

IN THIS ISSUE

Partnering with UWNBC p1
Fire rescue training centre p2
Witset business keeping community safe p3
Skills training p4
Project update p5
In your community p5

Partnering with United Way of Northern BC to help local communities

On April 6, Coastal GasLink announced a \$100,000 donation and partnership with United Way of Northern BC (UWNBC) to support the increasing needs of those affected by COVID-19.

“As healthcare professionals and first responders across North America work tirelessly to slow the spread of COVID-19, local charities are also under strain to support those most vulnerable during this unprecedented situation,” said Kiel Giddens, B.C. Public Affairs Manager for TC Energy & Coastal GasLink. “We want to do our part to support our neighbours, colleagues, and friends in the communities we live and work in across Northern B.C.”

This donation will help UWNBC in its effort to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities, including seniors in isolation, our homeless, those struggling with mental health and addiction and those needing food support amidst the COVID-19 emergency.

“I know United Way of Northern BC’s amazing team are working behind the scenes making sure our communities in Northern B.C. have what they need in order to thrive and get through this very hard time. Donations like what we see today will truly impact so many lives in positive ways, protecting our



Funds will go towards supporting the needs of the most vulnerable during these challenging times (photos courtesy of UWNBC).

vulnerable seniors, adults, youth, and families with supports that could include meal, prescription, and grocery deliveries, wellness checks and so much more. TC Energy continues to show us the meaning of social responsibility with partnerships and contributions like this,” says Sarrah Storey, Mayor of Fraser Lake.

Kathleen Connolly, Executive Director of the Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce, adds, “During these challenging times, we need to care for and protect the most vulnerable in our community. This goes beyond anything I would have expected. I have so much gratitude and appreciation for this exceptional donation and what it will mean to those who need it the most.”

For more information on the programs and agencies supported by United Way of Northern BC, visit unitedwaynbc.ca or contact UWNBC at 250-561-1040 or info@unitedwaynbc.ca.

#BetterTogether

This donation is part of a broader giving effort across North America by TC Energy, the company that’s building Coastal GasLink.

TC Energy has also launched the **TC Energy Giving Portal**, to further help organizations across Canada, such as the Breakfast Club of Canada and UNICEF Canada, support people and communities affected by COVID-19.



At Coastal GasLink, nothing matters to us more than the health and safety of our workforce, their families and communities. Learn about the measures we’re taking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 at CoastalGasLink.com.

Coastal GasLink supports expansion of Skeena Valley Fire Rescue Training Centre



Safety is our number one value, on our worksites and beyond into the communities where we work and live. That's why we're pleased to announce a \$15,000 donation to the Thornhill Firefighters Association.

The funding will support the development of a cold smoke training facility at the Skeena Valley Fire Rescue Training Centre in Thornhill, B.C., allowing firefighters from across the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine to simulate and train through several different emergency response scenarios.

These include confined space rescue, slope and high angle rescues, fire fighter survival techniques, occupant searches and rescues, simulated roof operations, ventilation and many others.

Once complete, the cold smoke facility will welcome neighboring rural fire departments to use it as an accessible and specialized rescue training facility, including Thornhill's 40-member volunteer fire department.

Lieut. Shawn Giesbrecht, a 22-year veteran of the Thornhill Fire Department, knows how critical training and education are in protecting the region — now and into the future. An important part of his role is training the new and younger members of the department.

"The facility will make a big difference for our region's first responders," Shawn explains, "The more we can provide lifelike rescue training experience, the better."

"Our volunteers will directly benefit from advanced training and knowledge by providing the highest standard of first response training to the communities of Thornhill, Lakelse Lake and the Kitselas First Nation," he added.

The Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department serves as support to the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, a large rural region that includes the Kitselas First Nation.

"Safety is absolutely our number one priority, and we know that Northern B.C. communities share our values and commitment to safety," explained Kiel Giddens, Coastal GasLink's, B.C. Public Affairs Manager, of the partnership.

Over the past few summers, B.C. has faced devastating wildfires, furthering

the need to ensure a high standard of education, training and preparation for the women and men of northern B.C.'s fire departments.

Speaking to the importance of the facility, Giddens added that first responders need to be trained to the latest standards and have the skills and tools to keep their communities safe, and this facility will allow them to get excellent experience and training close to home.

Part of our commitment to building an extraordinary legacy is to work together with local communities along the project route to be prepared in the unfortunate event of a wildfire. Coastal GasLink has put this commitment into action by funding critical training programs and facilities that are helping local communities get the training and equipment they need to fight local wildfires.

As the weather heats up across the province, we ask that everyone remain vigilant. If you see something that could cause a fire, please contact local authorities. Always obey local laws regarding open fires, including campfires.

Learn More

Coastal GasLink's donation to the Thornhill Firefighters Association is part of **TC Energy's Build Strong** program that provides valuable tools and resources to first responders, helps fund educational programs, supports important community needs and strengthens environmental stewardship and sustainability through local and regional investments.

Build Strong isn't just about giving back — it's about following through on the commitments we make. It's about building a stronger future, together.

Witset business puts health and safety first, while employing local workers

Like many northern Indigenous communities, Witset First Nation has implemented measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among its community of approximately 660 on-reserve members and 1,100 living off-reserve.

To protect its elders, guests and visitors are not allowed access to Witset, located 30 kilometres west of Smithers and 32 kilometres east of Hazelton, B.C. While intra-community social distancing restrictions are in place, some businesses, including Coastal GasLink contractor Seaton Forest Products, continue to maintain safe operations with physical distancing in place, helping to protect the health and economic well-being of their community.



We employ 22 local community members, including 15 Indigenous workers,” — Andy Thompson, manager of Seaton Forest Products.

“The work we do for Coastal GasLink and other pipeline projects, providing skids for pipelines, allows us to keep the mill running. We wouldn’t have made it to this point otherwise,” said Thompson.



Seaton Forest Products provides employment in Witset First Nation.

Pipe skids are ‘cradles’ that hold pipe in place while sections are welded together. Projects like Coastal GasLink require thousands of pipe skids to extend across the pipeline route, even when the pipe skids are reused. And with the slow down in business recently, the work is particularly important for Seaton Forest Products.

In addition to providing local employment, Seaton Forest Products also aligns with Coastal GasLink’s focus on the environment by milling dry balsam logs that are cut at the same time as the ‘green’ logs; i.e. logs with more moisture. While green logs are processed by most mills, the dry balsam logs would usually be left in the forest by larger mills.

Mill forester and administrator Kirsteen Laing shared, “we work with larger mills who bring the dry balsam wood that they don’t use to our mill to build products such as pipe skids. This helps to remove waste – and fire hazards – from the forest. And, because we are using the wood, it doesn’t get intentionally burned as waste which means better air quality for the local community.”

Added Laing, “I am very environment focused, and Andy is very industry focused, so our mill and the Coastal GasLink project are ways that we are able to bring our views together. But of high importance to both of us is being able to keep our employees working and to support the livelihoods of Indigenous people. Without pipeline work, we couldn’t do that. Even with much of Witset shut down for COVID-19, our workers can come to work safely everyday.”



Pipe skids, like those shown here side-by-side at Seaton Forest Products, hold pipe sections in place while they are being welded together.

Coastal GasLink helps launch careers in industry

Ask anyone looking to start a career and you'll often hear that what they really need to establish themselves is experience. The construction industry is no different, and young women and men who want to pursue a rewarding career as an equipment operator, welder or mechanic need the hours to perfect their craft.

The Coastal GasLink project represents a unique opportunity for workers starting out in the industry to get those valuable hours while also benefitting from a meaningful and well-paying job on one of Canada's biggest projects.

For Sydney Dash, the project has brought her so much closer to fulfilling her goal of becoming an equipment operator.

"Today I was actually running the equipment," said Dash, during a site visit earlier this year.



I did not think, being here for only two-and-a-half weeks, that I'd be let into the seat right away. It's a great opportunity for apprentices, it's perfect. You couldn't ask for it any better." — Sydney Dash

Helping young workers like Sydney is important to Coastal GasLink and is a driving force behind the Pathways to



Sydney Dash (second from left) and her crew at work on the Coastal GasLink project.

Prosperity Program, a six-day 'training-to-employment' program launched by prime contractor SA Energy Group that provides local Indigenous women and men with the skills and training they need to secure work in the construction industry.

Participants will be trained by leading construction experts and local Indigenous leaders and entrepreneurs. They'll graduate with the foundational skills and certificates needed to start working on the project right away.

"I started in December, I didn't have any experience but I'm here anyway and I've been liking it. Financially, this job has been amazing. I haven't had to struggle with bills any more, I can pay things on time, a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I want to own a house by the time this project's done, that's my five-year plan. Maybe get a truck, too," shared Alec Plasway, a labourer working on the project in Prince George.

"This is one of the biggest projects in Canada, who wouldn't want to be a part of it? You can talk about the millions, but

it's really the people on the ground who are employed, feeding their families, buying clothing for their kids. They're being part of the economy; they can make money and live a good life," says Derek Orr, SA Energy's Manager of Indigenous and Community Relations, and a former three-term Chief of McLeod Lake Indian Band, who is proud to be involved in the program.

To learn more about the program or apply, please email P3@SAenergygroup.com.



Alec Plasway (far right) and Derek Orr (second from right) with other Coastal GasLink crew members.



Project update

With the help of local contractors and Indigenous partners, Coastal GasLink reached a significant construction milestone with the 100 per cent completion of clearing on Section 5, the first of eight sections to do so. This milestone was achieved in late March as winter construction wound down for spring thaw.

Sign up today for construction updates at CoastalGasLink.com/construction-updates.

In your community



Coastal GasLink Indigenous Engagement Leads Sarah Dickie and Sheldon Harding connected with job seekers at the Saulteau First Nation Career Fair in early March.



In February, Coastal GasLink's Occupational Health & Safety Supervisor Jessica Main had the opportunity to share her work with Grade 9 students at the Women in Trades & Technology Conference in Dawson Creek, B.C. The event aims to encourage young women into careers in non-traditional trades and technology.



The Taylor Public Library upgraded its educational and media equipment necessities through the support of partners: Coastal GasLink, Fort St. John Co-op, North Peace Savings and Credit Union, Pembina, Peace River Hydro Partners, Canfor and Shell Canada. The new media equipment, computers and laptops will enhance workshops and training sessions for the community.

Keep in touch and learn more

We want to make sure you have access to the information you need about the project. Here are the many ways you can reach out, and learn more:



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CoastalGasLink.com



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Visit our community office:
Prince George
760 Kinsmen Place

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