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## Meet Jeffrey: Going from training to employment

“I love the machines!” shared Jeffrey Thomas, a Pathways to Prosperity student at his graduation ceremony last year. The six-day ‘training-to-employment opportunity’ program, delivered by Coastal GasLink and SA Energy Group, provides Indigenous and local women and men with specialized training to kick start a meaningful career in construction.

“The instructors tell me I’m a natural. I took that as a compliment, so I think I’m headed in the right direction,” he said.

That was more than a year ago, and the encouragement from his instructors sparked Jeffrey’s dream to become an equipment operator. Today, he’s working on the Coastal GasLink project, helping to maintain the equipment he’s passionate about, and taking another step closer to his goal of operating them.

Jeffrey, a member of the Nak’azdli Whut’en First Nation, is part of our current limited, approved workforce focused on critical activities such as environmental and site monitoring, equipment maintenance, and site security in advance of spring thaw.



Jeffrey is apprenticing on the project to achieve his dream of being an equipment operator

Working closely with public health officials and local authorities, Coastal GasLink is preparing plans for the safe return of workers as part of its mainline construction program later this summer. For Indigenous and local workers like Jeffrey, that means more opportunities for employment and skills development that can safely provide the experience needed to build a fulfilling career that lasts long after the project is complete.



**I’m going to give it 110% and I’m just so happy to be here,” — Jeffrey Thomas, Apprentice, SA Energy Group.**

### **Want to pursue a rewarding career like Jeffrey?**

Coastal GasLink and its prime contractor PAPC are hosting an Industry Readiness Training Program where you can explore career pathways and learn from construction experts and tradespeople. The two-week program is being held as follows:

Session 1: April 12 - 24, 2021

Session 2: April 26 - May 8, 2021

For more information, please email [training@pacific-atlantic.ca](mailto:training@pacific-atlantic.ca).

To help protect the health and safety of participants, COVID-19 measures will be in place during the program, in line with government guidelines.

# Keeping our workforce and local communities safe

At Coastal GasLink, nothing matters more to us than the health and safety of our workforce, their families and surrounding communities. Together with our team of medical experts, we are implementing industry-leading measures across our sites.

Dr. Allan Holmes with Iridia Health, together with International SOS, our medical services provider, are providing expert advice as we respond to emerging government guidance and direction to help keep our workers and local communities safe. This includes setting up a workforce pre-access screening program, as well as supporting the deployment of the BC Government's vaccination strategy. Together with Coastal GasLink's enhanced COVID-19 Management Plan, recently approved by Northern Health and B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, these measures provide effective layers of protection against COVID-19.

"Every mitigation measure that we've looked to do, we've analyzed it, enhanced it and at this point, we really feel the project is safer than it has ever been," says Dr. Holmes. "I think the public can be very confident in the plan."

International SOS' 24/7 on site presence means that Coastal GasLink workers get access to the health services, including mental health support, that they require while at work. It also ensures that critical local health resources are preserved for the local community.

"One of the biggest things is [workers] can get out of their house and come to work safely," says Pat Witty, a Registered Nurse with International SOS who is implementing the screening program. "It is really good for your mental health and I see that enthusiasm."

"We really want communities to know what we are doing — we want to be sharing, we want to learn," says Dr. Holmes. "There are people on this project who are working day and night to make it safe as possible."

As Edwin, one of the project's bus drivers says, "I feel safer here than I feel at home. Here, we've got protocols, testing and they want us to be safe."



Dr. Allan Holmes is advising Coastal GasLink's COVID-19 response



[Learn More](#)

Watch our video to learn about our enhanced health and safety measures [here](#).

Visit [CoastalGasLink.com/Safety](https://CoastalGasLink.com/Safety) to learn more, including weekly updates.

## Women making a difference on Coastal GasLink

While we commemorated International Women's Day in early March, we celebrate the remarkable job women do on the Coastal GasLink Project every day. Equipment operators, engineers, medics, and environmental monitors are just a few of the diverse roles filled by women working on Coastal GasLink.

Creating diverse, career-building opportunities is part of our commitment to create an extraordinary legacy for all people in British Columbia.

Hear from just a few of the **incredible women** making a difference for their communities every day and demonstrating our legacy in action.



**Brianna, Construction Monitor & Community Liaison, Nee Tahi Buhn Band**

Brianna represents her community, the Nee Tahi Buhn Band, as a Construction Monitor and Community Liaison. She observes, records and reports on construction activities as they occur to keep her community informed of the latest construction developments.

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# Monitoring bear habitats

At Coastal GasLink, protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat is part of our commitment to achieving the highest standards of environmental protection during construction, and for the life of the project.

“Coastal GasLink is a large and complicated project, therefore planning in advance and making sure we are aware of various species in general and how to protect them before construction starts is one of our goals,” says Narges Boroujerdi, Senior Environmental Advisor on the project.

To identify areas along the project footprint for bear denning habitat potential, several qualified professionals, under the guidance of registered biologists, complete bear den surveys using aerial and ground-based surveys. The aerial surveys are done by helicopter to scan out to 200 meters for signs of bear denning

activities, such as bears and tracks.

Following the aerial survey, ground crews focus on surveying previously-identified potential bear dens through ground surveys. They look for features that may provide suitable den sites, such as, large hollow trees, logs, stumps and rock cavities. Female bears can fold into a cavity where the entrance is only 30 centimeters across!

At locations where a potential bear den was identified, the crews install remote cameras to record signs of bear activity. Infrared cameras allow our environmental teams to view a habitat without going into the den which protects the bear’s denning areas (as well as our crews).

“With infrared, you can see them inside without entering the potential den, says Sherry Nugent, Senior Environmental Advisor. “If we confirm the den is active, we monitor it during the season with remote cameras and avoid disturbing it.”

When an active bear den is discovered, mitigation measures are implemented,

including stopping work immediately and maintaining a minimum 200-metre setback until the den is no longer active.

Bear denning is seasonal and occurs in the winter months. “Once a bear decides where they are denning, they are there. That can have impacts to construction and scheduling, such as clearing, as we cannot disturb them until the spring,” adds Nugent.

Environmental responsibility means always doing the right thing. To help reduce our footprint, Coastal GasLink works hard to proactively identify and mitigate potential issues every day.



Grizzly bears are an important part of the landscape across northern British Columbia

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“They have somebody right in their community, who is grassroots and who is a part of every phase and stage of the project right there from the beginning to the end,” Brianna explains. “They feel like they are being heard and that what they say is taken into consideration and that it matters.”

**Lindsay, Safety Coordinator, TC Energy**

As a Safety Coordinator, Lindsay spends her days working with our team

members and workers in the field to ensure everyone goes home safe at the end of the day. Her priority each day is not only ensuring the safety of our workforce, but also the safety of the surrounding Indigenous and local communities.

She embraces the challenge, knowing that no two days are ever the same.

“This is one of the biggest projects going on in North America right now, and I wanted to be a part of it,” shares

Lindsay. “I love the excitement of it, I love the go-go-go!”



# Coastal GasLink launches virtual open house

While we can't get together over a cup of coffee in your local community hall, connecting and engaging with our local communities is more important than ever.

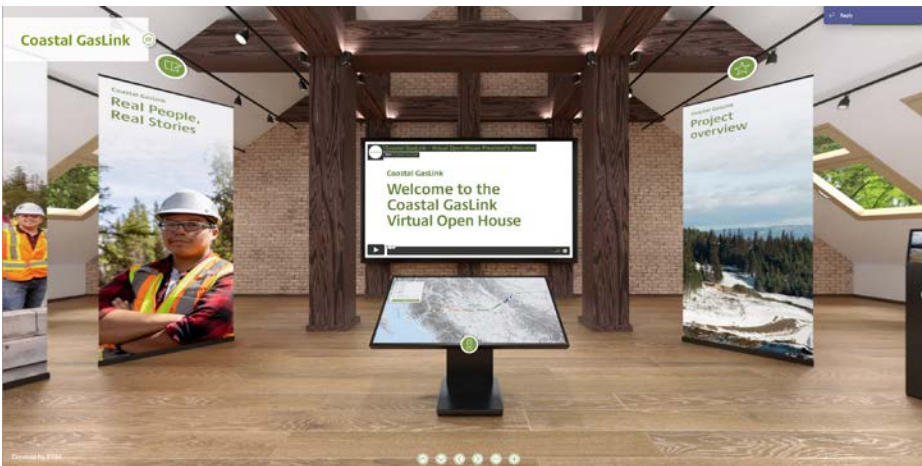
Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant we have had to adjust some of the ways we conduct our community engagement, but we've maintained our commitment to keeping our connection during these unprecedented times.

Starting in April 2021, we invite you to join us in a virtual setting, where you can learn about what is happening on

Coastal GasLink, as we continue to progress construction to safely deliver natural gas across northern B.C.

Through this virtual experience, you'll have the opportunity to hear from subject matter experts and review information about construction, environmental and safety considerations, training and employment opportunities, as well as our commitment to and collaboration with Indigenous and local communities.

Bookmark [coastalgaslink.com/openhouse](https://coastalgaslink.com/openhouse) today and follow us on social media to get updates when we launch our Virtual Open House in April 2021.



Visit Coastal GasLink's Open House in April to interact with us and learn about new opportunities across the project route

## In your community



Our Prince George team members stopped by to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern BC on Pink Shirt Day in their Spark Kindness shirts and masks. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of pink shirts support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern BC mentoring programs that serve youth in Prince George and the surrounding northern B.C. region.



For the last 3 years, we've supported the B.C.-based Starfish Pack Program in Terrace to help bridge that gap and work to end childhood hunger, one backpack at a time.



Bugwood Coffee Roasters in Smithers is a local business adapting and thriving during challenging times. We're proud to serve their delicious coffee at our 7-Mile and Huckleberry workforce lodges.

## Coastal GasLink



## We'd like to hear from you

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please reach out.

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