launch was the pride the Black Lake students had in sharing some of their art, traditions and way of life with students in Vancouver.

Connected North originally began with one school in Iqaluit in 2013 and has since grown to include 15 schools, with Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake being the first in Saskatchewan.

Over the 2015-2016 school year, Father Porte Memorial Dene School participated in 26 live and interactive Connected North sessions. They met musicians, physicians, puppeteers, scientists, museums and indigenous role models, to name just a few. The program will continue for the 2016-2017 school year.

Athabasca Basin Development is a proud supporter of Connected North. We would also like to thank the many partners that came together to make this happen: Cisco Canada, TakingItGlobal, SaskTel, PAGC Grand Council, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Father Porte Memorial Dene School, Cameco, AREVA Resources, and West Wind Aviation. We are proud to help connect the teachers and students in Black Lake to new resources to make the classroom more engaging.



Belinda Robillard, Black Lake shares her artwork with groups in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Vancouver, and Calgary during the connected north launch in April.



Kids in Father Porte Memorial Dene School watch an interactive presentation given in Vancouver.



The kids at Father Porte Memorial Dene School share some of their culture with kids in Vancouver.

## Hands On Career Fair

Athabasca Basin Development and Points North were proud sponsors of this year’s annual Northern Hands-On Career Fair. From May 17-19, over 180 students from high schools in Wollaston Lake, Black Lake, and Fond du Lac participated in the career fair and hands-on activities. The unique hands-on activities gave students a chance to experience the things people do on the job. They may learn how to measure and cut PVC pipe like a plumber, operate heavy equipment using a simulator, or learn how to terminate computer cable, among other interesting activities. Athabasca Basin Security and Points Athabasca also attended and presented at this year’s fair.

# Arctic Beverages Provides Drinking Water to Red Cross in Emergencies



Arctic Beverages stocks up on extra water in its Winnipeg warehouse. Photo provided by Arctic Beverages.

Arctic Beverages has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross to provide drinking water to nearby communities in crisis.

According to Sean Post, CEO of Arctic Beverages, the relationship has been very positive and Harold Bonazew, Arctic Beverages General Manager and Del Hutlet, Product Coordinator have played key roles to ensure product is not only available to be shipped immediately, but also work with Arctic's suppliers to handle the sudden demand increase.

"About a year ago, Red Cross contacted us to see if we could supply water at short notice for disaster or emergencies in the North," says Bonazew. "We

started by simply storing water for them and since that time, we have provided water for emergency situations in three Northern Manitoba communities."

When a state of emergency has been declared and the Canadian Red Cross is asked to assist, they can call upon Arctic to provide Aquafina bottled water on short notice. The community of Shamattawa is a recent example. "In late May of this year, the remote community of Shamattawa, Manitoba had a compromised water system that necessitated airlifting all drinking water to the community," says Bonazew. "In total, ten trailer loads with 300 pallets, over 40,000 L, of Aquafina water was delivered by Arctic to the Canadian Red Cross so that the residents of Shamattawa had a source of safe drinking water."

Because emergencies can occur with little notice, Arctic Beverages has increased its inventory levels of Aquafina to ensure the Canadian Red Cross has access to safe, secure drinking water on a moment's notice. "We have a stockpile in Winnipeg at all times," says Bonazew, "We also stock up extra every April and May for the forest fire season. Tornadoes, forest fires, water system problems – basically, any situation where the Red Cross is involved nearby, we are ready to help."

For more information about the Canadian Red Cross, or to donate, please visit [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

# About Athabasca Basin Development

Athabasca Basin Development is an investment company committed to building and investing in successful businesses. Investments include partial or complete ownership in construction, industrial security, electrical, diamond drilling, logistics, road maintenance, aviation and more. The company is owned by the seven communities in Northern Saskatchewan's Athabasca region.

**Watch for our next newsletter Spring 2017.**

If you would like to be included in our newsletter distribution, or you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send your name and contact information to [newsletter@athabascabasin.ca](mailto:newsletter@athabascabasin.ca)

[athabascabasin.ca](http://athabascabasin.ca)

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## ABS Security Guard Recognized for Bravery in Wolf Attack

A long-serving Athabasca Basin Security guard has recently been recognized by the company for an exceptional act of bravery while on duty.

On August 29, a contractor at Cigar Lake Mine was mauled as a result of an unprovoked wolf attack. The injured contractor received immediate medical attention from a security guard who interrupted the attack and scared the wolf away. The contractor was airlifted to Saskatoon where he was treated for his injuries. This is the first time a wolf attack has happened at the Cigar Lake site.

“Our employee has asked to remain anonymous, and we respect that,” says Ron Hyggen, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security. “But we are incredibly proud and wanted to recognize her for her act of bravery, which was well above the call of duty.”

At the time of this writing, the contractor who was attacked was in good spirits and is expected to make a full recovery.

## ABS Long Service Awards

### Congratulations to Athabasca Basin Security Long Service Award recipients:

#### 10 Year Awards

- Sandy McCallum – Site Supervisor, Rabbit Lake
- Jean Tsannie – Janitor, McClean Lake
- Corinne Hugarth – Janitor, McClean Lake
- Kendra Vedress, Executive Assistant, Head Office
- Catherine Joseyounen, Industrial Security Officer, Cigar Lake

#### 5 Year Awards

- Dallas Hunter – Industrial Security Supervisor, Jansen
- Sascha Sasbrink-Harkema – Director of Business Development, Head Office
- Corinne Greyeyes – Office Manager, Head Office



Eleanor Uchacz presenting Dallas Hunter from BHP Jansen with her five-year award.

## News in Brief

Congratulations to Flyer Electric for being recognized by K+S for going above and beyond for safety. In March, K+S sent out a bulletin recognizing Flyer, stating that without exception, every audit has scored 100%. Thanks to Flyer employees Brett Hope, Kris Ewen, Matt Braaten, Adam Tourad, Matt Langan, and Norlan Larsen for consistently demonstrating a positive safety culture, and to Crew Supervisor Ryan Fisher for leading the team for the past few years.

We'd like to recognize those who helped out our neighbours in Fort McMurray this spring. West Wind Aviation provided flights to assist relief efforts and Points Athabasca covered a local school's grad costs after the students donated to help relief efforts. Check out our facebook page for more information on these stories.

Congratulations to West Wind Aviation for making SaskBusiness Magazine's Top 100 Saskatchewan companies list this year!

This photo was taken at Stony Rapids this summer. There is some amazing scenery in the Athabasca region!



## How is Athabasca Basin Development Structured?

Athabasca Basin Development is a limited partnership owned by the seven communities in the Athabasca region. The communities have ownership through the following entities:

- Hatchet Lake Development LP – 23 Units
- Black Lake Venture LP – 23 Units
- Fond du Lac First Nation LP – 23 Units
- Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids – 12 Units
- Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake – 6 Units
- Northern Settlement of Uranium City – 6 Units
- Northern Settlement of Camsell Portage – 6 Units
- Athabasca Basin Development Corporation – 1 Unit

The company is entirely governed by representatives from the Athabasca communities. Each of the communities appoints a representative to sit on the board. Board members are:

- Anne Robillard, Chair, Hatchet Lake appointee since 1999
- Earl Lidguerre, Fond du Lac appointee since 2011

- Rick Robillard, Black Lake appointee since 2013
- Daniel Powder, Stony Rapids appointee since 2015
- Dean Classen, Uranium City appointee since 2010

Unit Holder Representatives, who are non-voting members that alternate with the Uranium City appointee for a voting spot on the board every year, are:

- Terri Daniels, Wollaston Lake appointee since 2012
- Joyce Powder, Camsell Portage appointee since 2012

Athabasca Basin Development has six employees:

- Geoff Gay, CEO
- Kristine McWilliam, Controller
- Shauna Loewen, Business Development
- Kristy Jackson, Director of Marketing & Communications
- Treena Fosseneuve, Office Administrator
- Jeanette Daniels, Administrative Assistant



The Athabasca Basin Development Board and staff. Pictured left to right: Treena Fosseneuve, Rick Robillard, Kristine McWilliam, Earl Lidguerre, Terri Daniels, Joyce Powder, Geoff Gay, Shauna Loewen, Anne Robillard, Dean Classen, Kristy Jackson, Daniel Powder. Missing: Jeannette Daniels.