Coastal GasLink gets Empowered

Meet the Coastal GasLink Climbers. Together, they made every step count as they raised more than $7,300 in support of the fourth-annual Climb for Cancer.

The Climb for Cancer is a community-based fundraiser that supports the mission of the Canadian Cancer Society. The event was made possible by community involvement, including residents, businesses, and of course, many families.

It was the first time a Coastal GasLink team participated in the event and its members hail from Prince George, Fort St. John, Vancouver, and Calgary.

Coastal GasLink’s new President David Pfeiffer even made it a family affair, with his wife and young sons scaling the notoriously steep Prince George Cutbanks.

The funds raised by the Coastal GasLink Climbers will support the Kordyban Lodge, which provides accommodation to cancer patients and their caregivers from Northern B.C. who need to travel for outpatient cancer care to Prince George.

“It was empowering to see the team and community come together for such an important event,” said David Pfeiffer, “as we’ve all had our families impacted by cancer and we all want to help the cause.”

More than half the funds raised were matched through Empower, TransCanada’s giving and volunteering program, which supports and encourages employees and contractors to give back to their communities. The Coastal GasLink team also won the Spirit Award for their collective efforts.

Whether it’s partnering with community groups or supporting local initiatives, Coastal GasLink is committed to helping to build strong and vibrant communities in the communities where we live, work and operate.

To date, Coastal GasLink has invested more than $8 million in local communities along the project route. And with project construction underway, we are committed to continuing to invest in initiatives that enable local communities to thrive for the long-term.

To learn more about our community investment program, or to apply for a community grant, please visit coastalgaslink.com/benefit

“It was such a great day. The community of Prince George has been a big part of our project success, it was important for all of us to be here today to do what we can to give back.”
– David Pfeiffer, President, Coastal GasLink

Coastal GasLink Climbs for Cancer (27 April 2019)
Meet our Prime Contractors: Surerus Murphy

Over the next few months, we will be profiling our four prime contractors. This month we are profiling Surerus Murphy, a joint venture headquartered in Fort St. John, BC and Calgary, made up of two companies with over 100 years of pipeline construction expertise.

In 2018, Coastal GasLink selected Surerus Murphy Joint Venture to construct segments 1 and 2 of the 670-kilometre project. In selecting our prime contractors, we sought out highly qualified companies that met our core principles for safety, environmental stewardship and stakeholder engagement.

We caught up with Sean Surerus, President of Surerus Pipeline Inc., last month and asked him a few questions about his role with the Coastal GasLink Project.

Can you provide us a little bit of background on your company?

Surerus Pipeline was founded in 1969 by my father in Fort St. John, where I grew up and remains the home base for the business today. The company started with one dump truck and in 1972 my father had an opportunity to build a small pipeline which led to 47 years and counting of pipeline construction.

In 2014, we were approached by several international contractors to participate in this project, and eventually developed a joint venture agreement with J. Murphy & Sons out of the United Kingdom. Surerus Murphy Joint Venture was developed to focus on large diameter pipeline projects, including the Coastal GasLink Project.

What experience does Surerus Murphy have with similar project?

We have extensive experience working on similar projects around BC and western Canada. For example, we’re currently working on TC Energy’s North Montney Mainline Project, which has about 600 people working and in 2018 we completed two sections of the Fox Creek to Namao project, which employed more than 1,200 workers.

The Coastal GasLink natural gas pipeline is definitely a larger project, but the real challenge is the terrain. As an experienced joint venture executing projects across a range of geographies and terrains, this project is very exciting.

Tell us a bit about your approach to safety and environmental protection?

We can’t work without our employees, so their safety is of the utmost importance to us. We are committed to developing our people into leaders in safety, and it is essential that we create a work environment where everyone is able to go home to his or her families at the end of each workday.

With respect to the environment, the land around our project site is critically important to our people as well as our many partners from the local Indigenous communities along the project route. They are the natural caretakers of the land and we recognize that we are their guests and that we are responsible for respecting their traditions and the environment.

What is your hiring policy and how are you including the local workforce?

In our experience, when we work with local businesses and workers, our projects are more successful. The insight of our local subcontractors and Indigenous partners allows us to deliver a more effective project.

Where we came from, working local has always been a key component of our approach to delivering projects, so, whether we’re in Fort St. John, Prince George or any other small town in western Canada, we want to be part of that community and help local communities for the long term.

What excites you about being involved in Coastal GasLink project?

For us, to be part of something in our own backyard is incredible. It says a lot for what BC has to offer, and that businesses from smaller communities are able to deliver a world-class project. We’re very proud to be from Fort St. John and to be a part of this exciting project.

To learn more about opportunities with Surerus Murphy on the project, please contact:

Employment inquiries: surerus-murphy.com/current-opportunities

Procurement inquiries: surerus-murphy.com/subcontractor-pre-qualifications
Coastal GasLink has spent many years planning the project to make sure that when we started preliminary construction and clearing work – which happened earlier this year – we had all the necessary plans and procedures in place to protect the environment.

One of the most significant pieces of work we did leading up to project commencement, was undertaking an extensive environmental assessment of the project; a process that consulted British Columbians and Indigenous communities about the what matters to them – from protecting from waterways, to important cultural areas, to the wildlife and flora that live in our forests.

As part of our permit application process, Coastal GasLink undertook in-depth assessments of the route. This included working with highly specialized scientists and engineers, as well as Indigenous community members in order to identify any areas of importance or significance that would need special protection during construction.

Coastal GasLink was successful in receiving an Environmental Assessment Certificate from the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) in 2014, and ten separate permits from the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), each containing up to 70 conditions that we will implement to protect the environment.

build a pipeline safely takes a lot of time, effort and preparation.

But our work does not end when we get the permits in hand. We have continued to prepare for construction by developing environmental and construction management plans that consider the important values we need to protect. And we are always doing fieldwork to make sure we have the most up to date information.

“Over the past few years we’ve gone out and actually put boots on the ground to identify important environmental resources before we start construction," noted Kim Ogilvie. “For example, when it comes to water, we have mapped each and every single watercourse and stream so that we’re really clear about where these watercourses are and we can ensure that we put measures in place to protect them these watercourses to support of diversity of wildlife.”

And during construction, we are implementing a construction monitoring program that invites Indigenous communities to observe and report back to their communities on construction activities in their territory.

Coastal GasLink is pleased to invite you to join us on Facebook. Be sure to like us and follow us to get the latest on the project, including what we are up to in the community and along the Project corridor.
Hope takes flight

With support dating back to 2007, all in all, we’ve been able to support 400 flights for people in need. Each flight arranged goes well beyond helping that one individual – Hope Air estimates that for every flight arranged, 45 people are impacted, from family & friends to co-workers and healthcare workers.

But beyond the numbers, it means that we are helping to improve the health and quality of life for people in our host communities. And that means a lot to us at Coastal GasLink.

With a recent pledge of $15,000, contributions from Coastal GasLink and TC Energy have surpassed the $100,000 mark.

“Through Coastal GasLink’s ongoing support, Hope Air patients are able to access this vital link to medical treatments, specialists and equipment that aren’t offered in their home communities,” says Hope Air CEO Doug Keller-Hobson. “Coastal GasLink’s generosity allows families experiencing illness or injury to spend less time worrying about the cost of travel and more time focused on getting better.”

Hope Air has changed lives for so many. And we are committed to continuing to support the important work they do.

If you find yourself in need of support from Hope Air, we encourage you to learn more about how they can help by visiting hopeair.ca.

“Without Hope Air I would never have been able to make it to Vancouver and back so many times to be with my team of specialists and my surgeon. I wouldn’t have been able to get the life changing surgery that has been given me my life back. As a low income mom of three it’s left me absolutely speechless that I’ve had such amazing help through Hope Air.” – Patient from Prince George, B.C.

In the community

Since its first ‘flight’ in 1986, Hope Air has arranged more than 130,000 free flights for low-income Canadians needing to be connected to vital medical care far from home.

TC Energy and Coastal GasLink have been proud to work with Hope Air for many years to help people in our operating communities, many of which, while vibrant and beautiful, are remote and thousands of kilometres away from medical support. In fact, among Hope Air’s top volume routes were flights from Prince George, Terrace and Smithers to Vancouver.

We sponsored the Northern Regional Construction Association’s Heavy Metal Rocks program in Prince George that allows 32 students to gain experience in a variety of trades over 4 days (May 2019).

The Coastal GasLink team joined hundreds of women in Fort St. John at The Spark Women’s Leadership Conference for two days of inspiring, educational speakers focused on professional development (May 2019)

Coastal GasLink sponsored and attended the 2019 North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) AGM in Williams Lake (May 2019)

Coastal GasLink
Pipeline Project

We’d like to hear from you
If you have any questions or comments about the project, please reach out.

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