



winter 2012

# explorer

## Points Athabasca Receives ABEX Award

After years of dedication to building a strong company with an Aboriginal workforce, Points Athabasca has been recognized for their efforts. In November 2011 at the Chamber of Commerce ABEX Award Gala, Points Athabasca was the proud recipient of the ABEX Aboriginal Business Partnership Award. This award is presented to a business that has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the growth of Aboriginal business in Saskatchewan.

Points Athabasca is dedicated to creating career opportunities and futures for their employees. They sponsor training initiatives, attend career fairs, and work towards continually growing and improving their business.

"We are very pleased to be part of an exciting economy and province," says Brad Darbyshire, Manager of Points Athabasca. "Saskatchewan is a national powerhouse with

a growing and vibrant business community that fully understands the importance of engaging its Aboriginal community. It is great to see such positive progress and we are looking forward to continued success in our business and the provincial growth. Saskatchewan is truly a great place to be!"

The company recognizes that they did not win this award on their own, and express thanks to their clients: Cameco, Crown Corporations, Areva and Golden Band Resources; their shareholders: Graham Group Ltd and ABDLP; the communities in which they work, and the members of those communities.

Points Athabasca Contracting provides general contracting in the areas of industrial, commercial, skilled workforce supply, concrete products and sales, and road building and maintenance.



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## Message from ABDLP Board Chair

Constructing an all-weather transportation infrastructure to the Athabasca Basin is a goal that remains vitally important to the region. While the project has been subject to slow momentum, ABDLP continues to capitalize on the opportunities that are available. We're continuing to build ice roads in the

North, and though dealing with extreme weather conditions makes this task challenging at times, our focus in the coming months will be on completing the ice road and continuing to improve our safety practices. We are always striving to make our work sites as safe as possible, to ensure the operators who work on the ice road, and all ABDLP employees, are able to return safely to their families.

Our communities continue to be strong and proud, moving towards a brighter future, and I believe that same spirit is growing in ABDLP. Positive business moves and growth in our existing businesses point to a future filled with opportunities. Everyone – business leaders, our partners, our employees and their families – has a role to play in building that future. I look forward to continuing our work together in this journey.

Anne Robillard, ABDLP Chair



## Athabasca Basin Security Signs Agreement with George Gordon First Nation



This fall, Athabasca Basin Security CEO Ron Hyggen Jr. signed an agreement with Chief Glen Pratt and the George Gordon First Nation and George Gordon Security Inc. that increases employment and training opportunities for members of the First Nation, and provides a pool of local employees for Athabasca Basin Security.

“We are excited to be partnering with such a proud member of the Saskatchewan First Nation community,” says Ron Hyggen Jr, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security. “This agreement will not only strengthen our ability to attract, train and retain staff from the local area as we provide top notch service for BHP Billiton and SNC Lavalin, but it

also provides us with a local resource that is able to offer support for our employees when they are not at work. It's definitely a win-win, and I look forward to continuing our partnership with George Gordon in the future.”

Athabasca Basin Security has been assisting George Gordon Security Inc. in the process of becoming certified to deliver the Saskatchewan Justice course required to work in the security industry. Once complete, George Gordon Security Inc will take on a more active role in providing training and in the overall hiring process.

“This agreement will allow for financial contributions to George Gordon First Nation as well as meaningful employment and training opportunities for our band members,” says Chief Glen Pratt, Chief of George Gordon First Nation. “We are proud to be partnering with a growing First Nations company to benefit our band members and provide a high level of security service.”

Many of Athabasca Basin Security's new employees are referred by George Gordon Security Inc. and are from the local area. George Gordon Security Inc began operation in August 2008, providing services for Enbridge Pipeline Construction and in the Estevan area. George Gordon First Nation is representative of the strong voices within the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council.

## ABDLP Proud to Support the Cameco-MBC Radiothon for New Children's Hospital

On Friday, November 25, the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) partnered with Cameco Corporation and the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan to host a radiothon with a goal of raising money for the new Saskatchewan Children's Hospital. The total amount raised shattered previous MBC radiothon records, with nearly every northern community and many businesses getting involved to donate a total of \$310,000. With Cameco Corporation's generous matching donation, a grand total of over \$625,000 will go towards a new Children's Hospital to serve all people of Saskatchewan.

“We are proud to have supported Cameco and MBC in their efforts to raise funds for this vital initiative,” says Anne

Robillard, Board Chair for Athabasca Basin Development.

“This hospital will benefit all people in Saskatchewan, including our shareholders in the seven communities within the Athabasca region, by taking care of our most precious resource: our children. I am extremely proud that Northern Saskatchewan residents worked together with Cameco and MBC to raise this kind of money for a new Children's Hospital, and I am honoured that we were able to play a part in it.”

Athabasca Basin Development (ABDLP) and several of its companies, including Points Athabasca, Team Drilling, and Flyer Electric, donated a total of \$14,000 to the radiothon.

# Athabasca Basin Road Services Employs Northern Workers for SaskPower Brush Clearing Contract

Athabasca Basin Road Services is working on a contract with SaskPower, clearing vegetation from around powerlines in the Athabasca area that deliver electricity to some Northern Saskatchewan communities. Facing rough terrain and winter conditions, employees of the locally owned company removed trees, brush, and plants from an area nearly 40km long and, at times, 35m wide. And it is all done by hand.

“There is lot of debris to cut down and move to a safe area,” says Bart Smith, Manager of Athabasca Basin Road Services. “I’m very proud of the job our employees are doing to help SaskPower ensure the Northern communities continue to receive uninterrupted power service.”

If left unchecked, vegetation can disrupt the power supply. Trees can sometimes grow directly into a power line and cause power outages.

In most of the province, easy access to the areas allows vegetation to be cleared by heavy equipment. But in the rough, remote terrain in the North, these areas can’t be accessed by equipment and need to be cleared manually. This means getting a team of people to cut down all the brush and move it by hand.

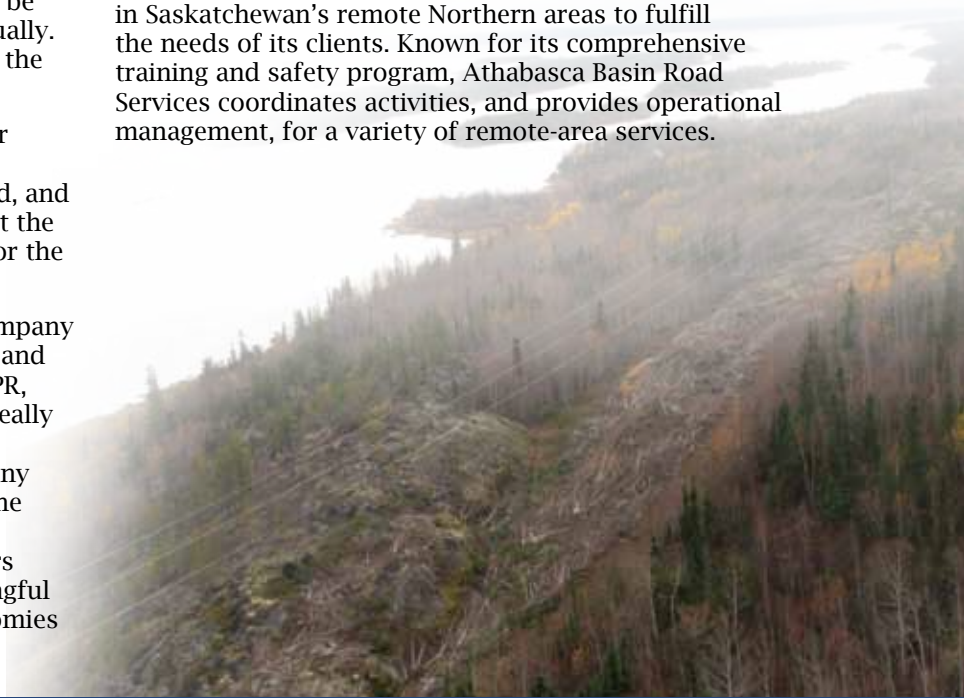
The terrain can be very difficult at times, with winter causing slippery conditions that can add to the difficulties. Water and rocky ground must be crossed, and cliffs that have 30m drops need to be climbed, to get the job done. Often, workers will live in nearby camps for the weeks until a job is completed.

Training is key to the success of the project. The company funded training for 22 residents from Uranium City and Fond du Lac, which included safety, First Aid and CPR, and a certified chainsaw operating course. “What’s really exciting about this project is that we are employing people from the local area,” says Smith. “The company provides employees with the same training course the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment uses to train on proper chainsaw use. This gives Northern workers transferable skills that will help them obtain meaningful employment. We are also supporting the local economies

by purchasing goods and services locally whenever possible. These initiatives are part of our commitment to supporting Northern communities.”

“It’s been exceptional working with SaskPower,” says Smith. “SaskPower is demonstrating their commitment to working with Northern residents through projects like this one. Their commitment really aligns with the overall mandate of our company, so it’s a natural fit. I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish through this partnership, and I look forward to continuing with new projects in the future.”

Athabasca Basin Road Services began as a road maintenance company in 1999. Currently, the company maintains over 200km of seasonal roads from Points North to Stony Rapids/Black Lake, the overland/ice road from Stony Rapids to Fond du Lac, and a 100km ice road from Fond du Lac to Uranium City. The company has expanded its services, and has grown to become a specialist in working with local communities in Saskatchewan’s remote Northern areas to fulfill the needs of its clients. Known for its comprehensive training and safety program, Athabasca Basin Road Services coordinates activities, and provides operational management, for a variety of remote-area services.



## Message from the CEO

Athabasca Basin Development has achieved remarkable success in the short time we have existed. Our companies have received national recognition in the prospecting and mining industry, and recently added another award for business excellence. Our companies continue to thrive and grow and are a significant employer in this province and beyond.

Business activity seems to be increasing and that can only be

positive news for employment, training, and development in the Athabasca region. There are many opportunities in the region that exist for investment, particularly in transportation sector. In fact, we are currently exploring an exciting opportunity, one that will grow our company even further.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our success: our customers, our

management, and our employees; the institutions, Government, programs and people who believe in the Athabasca. Without all of you, we would not be where we are today. It is with this continued support and investment from our partners that we will see more success into the future.

Geoff Gay, CEO



## Athabasca Basin Security Honours 5-Year Employees

In 2011, Athabasca Basin Security proudly presented 5-year service awards to eight employees: Coreen Hugarth, Jean Tsannie, Terry Toutsaint, Catherine Roberts, Lindsey Morin, Gretta Mercredi, Kendra Senko and Ron Hyggen Sr. Members of the management team visited with each award winner and presented them with a 5-year service plaque and a gift to honour their years of service to the company.

"I am extremely proud to have this many long term employees," says Ron Hyggen Jr, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security. "People are the foundation of our success, and we believe that by providing competitive compensation and benefits, pension, and a comprehensive training and professional development plan, we are providing the right support for our employees to thrive in an exciting career. I would like to thank all our 5-year employees for their hard work and the dedication they've shown over the years in providing excellent service for our clients."



Eight 5-year service plaques were presented in 2011.



## A Unique Career with Endless Opportunities

When trying to figure out what your dream job is, drilling isn't something that normally jumps into your mind. Yet jobs in this unique industry have much to offer.

"It's definitely not a boring job," says Al Lamy, Surface Operations Manager at Team Drilling. "If you like to try new things or work in different places, and you enjoy challenging work, drilling could be for you."

Team Drilling is a Canadian-owned drilling company providing premier exploration drilling for the minerals industry. The company currently works throughout Northern Saskatchewan, and has numerous other drilling projects across Canada. "We've been open for about four years now, and our company is doing very well," says Bob Fleming, President of Team Drilling. "We have underground and surface drilling contracts throughout Northern Saskatchewan, as well as contracts in the Northwest Territories and Labrador. We have really expanded our operations since we opened our doors, and we're always on the lookout for good people to join our team."

Previous experience is not required. Employees start out in a helper position, and through training and experience, work their way up to a drilling position. From there, there are opportunities to advance to Supervisory or Manager positions, or employees can try different things: everything from heavy equipment operator to mechanical work, and more.

"Not only is drilling a great opportunity for career exploration, but our company offers full benefits, a very competitive salary, and we provide comprehensive on the job training," says George Presseault, Contracts Manager at Team Drilling. "You don't need to have a lot of education to get into this field, but with drilling, you can have a very comfortable lifestyle. It's not a desk job, but it builds character."

Interested in drilling as a career? Visit [www.teamdrilling.com](http://www.teamdrilling.com)



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Watch for our next newsletter - September 2012.

If you would like to be included in the ABDLP Newsletter distribution, please send your name and contact information to [newsletter@athabascabasin.ca](mailto:newsletter@athabascabasin.ca).

## About ABDLP

Athabasca Basin Development is an aboriginal investment company owned by the seven far north communities in Saskatchewan. Athabasca Basin Development looks for investments that will support aboriginal employment opportunities and generate revenue for its shareholders. Investments are focused on the mining and exploration sector, and include partial or complete ownership in construction (Points Athabasca), underground mining (Mudjatik Thyssen Mining), security (Athabasca Basin Security), electrical (Flyer Electric), diamond drilling (Team Drilling), logistics (Points North) and road maintenance (ABDLP Road Services).

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