

In This Issue:

- Message from the CEO and Board Chair
- Giving Back
- Alberta First Nation Security Company seeks out ABS, forms Partnership
- Partnerships With Other Indigenous Communities
- Athabasca Basin Security Nominated for Mission Zero Award
- Flyer Electric opens office in Swift Current
- Changes to the Athabasca Basin Development Board of Directors

Employee Profile: Gavin Mercredi at Team Drilling



Gavin Mercredi has been working as a Drill Assistant with Team Drilling for the past eight years. He started with the company back when Team was still a new startup, and has been with them ever since. "Back in 2009, a friend told me there was a job opening with Team," says Gavin. "No experience was needed, so I applied and got a call back and then I started. It happened quickly, and I've been working here ever since."

Originally from Fond du Lac, Gavin has been living in Black Lake for the past twelve years. While sometimes his work brings him away from his home community, the "two and two" schedule (two weeks in, two weeks out) allows him to live in his home community while earning a living. "In my off time, I like to spend time with my family, traveling, and go fishing with my fiancée – stuff I do at home," he says.

Gavin's position as Drill Assistant provides help to the Drill Operator, who is in charge of the drilling operation. On a typical work

day, the team will be coring for samples. Gavin will be emptying tubes, adding rods, and boxing core while the Drill Operator works the machine, drilling over 460 meters down. "It takes about a week to drill a hole, but it depends," says Gavin. "Sometimes, you run into rocks that are harder to get through. If something breaks down, there's waiting time."

The work takes place all year long, and is entirely outdoors. "It's not office work," says Gavin, "We have the same work to do in summer as we do in winter. We do have a shack, a roughly 20 foot by fourteen foot shack. There's no bathroom or anything like that. In the winter we use heaters, and in the summer, it's as hot in the shack as it is outside, so it gets really hot in July. My favourite season to drill is the fall season, because the weather is nice – not too hot, not too cold." The job also involves some travel. "I've been all around Saskatchewan," says Gavin, "All around the province

there's summer jobs or winter jobs for exploration. I mostly go to Cigar Lake, Points North, and lots of exploration jobs in the bushes."

When he first started with Team Drilling, Gavin had no prior experience but was provided with training. Team Drilling has a unique training program where the company provides mentors for new drillers from the Athabasca region, and the company absorbs the cost of the mentors – this has resulted in great success in training people who are new to drilling. "We had two days of orientation training, and then First Aid training and the safety program," says Gavin. "They also brought in an extra person to show me, the person who knows how to work the drills, and you work with them for at least a week before you work by yourself – until you are comfortable doing it. It worked very well for me and didn't take me long to get comfortable."

Gavin would recommend the job to others. "It's challenging work, you get to go new places, work outside, and it's a really good company," he says, "the managers are really good with people. And you don't always work with the same person – in the past, I've worked with lots of guys, and it's nice to get to know different people."

Gavin's plans are to continue working with Team Drilling for the foreseeable future. He recently started training to move into a Driller position. "I really like my job and I like how it works around my life," says Gavin. "I am very excited to be starting training for the Driller position, and I can see myself working here for a long time yet."

Team Drilling provides industry leading underground, surface, and specialty drilling services. Bringing over 80 years experience to every project, Team has a proven history of providing clients with long-term, safe and productive drilling services.
www.teamdrilling.com

Athabasca Basin Development is continuing to look for new opportunities for investments – both to strengthen its existing investments as well as outside of its existing industries. "There are lots of opportunities out there and we are continuing to seek solid investment opportunities. I would encourage business owners who are looking at succession planning to consider us as a potential fit and to contact us to discuss opportunities – there may be a fit either with Athabasca Basin Development or with one of our investments."

Message from the CEO and Board Chair



Geoff Gay, CEO and Anne Robillard, Board Chair

This fall marks fifteen years since ABD officially started as a for-profit company. It's interesting to reflect on how we started and where we are today. In many ways, we've come so far, and as you'll see from this edition of the newsletter, our investments continue to grow and be creative and look for new partnerships and opportunities in the current market. Yet through all the years and all the changes we've undergone as we've grown, ABD's activities continue to stay true to our roots.

The unity of the communities has been the key to this company's formation and its success; without this foundation, we would not be where we are today. Both of us have been here since this company's beginning, and can remember hearing from the Athabasca leaders and residents back in 2002 when this company was formed that they had a vision for this company. What we heard was:

- We want this company to be unified.
- We want to build something for future generations.
- We want to have something when the mining is done.
- We want employment.
- We want to maximize on the opportunity.

Our activities today continue to reflect these five original values we heard from the Athabasca communities. For example, the Athabasca communities are unified through their ownership of ABD, and the continued dedication from our shareholders and board to stick together and remain true to the original vision is remarkable. We have assisted the Athabasca communities to maximize on the opportunities available in the north and ensured that our company is sustainable when the mining is done by reinvesting in companies that service a variety of industries with operations across the country. On the employment side, our investments with projects in the region have been very successful in providing employment and training opportunities for Athabasca residents, and we continue to encourage our investments to strive for improvement in this area. We feature many of these individual employee success stories in our newsletter, such as Gavin Mercredi at Team Drilling, because the individual success stories are so important to us.

We have reinvested profits to grow the company for future generations, building value and wealth for the Athabasca communities. Building value for the communities is the key and forms the foundation for all other benefits. Without building value, benefits such as employment, dividends, giving back, and building a strong reputation are not possible. ABD gives back to the Athabasca communities by lending our staff's time to some of the shareholder communities from time to time, building a strong reputation, and through donations, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

We are also governed by a board made up of Athabasca community members. Governing our complex company is not always an easy task, and we'd like to take this time to recognize our board members for the work

that they do in overseeing this company. We'd also like to acknowledge some changes to our board that have taken place recently.

We would like to welcome new board member, Merv MacDonald, to the ABD Board. Merv was appointed by the Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids in April 2017. Merv comes to us as an experienced leader and board member who has sat on the Athabasca Health Authority board, and is a graduate of the First Nations Professional Director program from Governance Solutions Inc. We've greatly enjoyed getting to know Merv and look forward to working with him.

We would also like to thank departing board members, Daniel Powder and Rick Robillard, for the time they dedicated on our company's board. Rick was appointed to our board in 2013, and his knowledge, honesty, humour, and his way of getting straight to point will be greatly missed by the ABD board and staff. Daniel was appointed to the ABD board in 2015, and his willingness to speak his mind, his community knowledge, and his positive outlook were welcome additions to our meetings. Both Rick and Daniel's contributions have been instrumental in making our company strong, and we wish them both the very best.

Looking ahead to the next 15 years, we will continue working towards achieving the original vision of the Athabasca community members and leadership. We will continue to build wealth for the communities and provide other important benefits. We hope you enjoy this edition of The Explorer newsletter, which has now been published each spring and fall consistently for nine years. We are proud to share stories of success and look forward to sharing more moving into the future.

Giving Back

"Building a Future Through Investment" is accomplished by 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 benefits would not be possible. Here are a few recent examples of the ways Athabasca Basin Development and its investments give back:

Athabasca Fly-In Career Symposium

This May, KCDC once again hosted the Athabasca Fly-In Career Symposium, where students from high schools in Wollaston Lake, Black Lake, and Fond du Lac participated in the career fair and hands on activities. Points Athabasca, Athabasca Basin Security, and Athabasca Labour Services participated and presented at this year's fair.



Photo courtesy of KCDC. Front row, Left to Right: Eric Tang, ABS; Wilton Angus, ALS; Cara Greyeyes, KCDC; Connie Mercredi, AREVA; Renee Breckner, RCMP ProActive Recruiting; Stephen Pinto, QM Environmental; Kyle Remus, QM Environmental; Glen Strong, Points Athabasca; Sarah Jensen, Northern Resource Trucking; Tracy Gobeil, University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing. Back row Left to Right: Glen Lafleur, AREVA; Patricia Forrest, ALS; Dan Redekopp, RCMP ProActive Recruiting; Jody Burnoff, Northlands College; Cheryl McKenzie, KCDC

Ronald McDonald House Smudging Ceremony

A smudging ceremony was held on August 11th at the Edwin Boneeye Room at Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon. We are proud to have been part of the \$100,000 donation in 2013 along with West Wind Aviation, Points Athabasca and Team Drilling, who each donated \$25,000 toward the facility during its "For Every Family" capital campaign to expand the house to ensure they are able to accommodate all families whose children need medical treatment. A smudging ceremony that is organized by Points Athabasca takes place each year for four years and began when the room was completed in April 2015. The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families of sick children traveling to Saskatoon to receive medical treatment. The northern region is the second largest user of the facility. A final smudging ceremony will take place in summer 2018. For more information on the Ronald McDonald house, visit www.rhm.sk.ca

Connected North Expanded - now in Hatchet Lake



Students at Father Porte School share with kids in Vancouver at the Connected North launch in April 2016.

The Connected North program officially launched in Saskatchewan on April 21, 2016 at Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake. Connected North is an immersive, digital education and mental health and wellness network that provides customized services and real time experiences to schools and students in remote Indigenous communities. Using Telepresence technology, Connected North leverages real-time, high definition two-way video to make powerful connections for students. As a result of the incredible success the program has demonstrated, a unit was installed in Father Megret Elementary in Hatchet Lake in March of 2017. Seven sessions were delivered successfully to the school before the end of the school year, which included learning about Marine Mammals from the Alaska Sea Life Centre, a leadership tour of Toronto, a mentorship session with Parr, a role model from Cape Dorset (NU), and an art session with the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

"This program has been so incredibly beneficial to our students," says Steven Thatcher, Principal at Father Porte Memorial Dene School. "It really allows our teachers to provide the students with experiences from other locations that we normally wouldn't have access to. We honestly can't imagine not having access to this program in the future, and we look forward to continuing to use it to enrich education for the students in our community."

"We are pleased to be part of the Connected North program," says Lisom Tam-Eveleigh, Principal at Father Megret Elementary School at Wollaston Lake. "It gives me great pleasure to see the students enjoying their time on the Connected North program. The students ask for more sessions on the program. The teachers are excited to have this as part of an educational experience for the students. It has added an enrichment to our education that the students would never experience otherwise."

In addition, Connected North has recently opened an office in Saskatoon and hired a Connected North Indigenous Education Coordinator, Dallas Pelly, a recent graduate of the ITEP program, to help lead programming for Saskatchewan schools. "Saskatchewan

has been a wonderful province for Connected North," says Willa Black, VP Corporate Affairs for Cisco and Connected North champion. "We are so pleased that the success of our pilot program in Black Lake has led to the expansion in other Saskatchewan schools, and we look forward to continue building on this exciting program that connects students in remote communities and provides a fresh approach to student engagement and other opportunities."

Connected North originally began with one school in Iqaluit in 2013 and has since grown to include 20 partner schools from Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Ontario and Saskatchewan, with two of these schools in the Athabasca region.

"Athabasca Basin Development is a proud supporter of Connected North," says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development. "This program is a perfect fit for us because it directly impacts students in our shareholder communities in a tremendously positive way. We would also like to thank the many partners that came together to make this happen for the Athabasca communities: Cisco Canada, TakingItGlobal, SaskTel, PAGC Grand Council, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Father Porte Memorial Dene School, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Father Megret Elementary School, Cameco, AREVA Resources, West Wind Aviation, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada."

For more information on Connected North, please visit www.connectednorth.org.

Kids on Ice Hockey Camp



Six kids from the Athabasca communities joined kids in Saskatoon for the Kids on Ice Hockey camp on July 17.

The 2017 Driving Fore Prostate Golf Classic, put on by the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation with Athabasca Basin Security as title sponsor, raised an impressive \$108,367 this year for the Leslie and Irene Dube Urology Centre of Health at St. Paul's Hospital.

As part of the Celebrity golf tournament, ABS also sponsors a Kids on Ice hockey camp. Reggie Leach, a retired professional ice hockey right winger who played 13 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Boston Bruins, Philadelphia Flyers and Detroit Red Wings was in Saskatoon on July 17 to spend some time with the kids for the camp. Children from Northern communities (six kids from the Athabasca communities), and Saskatoon

spent a half-day at the skating and hockey skills camp. The day included a meet-and-greet with the stars, the skills camp and lunch. Reggie Leach gave a great speech to the kids and provided autographed copies of his book, the Riverton Rifle, to some of the kids who attended.

Ron Hyggen, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security, is the inspiration behind Kids on Ice. Athabasca Basin Development and West Wind Aviation also provided support for the event through donation of cash and flights for the Athabasca youth to participate.

Yá Thi Néné Youth Culture Camp



Jaylynn McDonald from Fond du Lac participates in the Yá'thi Néné youth culture camp.

The Yá'thi Néné Land and Resource Office held its 1st Annual Athabasca Science and Culture Camp from July 24 to 31. This is the first of what is planned to be an annual event. This year's camp took place near the Athabasca Sand Dunes Wilderness Park, adjacent to Fond du Lac Reserve on the south side of Lake Athabasca, with camps in the future to be rotated amongst the three Athabasca First Nation communities. At the camp, youth were educated on their cultural and traditional ways by Elders, including how to hunt, how to butcher meat, prepare moose, make dry meat, how to prepare hide, the importance of the Dene Drum, hand games, and more. The primary goal of the event was to raise awareness of culture and get youth interested in science-based careers (an example would be an Environmental Monitor). A Plant Botanist was invited to educate the students about the different rare species of plants on the Athabasca Sand Dunes and the importance of those plant species. Students learned about the scientific formation of the Athabasca Sand Dunes and the traditional stories from Elders of the formation of the Sand Dunes. A Fish Biologist taught the students how to dissect a fish and learned about the different parts of a fish. A second but also very important goal was to provide workshops on suicide prevention, anti-bullying and leadership skills and increase awareness of the supports available to help youth facing difficulties. Thirty students participated in the camp, with eighteen students from Fond du Lac, and four students each from Black Lake, Hatchet Lake, and Stony Rapids. Athabasca Basin Development is proud to have sponsored this event for \$25,000.

Changes to the Athabasca Basin Development Board of Directors



Left to Right: Merv MacDonald, Rick Robillard, Daniel Powder.

Welcome to new board member, Merv MacDonald! Merv was appointed to the Athabasca Basin Development board by the Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids in April 2017.

We would like to thank departing board member, Rick Robillard, for his service on the Athabasca Basin Development Board of Directors. Rick was appointed by Black Lake Ventures to the ABD board in 2013.

We would like to thank departing board member, Daniel Powder, for his service on the Athabasca Basin Development Board of Directors. Daniel was appointed by Stony Rapids to the ABD board in 2015.



We are Social!

Follow us on Twitter.



Like us on Facebook.



Join us on LinkedIn.



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 2018.

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

athabascabasin.ca



Publications Agreement #41897022

Return undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

ATHABASCA BASIN DEVELOPMENT
325 2555 GRASSWOOD ROAD
CORMAN PARK, SK S7T 0K1
newsletter@athabascabasin.ca

Athabasca Basin Security Nominated for Mission Zero Award



Left to Right: Kathy Christmann, Athabasca Basin Medical; Ron Hyggen, CEO; Kendra Vedress, Executive Assistant; Rod Genest, Director of Operations; Sascha Saskbrink-Harkema, VP; Claire Venne, Controller.

By Kathy Christmann

In 2014, Ron Hyggen, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security, pledged his commitment to Mission Zero to improve the safety of ABS employees. At that time, Saskatchewan held claim to the second worst workplace time lost injury record in the country.

Launched in May 2008 as an initiative of WorkSafe Saskatchewan, in partnership between the Worker's Compensation Board and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, Mission Zero is a project targeted at working toward zero injuries, zero fatalities and zero suffering.

ABS made numerous changes to ensure employees were safe on the job, with safety jumping to the top of the list as the ABS management team developed a new strategic plan. "We invested by hiring a dedicated safety resource and developing a company-specific safety program rather than continuing the use of the construction-based safety program we had been using," Hyggen said. "The new safety program has specific items that our team deemed vital to the success of the program."

ABS developed a safety orientation program and video that clearly explained the importance of working safely, and implemented a management and supervisor

training program to ensure a complete understanding of the ABS Safety Program. All staff must now pass a competency test upon completion of the safety program and complete mandatory review of safe work procedures at every weekly toolbox meeting.

As a result of efforts like these, in June 2017, ABS was nominated as one of three companies in the large company category to be recognized for their success in the Mission Zero Charter.

The Mission Zero awards recognize those companies that have shown true leadership and commitment as a Signatory of the Mission Zero Charter. The Mission Zero Charter now incorporates more than six hundred Saskatchewan business who, like ABS, are committed to making preventable injuries a part of their past.

ABS is planning to continue their commitment moving into the future. "We are thrilled to be recognized for our commitment to safety, but that's not why we do it," says Hyggen. "We have a moral obligation to return employees to their families in the same health that we received them and it is our responsibility as an employer to do our absolute best in providing a safe place to work."

Flyer Electric opens office in Swift Current

Flyer Electric is continuing its expansion, and has now opened a third office in Saskatchewan. The Swift Current location opened in April 2017. "Demand for our services continues to grow, especially in the South," says Terry Tessier, CEO of Flyer Electric. "It is a very exciting step for our company, and opening a third office location will put us in a position to provide even better service for our clients."

Flyer Electric is a 100% Saskatchewan owned company with majority Indigenous ownership that has provided

wide range of industrial and commercial electrical services in the province for over thirty years. Flyer originated in Birch Hills (a town about twenty minutes from Prince Albert) and still has its head office there. The company expanded to open a second location in Regina in February 2016.

The new Swift Current office is located at #3 – 170, 20th Avenue NE. Phone #1-855-773-0681

Alberta First Nation Security Company seeks out ABS, forms Partnership



Warren Crowchild, General Manager of One Face Security, Chief Lee Crowchild, Tsuut'ina First Nation, Ron Hyggen, CEO of ABS sign an agreement on August 1, 2017 at the Grey Eagle Hotel in Calgary, Alberta.

Athabasca Basin Security (ABS) and Alberta's One Face Security signed a partnership agreement on August 1st to provide security services in southern Alberta. One Face Security, a company owned by a Tsuut'ina First Nations member, will continue to operate and grow in the local area under its current name, while ABS will provide management expertise and training to help grow the company.

One Face Security founder, Warren Crowchild, will remain with the company as General Manager of Operations. Crowchild approached Athabasca Basin Security with a proposal after researching the company. "ABS has an excellent track record in business servicing some of the country's top companies," says Crowchild. "What really made them stand out to me is that they are not just focused on the dollars, but they also have a strong commitment to First Nations communities. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with another excellent Indigenous company to provide meaningful employment for First Nations people in my community and beyond."

Xakiji (Chief) Lee Crowchild, Chief of Tsuut'ina First Nation, endorsed the partnership. "I feel this agreement is the right move for Warren and his company, because it will help One Face Security to grow," said Chief Crowchild. "The partnership is a win for both sides and also for the people in our community through the meaningful

employment opportunities that will be generated as a result of this partnership."

Athabasca Basin Security has provided security services to industrial and mine site security since 2002. The company is 100% owned by Athabasca Basin Development, which is in turn owned by the seven communities in Northern Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin region.

"We take great pride in providing top-tier service to our clients, as well as providing economic benefits and meaningful career opportunities with transferrable skills for Indigenous people," says Ron Hyggen, CEO of ABS. "One Face Security has similar values and goals as we do, so this partnership is a natural fit with us. I look forward to working with Warren and his team and growing this excellent security company."

This joint venture represents the third expansion in the past year and is one of several successful partnerships ABS has with First Nations across the prairies. In 2015, ABS partnered with local First Nations through Kawacatoose Daystar Muskowekwan (KDM) Business Development Corporation, for the training and employment of band members to provide security services for BHP Billiton's Jansen Potash project. ABS partnered with Pasqua First Nation in 2016 to service K + S Potash and other contracts in the local area. In January 2017, ABS acquired All Peace Security in Grande Prairie, AB, a security company that had successful long-standing partnerships with four local First Nations. ABS also recently partnered with Tk'emlups te Secwepemc (Kamloops Indian Band) to provide security and other services for the transmountain expansion project for Kinder Morgan.

"We seem to have found a model that works well for both us and our partners and clients," says Hyggen, "So far, we have made a positive and meaningful impact with our partner communities, while providing a service that is second to none, and I'm very proud of this. We are hoping to continue working with other groups in the future and are open to considering partnerships in regions throughout the country."

Partnerships With Other Indigenous Communities

One of the values Athabasca Basin Development has that many have said is unique is that we don't see others as competitors – only potential partners. As such, we have shared our model with many other groups across the country, traveling as far as Nova Scotia to share our story with others who have invited us and to learn from their successes as well. We have also invited many other Indigenous partners to join us in our investments and ventures over the years. Our Indigenous partners include (so far):

- Prince Albert First Nations Business Development
- Sturgeon Lake First Nation
- Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies
- Des Nedhe Developments Inc (an English River First Nations company)
- Paskwayak Business Development (Manitoba)
- Sakitawak Business Development

In addition, many of our investments have partnerships with Indigenous groups, including:

- File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
- Pasqua First Nation
- George Gordon First Nation
- Kawacatoose Daystar Muskowekwan (KDM) Business Development
- Tsuut'ina First Nation (Alberta)
- Duncan First Nation (Alberta)
- Frog Lake First Nation (Alberta)
- Horse Lake First Nation (Alberta)
- Blueberry River First Nation (Alberta)
- T'Kemlups Tw Secwepemc (Kamloops Indian Band)

We are always open to exploring opportunities for new partnerships, as well as new investments. Contact us to discuss your opportunity, investment, or project.