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## 5Buds Cannabis to open stores in Warman, North Battleford, and Yorkton



Artist's concept of store exterior

### Cannabis Retail Licences Awarded To Saskatchewan Indigenous-Owned Investment Company

This spring, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) announced the recipients of the retail cannabis selection lottery process. Indigenous-owned Synergy Five Investments received licences in three cities: Warman, North Battleford, and Yorkton.

Synergy Five Investments is a limited partnership with four partners with a successful track record. The limited partners include Athabasca Basin Development, Des Nedhe Development, Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies and Prince Albert First Nations Business Development, and shareholders include 13 different Saskatchewan First

Nations in Saskatchewan. These four investment companies together own over 30 companies in various industries and are strongly positioned to leverage their experience and financial capacity to operate successful cannabis stores.

"We are very pleased with being awarded licences in three Saskatchewan cities," says Sean Willy, CEO of Des Nedhe Development. "These licences give us the opportunity to participate in a brand-new industry that has great potential to benefit our Indigenous shareholders across Saskatchewan."

"To our knowledge, a group of multiple First Nations-owned investment companies have not come together for a partnership quite like this before," says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development. "We are four strong investment companies, and together, we are even stronger. We are excited about the opportunity this brings, not only in the cannabis industry, but also potentially to partner in other business areas in the future."

Prior to receiving a licence, a team was assembled that included experts in retail and a cannabis consulting firm.

"From the strength of the team we have assembled, as well as our combined experience with over thirty different companies that we collectively own, we have gained a solid understanding of the industry and what's involved in opening and operating a cannabis store," says Ted De Jong, CEO of Prince Albert Development Corporation.

The stores will open under the name of 5Buds Cannabis. The Warman store is tentatively scheduled to be open in late 2018, with the North Battleford and Yorkton locations following early in 2019.

"There is still much more work to be done," says Trevor Ives, CEO of Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies, "however, we have developed a foundation for a strong plan to provide a professional and trusted location for cannabis products. Our goal is to provide an extraordinary experience to Saskatchewan adult customers who are seeking high quality, regulated and legal cannabis products."

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 newsletter has traditionally been about company news and Athabasca resident success stories. The Fond du Lac plane crash is much different – it is a human story of tragedy, loss and difficulty. The region lost one of its young men, Arson Fern Jr., just days after the accident and many other people had their lives altered.

The North has dealt with this event, that changed us all, with grace and surety. Each step that the passengers, crew and their families have taken on their healing journey is important. We remain thankful for the

amazing efforts of all those who assisted in the rescue. Many members of the newly elected leadership were brand new to their jobs, yet they lead their community members through an impossible event with courage and strength.

We would like to applaud the efforts of those who organized the Healing Journey Gathering in Fond du Lac on June 13 and 14. Those events are important to acknowledge what happened, to provide tools to help with the healing process, and to show the support of everyone around them.

West Wind is now back to full operations. As a company with ownership in West Wind, we are thankful for regulatory oversight that allowed West Wind to refocus on best practice and our primary goal – safe operations.

One of the toughest things for us at Athabasca Basin Development has been to continue with our other operations in the months since the plane crash occurred, given the enormity of the incident and the personal impact that it had on so many people. As a company owned by the Athabasca region, we know we must

stay on task to the original purpose given to us and build economic growth for the region and its future generations. We continue to honour that original vision.

We look for ways to give back to our communities. The Wollaston Lake Fastball Camp and the Beneath the Ice Northern tour are two new initiatives; we also continued our traditional sponsorship of Christmas in the North, the Athabasca Student Dinner, and the KCDC Fly-in Career Fair. You can read about all of these in this edition of the newsletter.

In the rest of this newsletter, we talk about growth and winning a growth and expansion award. And we also talk about two new investments, insurance and cannabis, both of which are outside the mining industry and have opportunity to continue to build prosperity for the Athabasca region.

Our thoughts and prayers have been and continue to be with the people who were on the plane, the employees of West Wind Aviation, the community of Fond du Lac, your families, and your friends, as you work towards healing.

## PIC Investment Group Inc. and Athabasca Basin Development LP acquire Long Lake Insurance

The PIC Investment Group (PIC) and Athabasca Basin Development (ABD) announced the acquisition of Long Lake Insurance in October 2017.

Long Lake Insurance is a full service, independent insurance brokerage providing products and services in the personal, business, and farm insurance sectors. Long Lake has offices in Imperial, Bethune, Holdfast, Craik and Chamberlain. Under the terms of the acquisition, Long Lake's owners Dan and Catherine Mengel will continue to manage the company for at least one year. "We were interested in Long Lake because we liked the way Dan and Catherine were running it. We are grateful

to have them continue on with us as we grow an exciting new future for Long Lake," said Greg Yuel, CEO of PIC Investment.

The acquisition partners are hoping to help Long Lake's growth strategy. "Basically, in the near term, nothing will change at Long Lake except that there will be more opportunities for the companies," says CEO of ABD Geoff Gay. "Long Lake will benefit from access to expanded potential markets. We will benefit from their expertise. And, together, we will work to support the operations and continue to grow Long Lake's success."

"Catherine and I thank our employees and customers for their support over the past 20 years and we are looking forward to the opportunities that the new ownership will provide them," says Dan Mengel. "It is important to us that PIC and ABD will remain committed to the values that made Long Lake successful. A great place for employees to work, providing the best customer service and supporting our communities. We are happy to be able to work with them in the future."

The PIC Investment Group is a family-owned company with a wide range of interests including industrial products, transportation and others.



Long Lake Insurance would be pleased to have the opportunity to quote on your insurance requirements. Brandi and Patty are available to assist you over the phone or in-person – please contact them toll free at 1-888-669-5666. Long Lake is able to provide insurance for the following:

- Automobile (including Classic & Antique Auto Insurance)
- Home, Condo, Tenant
- Farm (including Acreages)
- Crop Hail Insurance
- Business
- Commercial Auto
- Special Events
- Blue Cross
- Group Medical Insurance
- Travel Insurance

# 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:

## Wollaston Lake Fastball Clinic



Last fall, Athabasca Basin Development sponsored the Wollaston Lake Fastball clinic. We sent two people to Wollaston to coach a one day fastball clinic with kids in the area. The event started with 16 kids and ended up with 30 participants by the end of the day. The two coaches were impressed by how well the kids listened and how hard they worked at learning some new skills.

## Athabasca Economic Strategic Planning Session 3 (AE3)

On May 16 & 17, nearly 80 people made the two-day commitment to travel to Waskesiu and participate in an Economic strategic planning session for the Athabasca region.

The group consisted of representatives from each of the communities, youth, elders, commercial enterprise, community and local enterprise, education, labour market and training, and various levels of government, and was facilitated by Julie Wriston from Creative Fire.



Participants at the AE3 event in Waskesiu on May 17, 2018

The work done by the previous two meetings in 2004 and 2009 was pivotal in building a collective understanding among the region and its stakeholders.

Prince Albert Grand Council spearheaded this gathering with partners including Black Lake First Nation, Fond du Lac First Nation, Hatchet Lake First Nation and representatives from other Basin communities.

Athabasca Basin Development provided staff time and mentorship to youth for organizing the event.

The event was sponsored by Indigenous Services Canada, Government of Saskatchewan, with Athabasca Basin Development, Points Athabasca, Prince Albert Grand Council, SITAG and Creative Fire providing in-kind contributions.

Planning committee members are Joan Strong, PAGC, Glen Strong, Points Athabasca, Ronelda Robillard, Hatchet Lake, Tiffany Toutsaint, Fond du Lac, Terri-Lynn Beavereye, Black Lake, Kristy Jackson, Athabasca Basin Development. The report from the event is expected to be out this fall, with a Task Force assembled to take action later this year.

## Christmas in the North



Athabasca Basin Development cosponsored the fifth annual Christmas in the North Campaign together with West Wind Aviation, Cameco, Orano, Points Athabasca. This year, ABD and Points Athabasca teamed up to contribute a book to each child in grade K-5. We plan to do this again this year, and will look into bringing books for kids in the older grades as well.



This year, we were excited to bring over 700 books into the region for the annual Christmas in the North

## Beneath the Ice Northern Tour



In April 2018, Athabasca Basin Development partnered with West Wind Aviation, Orano, and Persephone Theatre to sponsor the Northern Tour of the play *Beneath the Ice* and its accompanying workshop to youth in the north. The event went to Wollaston Lake, Fond du Lac and Black Lake on the week of April 9th

with a total of 405 students seeing the play and 198 participating in the workshop. The students had the opportunity to see a professional play with a set that was built specially to fit in the planes and brought to the schools from Saskatoon. After the play, older students were invited to attend an acting workshop with the actors.

## KCDC Fly-In Career Fair



This May, KCDC once again hosted the Athabasca Fly-In Career Fair. 397 students from grades 7-12 in Wollaston Lake, Black Lake, and Fond du Lac participated. This year, KCDC brought in professional traditional dancer Maddy McCallum. Originally from Ile a la Crosse, Maddy had an incredible story to share that really resonated with students. Athabasca Basin Development also presented this year, talking to kids about careers in marketing & communications. Points Athabasca, Athabasca Basin Security, Team Drilling, and Athabasca Labour Services also participated and presented at this year's fair.



Maddy McCallum dances at the KCDC Career fair in Wollaston lake. There is a great video on our Facebook page that showcases her dancing.

## Athabasca Student Suppers

Each year, ABD invites Athabasca students who are in PA or Saskatoon attending post-secondary school out for supper as a way of supporting them and celebrating their achievements. Budget has grown in 7 years from \$3500 to over \$7K last year.



## “Don’t be a litterbug” logo contest

Congratulations to Katie Echodh, Grade 5, of Black Lake, SK. Katie’s design was chosen as the winner of the “Don’t be a litterbug” logo contest in spring. 600 buttons were handed out to the youth of the Communities of Hatchet Lake/Wollaston, Black Lake/Stony Rapids, and Fond du Lac during the Fly-in Career Symposium which took place in May.



Beneath the Ice Cast – Fond du Lac



Wollaston Lake Fastball Clinic



Career fair – Wollaston Lake

# 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 2019.**

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)

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## ABD's Shauna Loewen is Team Lead for new Cannabis Stores

As the Business Analyst at Athabasca Basin Development, Shauna Loewen's job is to research, analyze and develop... basically anything. On any given day, this can mean she's working on analyzing the feasibility of a new business venture to researching and writing board policies. "My job is very interesting," says Shauna, "it's often very project-based and each and every day of my six years here, there's always something new; it's an incredible opportunity to learn new things all the time."



When there was an opportunity for Athabasca Basin Development to be involved in the cannabis industry as part of a group of investors, Shauna was selected as the team lead to develop the proposal needed for SLGA's lottery process. "We have such an incredible team," says Shauna, "Three retail consultants with over 100 years of experience between them worked very closely with me and the other two staff members at ABD who worked on this project. We also tapped into the expertise of the group's collective experience owning over 30 businesses, including very successful gas stations, hotels, and distribution company, among others. We are strongly positioned to run successful cannabis stores in Saskatchewan."

The group of investors, collectively called Synergy 5 Investments, received word from SLGA in June that they could apply for licences to operate retail cannabis stores in Warman, Yorkton and North Battleford. "To say we were excited is putting it mildly," says Shauna. "We feel very fortunate to have received licences in three excellent Saskatchewan communities."

The stores, which will be named "5Buds Cannabis," are set to be operational in late 2018 and early 2019. Shauna was named as the project lead to get the stores up and running until a General Manager can be hired, likely in fall.

"It was a bit of an unexpected project. And I had no expertise in this particular area," she says with a laugh. "But we have such a great team, and it's a very exciting opportunity to be part of a brand-new industry in Canada."

Shauna has over 12 years experience researching, developing and writing business plans and analyzing

business opportunities. Before starting at Athabasca Basin Development, Shauna worked for 7 years as a business analyst and consultant at Rosten Bergsma Business Solutions, providing detailed analysis and planning services for small businesses, First Nations, and non-profits.

In addition to doing work for ABD and its investments, Shauna also has assisted the Athabasca shareholder communities with projects, such as determining the feasibility of business ideas. "I really enjoy working with the communities," says Shauna. "Getting to know people in the North and working together with them on projects that can benefit people in their communities is very inspiring."

Shauna has a Bachelor of Commerce degree with great distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. She lives in Hague, with her husband Stephen and their two children.

## Changes to the Athabasca Basin Development Board of Directors



### Welcome new board member, Chief Coreen Sayazie.

Coreen was appointed to the Athabasca Basin Development board by Black Lake Ventures in October 2017.



## ABS wins 2018 SABEX Growth & Expansion Award



Left to Right: Ron Hyggen, CEO; Eric Tang, HR Manager; Corinne Greyeyes, Office Manager; Rod Genest, Director of Operations; Katherine Christmann, ABS Medical; Claire Venne, Controller; Cheryl Gardipy, HR Officer; Kendra Vedress, Executive Assistant. Missing: Sascha Sasbrink-Harkema, Vice President.

by Katherine Christmann, ABS

Athabasca Basin Security is pleased to be the recipient of the 2018 SABEX Growth & Expansion Award given by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. The gala event, sponsored by Nutrien on February 8, 2018 acknowledged those businesses in the greater Saskatoon area that achieved a level of excellence in business through the Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards (SABEX).

The SABEX Growth & Expansion Award is presented to the business that "has made significant changes in their business resulting in growth or expansion of 15% or more of business markets, physical locations, number of employees, and which in turn has made an impact on the company's overall ability to increase its revenues, investments and profits now or in the future."

Athabasca Basin Security CEO, Ron Hyggen expressed his appreciation for the recognition by saying, "It is a great honour to be recognized by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce as this year's recipient of the Growth & Expansion Award. I am very proud of the hard work and dedication that my team has shown as we continue to grow, diversify and expand our footprint across western Canada."

Athabasca Basin Security is known as a respected leader in the security industry and has provided the mining industry's top companies with industrial security and medical services in some of Western Canada's most remote areas.

Established in 2002, with only fourteen employees, Athabasca Basin Security today has grown to employ a workforce of 340 employees, with many of their employees coming from First Nations and rural areas.

In the past eighteen months, ABS has expanded their portfolio to include contract medical services through Athabasca Basin Medical in 2016, and All Peace Protection in Grande Prairie Alberta in February of 2017.

Athabasca Basin Security is an Indigenous-owned, award winning company that continues to set the bar in the industry by focusing on the need for compliance, safety and communications between the ABS team and their clients.

In the past twelve months, Athabasca Basin Security has been recognized as a Finalist in the Mission Zero Awards program in the large company category for their strong commitment to safety in the industry, and as a Finalist for the ABEX Awards for Growth & Expansion.

## Environmental Impact Responder Program



Black Lake's Environmental Impact Responders. Left to Right: Janessa Toutsaint - Leader, Jenny Gunn, Olivia Robillard, Beth Donard.

Earlier this year, Points Athabasca and Quantum Murray Environmental partnered together to run a pilot project called the Environmental Impact Responder (EIR) Program. Four women were employed from each of the Athabasca Basin First Nation communities. Their employment started on October 2nd with a week of culture camp and ran until the end of March 2018.

SITAG provided a wage subsidy for these positions. The employee selection was made with the assistance of leadership. The focus was to train these employees in the field of Environmental Reclamation in order to be assets to the communities and address the community leadership's environmental concerns and prepare for potential future

opportunities. Training began October 16th in Black Lake, October 23rd in Hatchet Lake, and October 30th in Fond du Lac. The training ran for 3 weeks with instructor face-to-face instruction as well as online training. During the training period, there was opportunity for the EIRs to assist the First Nation Band Administration with tasks at the band office or economic office.

The underlying strategy for Points Athabasca/QM Environmental is to develop employees in their own communities and have them trained to assist in the next phase of the anticipated Gunnar clean-up. The program was considered to be a success, with 12 women trained and ready to go for potential opportunities.