



# ENGAGE

JANUARY — MARCH 2014

## Board Message

Perspective.. the reality. Perception.. the driving force.

Fort McMurray has had many perspectives bestowed upon it pending on the motivation or vested interests of the concerned parties. The broad spectrum and mix of dynamics associated with the Oil sands industry pretty much touches an expansive venue of people and businesses in some fashion.

Global.. Perceptions of “dirty oil” images are rivaled equally by the excitement of “the economic engine” rhetoric and the opportunities that ripple to faraway continents.

National.. Perceptions arise from conceptual violations, poised on the lips of the general masses, then fought on a limelight stage to the amusement of the media as everyone jockeys for a cause. Disruptive hope on the faces of Canadian families in neighboring provinces who endure a commute and the confines of a camp, bound by opportunity to bring home the bacon and disperse a bit of economic ease within their local region.

Industry.. Perceptions surrounding obligations and social license while combating global competitiveness and sustainability, all wrapped up aggressively in a package called business

Municipal.. Perceptions of a boomtown with infrastructure issues, high prices and even higher volume of people that come and go chasing dreams and the echoes of personal retention

Community.. Perceptions striving to find a healthy and vibrant balance. Where a local populace understands the rewards of investing in one’s self by building Fort McMurray into a home instead of a “place” Fort McMurray is without a doubt, the grease of the Canadian economic engine.

**Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association.. (NAABA)**

Traditional.. Earth, Spiritual, Community, Family.

All four elements are necessary to comprise the foundational requirements to achieve success in all facets of the Aboriginal perspective. NAABA objectively incorporates those fundamentals in both their Corporate Vision and Mission Statement to maintain that perspective while representing our Aboriginal Full Members.

Perspective.. NAABA, a non-profit organization, brought to life by community minded local Aboriginal men and women in business. A simple creed: *“Aboriginal Business in partnership with Industry; enhancing opportunities by supporting economic development of Aboriginal people in the Wood Buffalo Region”* says it all.

Perspective.. NAABA Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce with the sole mandate to act as an agent promoting the business of all NAABA Full Members within our organization to Industry. In turn NAABA also screens and confirms the credibility of its Membership on behalf of Industry concerns. . NAABA was built by the local people for the local people as represented by our 92 Full Members, 115 Associate Members and 14 Industry Members, all of whom are united by the concerns of what they give back to the local Fort McMurray region.

Perspective.. NAABA is burgeoning with local Aboriginal companies possessing the talent capable of significant and meaningful undertakings. Companies who are committed to continuous improvement and development as Fort McMurray expands on the road to its full potential. The majority of the existing stakeholders were here from the beginning. This is where it started.



2nd Vice President: Billy Graham  
(Corgan Industrial Ltd.)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Board Message/ 2  
General Meeting
- General Meeting/ 3  
Full Member Profile
- Events update 4

Continues on next page ...

**Upcoming General Meeting dates:**

**January 29, 2014**

**Sponsored by**



4 - 6 pm at the Radisson Hotel & Suites

**February 12, 2014**

**Sponsored by**



4 - 6 pm at the Radisson Hotel & Suites

**March 20, 2014**

**Sponsored by**



4 - 6 pm at the Radisson Hotel & Suites

**April 23, 2014**

**Sponsored by**



4 - 6 pm at the Radisson Hotel & Suites

Perspective .. 2013 NAABA ended with a celebratory anniversary Gala noting milestones that attest to those early starts. The last 20 years has seen our local Aboriginal business and Members distinguished with honors, the development of Aboriginal trade shows, regulated Aboriginal general business meetings, Industry procurement access, networking opportunities, training sessions and more.

Perspective.. NAABA has actively engaged all Aboriginal Leaders that have approached us on both local and national levels, sharing mutual concerns, reviewing successes and trials experienced by the NAABA model and our local businesses. NAABA has been approached by both regional Government sectors and interest groups alike, all looking to capitalize on relationships and prospective future work that our region promises.

Perspective.. What can be more exciting than where NAABA is heading..

- Development of the new NAABA Business Center to provide more in-depth services to Members and local Industry.
- Advanced business training and fundamental sessions.. free to our Full Members
- Development and implementation of Aboriginal content tracking systems to measure successes within Industry
- Accountability implementation of both Industry and Members to provide checks, balances and transparency

Recognition awards for both Membership and Industry for those entities that advance local business collaboration in all Aboriginal sectors

Perspective.. 2014 is very opportune to embrace an experienced and dynamic Board of Directors coupled with an energetic and competent NAABA staff. This is the fuel that will ignite the forge of a new Strategic Business Plan setting a new path for our

Full Members.

This diverse Board of Directors is comprised solely by vested local NAABA Full Members appointed on a volunteer basis, voted in by the majority of our Members. These individuals give selflessly with a major dedication of both personal time and resources. Some of the Directors are serving repeat terms and are commended for their gift and insight.

The NAABA organizational staff encompasses a competent and dedicated team that is the backbone to fulfill the business direction. Stability is a rare commodity in this community, and 2014 will be the pillar they place as they implement goals with enthusiasm and the healthy attitude demonstrated over the past few years.

The heart of NAABA belongs to our members, who are becoming more involved at ever increasing levels in our community as they realize the importance and impact of our region. It is comforting to know that what they call traditional is what actually is viewed globally as good old fashioned common sense and work ethic.

The global perception usually stems from a want of the proverbial piece of the pie. We can't change that. Our community can only look inward to those things we can change.

In our community perspective, it is always a socially good thing to invite company over for dinner, however, letting them eat you out of house and home then pack up a doggy bag is a bit beyond common sense.



## General Meeting

We held our first General Meeting in Anzac at the Community Hall.. Despite the road conditions a lot of people attended. This meeting was sponsored by FT Services and URS Flint.

The presentation from FT Services was held by Mathew Ford, Manager Procurement and Equipment.

Together with one of their shareholders URS Flint, they were happy to share industry knowledge and company insights into being a contractor and a client in the Oil Sands. At FT Services, they want to make sure that the companies they do business with are not only compliant with industry standards, but leading the way with new and improved systems and ideas about safety, quality and commercial value. Their vision is to deliver innovative services driven by a passion for their customers to succeed, and through their vendor selection strategy, they want to make sure that the companies they do business with share their vision. To host the General Meeting, it allowed them to communicate their strategy and get feedback from NAABA members about how they operate, and what value they can provide at various sites around Alberta. FT Services was happy to make new connections and to take part in an informative and valuable discussion around contracting and various services that the companies' in the room could provide. They are looking forward to hosting the February General Meeting where they will be focusing and sharing industry knowledge on turnarounds.



Augusto Gamerding held URS Flint's presentation "Driven to Deliver". Their presentation was about Supply Chain Management. Augusto gave valuable information about sub-contracting and their process. For more information you can view all of the presentations of this General Meeting on our website: [www.naaba.ca](http://www.naaba.ca).

Roni-Sue Moran, General Manager for Christina River Enterprises (CRE) was pleased to provide a short presentation to the attendees.

CRE is the operating business of the Fort McMurray #468 First Nation. CRE has been operating in the Wood Buffalo Region since 1987. Having started in the janitorial service, it has since expanded to Civil, Site Services, Expediting, and other services with resourceful and integral partnerships.

Christina River takes pride in the services they provide and the economic sustainability that helps grow the community. CRE will continue to provide opportunity for its community while considering factors such as environment, safety, and the well-being of its stakeholders.

They have most recently signed a partnership with Stantec and co-hosted an open house on October 24, 2013. CRE continues to engage in conversations with other potential business opportunity partners while keeping in mind their vision to be an integral service provider with best in class value to all of their stakeholders and a positive contributor to their community.



Dene Sky Site Services Ltd.'s amalgamation with Dene Sky Enterprises (2005) Ltd and Dene Iron Ltd. marks another incredible milestone in their journey. Much has been learned in their 8 year history as they expand, grow and diversify. Dene Sky Site Services is enjoying their journey as a major supplier to Alberta's petroleum industry and they are here to stay.



Their presentation emphasized Dene Sky's growing list of services offered and that safety is of utmost importance for them. They believe in that their people are the key to success and this is why Dene Sky invests in their employees ensuring that they have safe, knowledgeable and competent people executing their projects. Through this Dene Sky is able to achieve safe and productive work sites for their clients. Again, they are committed to achieving a zero accident and incident rate as well as a highly efficient workplace for everyone. Earthworks, Roads and Site Maintenance, Reclamation, Structural and B Pressure Welding, Plant Site Development, Oil Field and Construction Clean Up, and Heavy Equipment Hauling are a few of the core business units.

In closing, Dene Sky has been a longstanding member of NAABA and the Association has been a large part of their success. Whether it be from talking with Industry leaders, promoting the local companies, to training key people within the organizations. Working with NAABA has been a very successful relationship for Dene Sky Site Services Ltd..

## Full Member Profile—Wil-Con Steel Works

Wil-Con Steel works Ltd. is a Fort McMurray based company owned and operated by Leonard Wilson. The company started in 2000 under the name Wilson Fabrication as a single mobile welding rig and has been built from the ground up with grassroots management, later changing its name to Wil-Con Steel Works in 2008. Wil-Con has been a proud member of NABBA since 2006.

The company holds certifications for pressure welding along with CWB certification, specializing in Structural field erection and manufacturing. They proudly boast a flawless safety record since operations started in 2000, which they largely credit to a positive safety culture, always striving for excellence Health and Safety Management. Wil-Con has provided work for many of the prime contractors working on surrounding oilfield sites, as well as many projects for local business,

Wil-Con has also provided fabrication services on and for many new projects in the Fort McMurray area, such as MacDonald Island Park, Holy Trinity Catholic School and ATCO Gas Services. Benefiting the local community is always a top priority at Wil-Con and they look forward to working with you.



# Events update

The NAABA Events for 2014 will be kicked off with the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Showcase, February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Suncor Community Leisure Centre, Nexen Field House**. The Showcase will begin with the Speed Networking for participating members, from 11:00am-12:00pm. Following this, the Showcase will run from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. This is a great opportunity for our Full Member businesses to “show off what they got!” This portion of the event is open to the public. . . so despite the advertising that we will do from the NAABA office, word of mouth is the best form of advertising so please share the Showcase details with anyone who is interested in learning more about local Aboriginal Businesses. To wrap up the event there will be a networking reception from 6:00pm - 9:00pm with cocktails, appetizers, dancers and of course networking for the NAABA Membership!

## Thanks to the 2014 Presenting Sponsor:



Save the date. . .**The 4th Annual Aboriginal Women in Business Luncheon will be held on April 10th at the Suncor Leisure Centre, Miskinaw Ballroom**. We will be taking ticket registration for this event at the Showcase so please come and see us at the NAABA table!

### Main Events 2014:

February 19, 2014:	7th Aboriginal Business Showcase	MacDonald Island Park
April 10, 2014:	Aboriginal Women in Business Luncheon	Sawrdige Inn
July 11, 2014:	16th Annual Golf Tournament	Fort McMurray Golf Club
September 25, 2014:	Annual General Meeting	Sawrdige Inn & Conference Centre

For more information regarding our events, please contact Pam at 780-791-0478 or at [Pamela@naaba.ca](mailto:Pamela@naaba.ca)



425 Gregoire Drive, Suite 100, Fort McMurray AB T9H 4K7

phone: 780-791-0478, email: [admin@naaba.ca](mailto:admin@naaba.ca)