

# IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Syncrude

Edition #2 – June 2018



## BEAVER CREEK WOOD BISON RANCH CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

It was a blustery winter day on Feb. 16, 1993 when six mature wood bison cows and 24 calves were unloaded off trucks on to snow-covered reclaimed land at Syncrude's Mildred Lake mine. The small herd had come from Elk Island National Park and was blessed in a ceremony by Elders from the Fort McKay First Nation.

Today the herd at Beaver Creek Wood Bison Ranch is close to 300 healthy bison.

The ranch marked its anniversary with a ceremony featuring Fort McKay Chief Jim Boucher, who praised the history of the ranch and the courageous decision made by Syncrude and Fort McKay in pioneering bison conservation on reclaimed lands.

The Ranch which is run in coordination between Syncrude and Fort McKay has been a successful research project that helped Syncrude determine how reclaimed land would stand up to large mammals.

"It's something that had never been done before," Chief Boucher said at the celebration. "This holds a special significance for the people of Fort McKay, who have a long-standing relationship with the bison."

"The wood bison also remain a very important symbol for Syncrude and its employees. The herd has demonstrated our commitment to returning the land we disturb to a part of the boreal landscape," says Greg Fuhr, Syncrude's Vice President – Mining. "And just as important, the bison represent our commitment to working with Indigenous communities in this region. We were very proud to mark this anniversary with our closest neighbours Fort McKay First Nation."



## SYNCRUDE SURPASSES \$3-BILLION SPEND WITH ABORIGINAL-OWNED BUSINESSES



Syncrude spent a record \$342 million in 2017 with Aboriginal-owned businesses to surpass the \$3 billion mark in total spending since 1992, when the number first began to be tracked.

Developing strong relationships with local Aboriginal-owned suppliers and contractors continues to contribute to Syncrude's success, says Managing Director Doreen Cole.

"We need strong, reliable suppliers of goods and services to help us meet our goal of responsibly developing the oil sands," says Doreen, who was appointed Syncrude's top executive at the end of 2017. "Having local companies who provide cost-competitive goods and services is essential. They have demonstrated the ability to help meet our commitments for a safe, reliable and cost-competitive operation."

Syncrude has also committed to developing businesses with First Nations and Métis communities in the region as part of the organization's Aboriginal Relations Program that started more than 40 years ago. But Doreen points out the growing amount of business between Syncrude and Aboriginal-owned companies demonstrates they deliver real business value as contractors and suppliers.

"We are committed to ensuring Aboriginal people share in the opportunities to develop the oil sands," Doreen says. "Working together is the right thing to do and our partnership has continued to grow and provide the effective delivery of goods and services, which shows it's the smart thing to do, too."

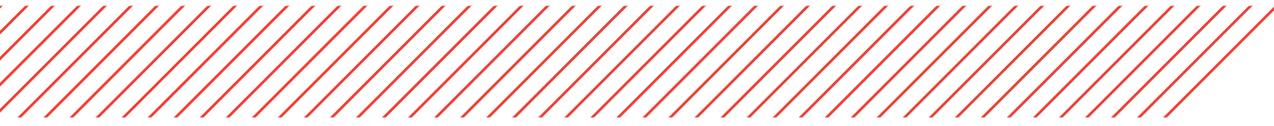
This is reflected in the increased amount of business between Syncrude and Aboriginal-owned companies. Syncrude reached the \$1-billion mark in business in 2006 while the \$2-billion mark was passed in March 2014.

Samantha Whalen, Chief Executive Officer for Christina River Enterprises, says her company appreciates Syncrude's commitment to working with Aboriginal-owned ventures.

"Syncrude recognized the potential that exists among First Nations and Aboriginal communities for businesses and has helped develop that talent by providing opportunities

for business ventures to succeed," says Samantha, whose company – owned by the Fort McMurray 486 First Nation – has between 30 and 100 employees working on Syncrude's sites at any one time through its custodial division and a joint venture with Northern Crane Services Group. "Our relationship has really changed over the years – we first started by manufacturing pallets for them in 1987. Our relationship has evolved and grown over 30 years and we look forward to many more years of working together. We see it as a win-win partnership."





## PROUD TO SUPPORT ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS



Syncrude has a history of supporting its employees and making a difference in the communities where they live and work. As part of this history, Syncrude has championed Theatre Network to do the same, to make a difference, with its support of the production of *Métis Mutt* by Sheldon Elter.

In Sheldon Elter's hilarious and heartbreaking one-person show, we follow a young Métis man on his journey out of a destructive cycle. In dynamic shifts between storytelling, stand-up comedy, and multi-character vignettes; this personal tale unfolds to expose the impact of family dysfunction, internalized racism, and the significance of embracing life's choices.

The play ran at the Roxy Theatre in Edmonton from February 15 to March 4, 2018.



On a the national stage, Syncrude once again supported and attended the annual Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business 20th Annual Gala.

The Annual Toronto Gala was hosted by Stephanie Pangowish and D.B. McLeod of Manifest Destiny's Child. Alyssa and Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk, members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet opened the evening with an upbeat number on the fiddle and guitar. Elder Robert Philip (Great Bear) provided a welcome opening prayer, followed by Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk singing Oh Canada. Nelson Tagoona opened the second part of the evening with his inspiring Inuit throat beatboxing.



Pictured is Greg Fuhr, Syncrude's VP of Mining; Jordan Jolicoeur, President and CEO of Carvel Electric and recipient of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur of the Year; Doug Webb, Syncrude's Aboriginal Business Liaison; and JP Gladu, President and CEO of CCAB.



Rod Hyde Scholarship  
Deadline is June 30, 2018.  
More information:  
[www.syncrude.ca](http://www.syncrude.ca)





## SYNCRUDE'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE

### Project Consultation:

We are committed to working and listening collaboratively with our Aboriginal neighbours in the Wood Buffalo Region.

### MLX:

Syncrude is currently awaiting next steps from the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on the Mildred Lake Extension project. The application for this project was submitted in late 2014 and continues to be a major focus for Syncrude.

Consultation continues with Indigenous communities to ensure their site specific concerns that impact local traditional uses and treaty rights are addressed.

The Notice of Hearing was issued May 25, 2018. To participate in the hearing, you must file a request to participate by June 14, 2018. More information can be located on the AER website: [www.aer.ca](http://www.aer.ca)

### Aurora North - Area 2

In late 2017, Syncrude submitted an application to the AER to extend the footprint of Syncrude's Aurora North project for the purposes of:

- storing rock and soil that covers the oil sands (Overburden dump)
- storing materials used for reclamation and
- salvaging sand from the area for road work.

This proposed area is approximately 460.60 hectares. Consultation with First Nations and Métis Communities is now underway. Syncrude will be responsive, collaborative and open during this process. For more information on the Area 2 project, please reach out to the Community Relations Team. Contact information is listed below.

### Environmental Commitment:

Syncrude created the Reclamation Engagement Focus Group (REFG) in late 2017 to provide both Métis and First Nations communities the opportunity to become more involved in reclamation activities and planning for the future on Syncrude's site. Early into this year, REFG is making positive strides to narrow their focus and identify the priority area for working together.

At the first meeting of 2018 held February 14, community members participated in a reclamation tour and identified their interest in participating in this year's Bird MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program to increase their knowledge of activities conducted by Syncrude.

The Bird MAPS program and MAPS surveys track the number of birds and health of the species caught during banding sessions. In addition to providing important information on the population distribution and health of songbird species in the region, much of the information obtained can be used to provide information on the attractiveness of reclaimed and restored areas to these species. This activity is scheduled to occur this month.

### Community Engagement:

Syncrude, in partnership with the Beaver Creek Bison Ranch, and Fort McKay First Nation once again hosted the Bison Harvest on April 11, 2018. In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Ranch, Fort McKay First Nation will be including other Nations' community members in the meat distribution. The bison meat harvested will be distributed to communities in the region who have requested it.



WE ARE HERE  
PLEASE CONNECT:

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