



Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association

# Engage

Oct—Dec 2009

CIRCLE OF INFORMATION

Quarterly Newsletter

## Board of Directors:

**Nicole Bourque-Bouchier,**  
President  
(Bouchier Contracting Ltd.)

**Dennis Gable,**  
Director  
(Pioneer Oilfield Rentals)

**Floyd Gladue,**  
Director  
(NIPI Services)

**Fred McDonald,**  
Director  
(Fort McKay Group of Companies)

**George Halfe,**  
Director  
(Protective Clothing)

**Marie [Buffy] Cheecham,**  
Director  
(BG Industrial Doctors Inc.)

**Ryan Pruden,**  
Director  
(Wapose Medical Services)

**Stan Wigmore,**  
Director  
(Mikisew Group of Companies)

**Tyrone Brass,**  
Director  
(Bayzik Electrical, Valve & Instrumentation)

## Inside this issue:

Annual General Meeting	2
Tools for Success	2
Songbook	2
New NAABA Members	3
Bylaws	3
Industry Highlight on Full Member	3
New Board of Directors	4
General Meeting	4
Upcoming Events	4

## BOARD'S MESSAGE - ROD STAFFORD

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Board. Fresh people and fresh ideas are what gives a new life to an already experienced and excellent group. I enjoyed my time on the board and met a lot of interesting and hard working people; with great business sense and determination to go after their dreams. When the board comes together they bring their life lessons they've learned, they brainstorm on ideas on how they can provide services that will assist NAABA's membership. They have a passion in making a difference and doing whatever is necessary for NAABA to work at its greatest capacity.

I am honored to know I was part of a group that took time out of their busy schedules and other commitments to work closely with our members. It was a pleasure to be a part of the Tools for Success Series and the bylaw revisions, just to name a couple. These projects were engaged to take NAABA to another level of professionalism and to bring our Aboriginal businesses and industry closer together.

NAABA has given me the opportunity to be part of these learnings; understanding where I need to grow, and how to send my personal message so I

too can be a contender in a competitive market.

I was not able to attend the AGM this year, but heard rave reviews of its success and what a wonderful time that was had by all. A great thanks goes out to ConocoPhillips for their contribution in improving our database and work opportunity tool.

I will remain a member and stay involved by supporting the initiatives that the new board of directors endeavour. I hope to see everyone around at the upcoming events.

I give a great big, BIG, thank you to Nicole and a most incredible Board and not to forget our highly devoted staff. I wish you all a healthy and prosperous year.

Rod Stafford  
Former 2nd Vice President  
NAABA Board Director 2008-2009



## WEBSITE DATABASE UPDATE



We would like to thank ConocoPhillips Canada for their contribution of \$25,000 to support and fund our website database. NAABA is very excited to introduce Phase II of our website to our Full Members. In an effort to help maintain an updated membership database, a website link for all Full Members of NAABA has been created and the information has been e-mailed to each company. This will allow you to log on and change or modify your business information when needed. This will also ensure that the information being posted on our website is correct and up to date.

To get started:

Go to - <http://www.naaba.ca/userAdmin/Admin/login.php>

Login - Enter the username and password emailed to your company

Feel free to explore your account and make adjustments where needed. You can also add new users and edit your personal user account.

Phase III will provide Industry with the means to pull Full Membership Profiles when companies put forward expressions of interest for Work Opportunities. Eventually Industry Companies will be able to post Local Work Opportunities directly on the website database. We will begin our Phase III design and strive to have this complete in the new year.

If you require assistance to walk through the steps please do not hesitate to contact Katie at 780-791-0478 or email her at [Katie@naaba.ca](mailto:Katie@naaba.ca).

## NAABA Contact Information

NAABA Office Location:  
425 Gregoire Drive, Suite 100  
Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 4K7

NAABA Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 5993, Stn Main  
Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 4V9

It was another great success for NAABA as we held our 16th Annual General Meeting Banquet at the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, sponsored by ConocoPhillips Canada. Our theme this year was "Entrepreneurial Spirit". There were 450 guests in attendance, including 35 Table Sponsors, in which most were our Full Members.

The evening began around 6:30pm with opening blessing given by one of our elders, Mrs. Yanik. Everyone indulged in a delicious five course dinner while enjoying our young Local Aboriginal Entertainers throughout the course of the meal.



Following the dinner a presentation was given by our sponsor speakers, Tiffany Meady and Bob Lof with ConocoPhillips. Their presentation concluded by presenting NAABA with a \$25,000 cheque to go towards our Online Work Opportunity Tool. This will open up a huge window of opportunity for all our members as NAABA continues to grow and expand.



Did I really bid that much?!?

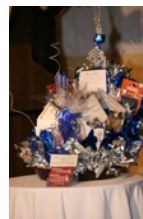
One of the highlights of the night was showcasing NAABA's new Promotional Video, "One Voice". The video consisted of Young Aboriginal Businesses as well as words of wisdom from some of the people who have already walked the long road of sustaining their Local Aboriginal Business. The video was a

great inspiration of what it takes to run a business. It was a positive reflection of our Aboriginal Business Community.

After the video, the new Board of Directors for 2009-2010 were called to the stage. Each director signed the Oath of Confidentiality while the directors carrying out their term read the oath aloud to the attendees. It was a great way to welcome the new board and present them to all our Members.



The evening ended with an exciting live auction, with Fred McDonald as our Auctioneer. The auction item was a Sweetheart package consisting of a Diamond Ring and a variety of donated items. Everyone watched as the bids began with a number of companies taking part in the exciting battle for the prize. In the end, the final bid went to David Bouchier with an incredible bid of \$25,000. A big thank you to all those that donated items towards our Sweetheart Package and a big thank you to David for his generosity.



Thank you to all our table sponsors, and our presenting sponsor, ConocoPhillips. We would also like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who helped organize the event and assisted in making this event a great success!

## Tools for Success Series Update

NAABA had a great turnout to our second Tools for Success Session September 23rd at the Oilsands Discovery Centre, hosted by Canadian Natural Resources Limited. The session had 35 NAABA participants, representing 19 businesses in attendance.

We received great feedback from our attendees through our Evaluation Summary. One member commented, "This was a very worthwhile seminar, very informative. Keep up the Good Work!!!"

A special note from our host: "CNRL Horizon Oil Sands was pleased to be part of the Tools for Success program. It gave us a great opportunity to meet with current and potential NAABA business partners, and it provided us some insight into how we can increase our level of communication and information sharing with a view to more full utili-

zation of NAABA member companies. Session attendees met members of our Supply Management leadership team and those responsible for Aboriginal and Regional business development, facilitating direct communication with the right contacts. Further, we have committed to sharing "work available to bid/propose" information in the near future."

NAABA would like to encourage all of our Full Members to take advantage of our upcoming sessions. Each session is hosted by a different Industry Committee Member. NAABA's goal through the Tools for Success Series is to assist in developing relationships between businesses and companies, while providing our members with tips and tools on Contract Management. See the [Tools for Success Calendar](#) on our website for more information on these events.

The next Tools for Success Seminar takes place October 22nd at the Quality Inn & Conference Centre from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. To register, email [chris@naaba.ca](mailto:chris@naaba.ca). This seminar is proudly sponsored by Shell.



**Annual Christmas Songbook**  
Christmas is fast approaching; a time filled with the sounds of the season. So, what better way to take part in the spirit of the holidays than to be a part of our Annual Songbook with the Fort McMurray Today. For more details on how you can sponsor a portion of the song book, please contact [chris@naaba.ca](mailto:chris@naaba.ca) by November 9th.

## WELCOME NAABA'S NEW MEMBERS

### Full Members and Contact Name

Bouchier Site Services (David Bouchier)  
Boucher Trucking Ltd. (Brian Boucher)  
CW Services (Charles & Hermalene Wilson)  
Dene Iron Ltd. (Sherri Herman)  
Fleet Enterprises Ltd. (Mavis Mercredi)  
MXC Racing & OffRoad (Adam Tatum)  
Pruden Contracting (Ryan Pruden)  
Quigley Trucking Ltd. (Gordon Funnell)

### Associate Members and Contact Name

Connacher Oil and Gas Limited (Doug Willy)  
ImagINATION , Imagination Cards Inc. (Marie Delorme)

**To become a member of NAABA, visit our website at [www.naaba.ca](http://www.naaba.ca) or call Cheryl Alexander, our General Manager, at (780) 791-0478 to schedule a meeting.**

We have over 100 Full Members!

## NAABA'S NEW BYLAWS

Page 3

As many of you know, NAABA has recently implemented new bylaws as of September 2009. In early July, a draft copy of the bylaws in progress were emailed to all of our Full Members and our Board of Directors so that we could receive feedback and suggestions. We were very pleased to have a lot of input and involvement during our bylaw revision.

Thanks to the help and support of our Full Members, Board of Directors, Office Staff, and Lawyer, Neil Duboff, we were able to present the completed copy of our Bylaws at the Annual General Meeting on September 17th.

Our new Bylaws will be posted on our website to view under "About Us". We welcome you to read the new Bylaws and contact us at [naaba@telus.net](mailto:naaba@telus.net) you have any questions or need further explanation.

## CONTRACTOR'S SUCCESS STEMS FROM SAFETY

by Will Gibson.....SYNCRUDE

DMJ Enterprises owner Doreen Janvier operates the heavy equipment wash bays at Syncrude's Mildred Lake site. Adopting new technology and investing in training employees has made DMJ a safe and efficient operation.

Doreen Janvier might operate the largest car wash in the world, cleaning the oil sand and mud caked on the massive dump trucks and heavy equipment that work in Syncrude's North Mine. "It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it," said Doreen, who first started as the wash bay contractor on the Mildred Lake site in 1991. "And we've been doing it well, which is why we have a very happy customer in Syncrude."

The vehicles get washed prior to going in for servicing at the nearby Mobile Maintenance garages. DMJ's technicians use wash wands with a high-pressure water jet rated at 1,200 to 1,800 pounds per square inch to scour the dirt off everything from dozers to heavy haulers. "These are big jobs so we typically clean an average of 12 pieces of heavy equipment – including a heavy hauler – in a given day," said Doreen, a long-time Fort McMurray resident and a member of the Chipewyan Prairie First Nation.

Doreen has invested time in training new employees to keep her operation safe and reliable. "Having a stable work force helps and if you train people the right way, they will work safe," said Doreen, who started working as a contractor for Syncrude in 1991. "You need to watch your young employees and make sure they are doing it the right way. I'm here all the time and we follow up any observations with good toolbox talks on safety." That training has paid off. DMJ has gone more than two years without a recordable injury and almost 12 years without a loss-time injury.

"Our last LTI was on August 6, 1997, which is a great accomplishment considering the potential hazards in the wash bay," Doreen said. "You climb up and down all the time so you have to be focused. There's water, which can make things slippery. You can get stuff falling on your head, splash back from the high-pressure sprayers. And you're working with chemicals."

The company has also embraced new technology. "We've added sensors on the doors of every wash bay so an alarm goes off when somebody enters the wash bay," said Doreen. Her crews clean off an average of 12 pieces of heavy equipment every day, including one heavy hauler. "There are now yellow warning lights that flashes while the pump is turned on in a wash bay to warn people from coming in. They used to just walk in and you don't want that when you are working with equipment pumping out 170 to 270 gallons of water per minute. That kind of water pressure can break bones."



The company's performance has not gone unnoticed as Syncrude awarded DMJ a new five-year contract that expanded its operation on site to include the Aurora and light-vehicle wash bays. "DMJ was awarded the contract on the merits of their proposal amid some stiff competition," said Gwen Jones, the Area Leader for Contract Support Services at Syncrude. "The excellent safety record they have achieved and their support and input to continuous improvements all factored into the award decision and we wish them continued success. This has increased their presence on site and we look forward to celebrating many more safety milestones with them. This success would not be possible without effective collaboration between DMJ and business unit leadership so I also give credit to all those folks in the areas whom play a part in this."

Doreen sees the success stemming from paying attention to the details and making tough decisions. "This isn't an easy business so you have to be prepared to make tough choices," said Doreen. "And you have to listen to your employees and customers. If they are happy, it will pay off for your business."

**Nicole Bourque-Bouchier**  
**NAABA President**  
 Bouchier Contracting Ltd.  
 (One year term)



**Floyd Gladue**  
 Nipi Services  
 (One year term)



**Tyrone Brass**  
 Bazik Inc.  
 (One year term)



**George Halfe**  
 Protective Clothing  
 (One year term)



**Ryan Pruden**  
 Wapose Medical Services  
 (One year term)



**Dennis Gable**  
 Pioneer Oilfield Rentals  
 (Two year term)



**Marie [Buffy] Cheecham**  
 BG Industrial Doctors Inc.  
 (Two year term)



**Fred McDonald**  
 Fort McKay GOC  
 (Two year term)



**Stan Wigmore**  
 Mikesew GOC  
 (Two year term)



## General Meeting Update: October 14th

We held our General Meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at the Radisson Hotel. Presentations included special speaker Debbie Hahn from Community Careers

Cooperative who spoke on the RAP & Coop program offered to high school students looking at learning a trade. More information on this program is available at the NAABA office. There was also a Full Membership website login demonstration. Everyone was shown exactly how to operate and maintain their Full Member profile account on the NAABA website. We had great interaction and received a lot of helpful feedback and suggestions to consider for our website database.

There were nineteen Full Members in attendance as well as nine Industry Representatives. Following the presentations, everyone enjoyed sandwiches and dessert and took some time to network.

The evening was a huge success! We will be having another General Meeting on December 9th at the Radisson Hotel, sponsored by Connacher. Make sure to mark it in your calendar!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct-09						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1		3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov-09						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec-09						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Tools for Success**  
 October 22, 2009  
 Hosted by Shell Energy  
 Located at the Quality Inn  
 and Conference Centre  
 from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

**General Meeting**  
 December 9, 2009  
 Located at the Radisson Hotel  
 from 4:00pm - 6:00 pm

Legend	
General Meetings	
Tools for Success	

For more information or to register for any upcoming events, please call  
 780-791-0478 or email [chris@naaba.ca](mailto:chris@naaba.ca).