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West Moberly First Nations celebrates Sukunka Lodge opening

West Moberly First Nations celebrated an important milestone in the Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project with the official opening on Oct. 30 of Sukunka Lodge, a workforce accommodation site that will house women and men working on the project for the next few years.

West Moberly is partnered with Black Diamond Group to deliver all services at Sukunka Lodge—from catering to security.

“We are honoured to participate (in the project). Sukunka Lodge is a big deal to the West Moberly First Nations and provides an opportunity for employment,” Chief Roland Willson said at the ceremonial opening and celebration. “We’ve had a number of people working out here, setting everything up. The revenues that are generated for our community will help us move our nation forward.”

Sukunka Lodge features all the comforts of home and more, including a gym and 24-hour snack-bar. It is nestled in the forest approximately 42 kilometres south of Chetwynd, B.C. and within Dunne-Za and Cree traditional territory.

The site is presently home to approximately 150 women and men who typically work six days on, with one off and stay at site for several months at a time. This means things like food and amenities are important, along with other services.

Miranda McNeil, a Coastal GasLink construction monitor for the McLeod Lake Indian Band who will live at Sukunka, was impressed by the facility. She said there are a few important factors that help workforce accommodations feel like home.

“This is my first time seeing the gym here. It’s really huge,” she said. “Having cell service and wifi so that I can keep in touch with my family, especially my kids, is really important,” Miranda said.

Occupancy is expected to grow as work ramps up next year, reaching a peak of approximately 700 in the fall of 2020 when pipeline installation will be in full swing along the first few hundred kilometres of the route.

Sukunka Lodge is the first workforce accommodation site to be established in the South Peace Region, which encompasses Sections 1 and 2 of the Coastal GasLink Project.



Miranda McNeil is photographed in Sukunka Lodge’s fitness facility.

Frank Hufnagel, Coastal GasLink director of pipeline implementation, congratulated West Moberly on the opening and thanked them for the important role they are playing in helping to provide a safe and respectful home for workers.

“We are proud to have a partner that share our values,” said Hufnagel. “At Coastal GasLink, we are committed to creating an extraordinary legacy of safety and respect for communities and the environment. Safety for our workers and the local community is our number one priority, including at our workforce accommodations such as Sukunka Lodge.”



Chief Willson of the West Moberly First Nations opens Sukunka Lodge, together with members from Black Diamond Group, Surerus Murphy and Coastal GasLink’s Frank Hufnagel.

All workforce accommodations will be managed by Indigenous-partnered businesses. To learn more about our approach to workforce accommodations, check out our latest fact sheet at [CoastalGasLink.com](https://www.CoastalGasLink.com)

Meet our Prime Contractors: Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction (PAPC)



Section 7 of the project, near Houson, B.C.

Over the past few months, we have been introducing our four prime contractors. In this final installment of the series, we introduce PAPC.

In 2018, Coastal GasLink selected PAPC to construct sections 6 and 7 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 Doug Lougheed, Principal Consultant, Regulatory and Compliance at PAPC to chat about the work his company is doing on the Coastal GasLink Project.

Can you tell us a bit about your company?

While Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction (PAPC) is new to Canada, building large-diameter pipelines is one of our areas of expertise. PAPC is a Canadian subsidiary of Bonatti Group, an oil and gas general contractor based in Italy. In the last ten years, we have laid over 4,000 kilometres of pipe around the world, which amounts to approximately one per day.

We are committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all employees, contractors and sub-contractors on this project.

Through ongoing commitments to thorough investigations, effective and suitable corrective actions, development of project specific safety plans, coaching and mentoring, and a commitment to a collaborative approach to health and safety initiatives, PAPC will continually assess the effectiveness of its planning efforts, while opening the opportunity for employee feedback ensuring the safe and successful execution of this project.

Two years-ago PAPC was awarded a contract to construct sections 6 and 7 on the Coastal GasLink Project and our ongoing commitment to safety will be at the forefront of every step of executing this opportunity in a new market. Our mandate of “Safety First” trumps everything we do, and it is absolutely paramount that all members of the project are committed to putting “Safety First” as we do our part in creating this extraordinary project.

How important to PAPC is hiring local, including First Nations?

It's very important to us that we maximize the participation of First Nation and local communities in the project. From the time we were selected, we have been working to source local suppliers, to gain an understanding of capacity and communicating the training and employment requirements for the opportunity to work on this very exciting project with us.

The economic summits have been very successful in terms of allowing us to connect with local businesses and available labor pool. Through these events, we've been able to help people understand what we need in terms of services and skill sets to match opportunities with available positions and contracts on the project.

I think the economic summits have been a win-win for PAPC and everyone involved in the Project and those wanting to participate in the Project including local and First Nation communities.

What is the terrain like in sections 6 and 7?

PAPC is constructing sections 6 and 7 of the overall 670-kilometre project, which start around Burns Lake and runs 166km west to near Houston approximately. Access to the project right-of-way is excellent due to the fact there has been significant forest harvesting in the area, which results in excellent road access.

While it is not the most difficult terrain on the project, it will certainly have its challenges. For example, we will be crossing the Morice River, which will require a trenchless crossing so as not to disturb the water quality, fisheries and habitat in the Morice River. Protecting the local environment is a key commitment on this project and something we take very seriously.

What excites you and your company about being involved in this project?

We are very excited to be involved in this project. It will bring tremendous benefits to local communities and suppliers throughout British Columbia who will support the project infrastructure. It's not just direct pipeline construction jobs it's about all the spin-off third party services, restaurants, and local businesses which stand to benefit from this project for many years to come.

Coastal GasLink is proud to be building a project that will employ thousands of people across British Columbia. For more information, visit [CoastalGasLink.com](https://www.coastalgaslink.com)

Kitimat nurse-in-training wins \$10,000 TC Energy scholarship

Meet Caragh Brown, one of two Canadian students who were awarded this year's TC Energy scholarship.

The mother of two says she was in disbelief when she received the call that she was chosen out of more than 2,500 applicants.

"I never win anything, not even radio contests. After I got the call from TC Energy's scholarship program, I had a good cry," said Caragh, who decided to pursue a nursing degree after more than 20 years working as a registered massage therapist. "What made it even more special was that my family was in town visiting that weekend. It was great to be able to celebrate with them," said Caragh when asked her initial reaction to being awarded the scholarship.

Born and raised in Ontario, Caragh made her way to Calgary, where she raised her two sons before moving to Kitimat six years ago. Caragh and her family fell in love with the active, outdoor lifestyle and warm community that welcomed them to northern B.C.

With her sons in university, Caragh decided it would be a great time to change her career path. She saw a post on Facebook for TC Energy's scholarship program and thought, "What do I have to lose?"

When we asked Caragh what compelled her to go back to school to become a nurse, her answer was simple: "There's just not enough nurses here in the north."

With TC Energy's Coastal GasLink Project now under construction, Caragh sees growth in her community. She believes that with this growth comes a need for increased health care



services to meet the complex needs of individuals in regional, rural and remote communities. From this perspective, she is particularly interested in practice-driven, patient-centered coursework at UNBC that focuses on supporting the health needs of local First Nation communities.

Caragh wants to be an advocate for her patients and says it's a special feeling to know that someone's health may improve under her care.



I have a great opportunity to learn about First Nations culture and practices in hopes that I will become an outpost nurse for First Nations communities. That's my ultimate goal." — Caragh Brown, recipient of the TC Energy scholarship.

Education and health care are two essential components of building strong, vibrant communities where we operate and TC Energy and Coastal GasLink are committed to investing in the long-term growth, sustainability and wellness of communities in Northern B.C.

To learn more about Coastal GasLink's commitment to investing in long-term education, training and employment opportunities in the communities where it operates, visit [CoastalGasLink.com](https://www.coastalgaslink.com)



Weeds stymied by Coastal GasLink's invasive plant management plan

Chamomile—specifically scentless chamomile—looks delightful as a daisy, but is in fact listed as a noxious invasive plant in B.C.

“Many invasive plants were brought into BC as ornamentals or for their medicinal properties,” explains Penni Adams, B.C.’s Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) program manager.

“They’re a risk because they grow aggressively, damaging local ecosystems and affecting agricultural crops.”

Coastal GasLink’s respect for the land, culture and communities guides all of our decisions. That’s why we spend a great deal of time and effort on field work and environmental studies and making sure the right plans are in place during construction. It’s also why we teamed up with NWIPC in developing an Invasive Plant Management Plan for the project.

Invasive plants thrive in transportation corridors. Their seeds will hitchhike on moving vehicles and equipment—including boots—over long distances. Experience with invasive plant management, along with regional stakeholder consultation, led the Coastal GasLink project to engage NWIPC who are the local experts in this field.



Scentless chamomile and buttercups.

“Through the NWIPC, we have individuals currently working along the project route between Vanderhoof and Smithers to record, monitor or remove invasive plants. We also work with similar organizations to cover the entire pipeline route,” says Kim Ogilvie, Coastal GasLink’s Environment and Permitting manager.

NWIPC records detailed data on plant and location and treatments data in B.C.’s Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) database. Depending on the plant and location, immediate treatment can take place through digging up plants to remove root systems, deadheading, or applying a spot treatment in compliance with landowner and Indigenous interests, and regulations.

“All monitoring and mitigation efforts follow the IAPP protocol. Our work will generate baseline data, enabling Coastal GasLink to monitor and evaluate the success of its Invasive Plant Management Plan,” says Penni.

In addition to working with NWIPC, Coastal GasLink is taking these steps to mitigate invasive plants:

- Construction equipment must arrive at the project site clean and be free of soil or vegetative debris. Equipment is inspected and approved before accessing the right-of-way.
- Cleaning is required before moving equipment from noxious weed-infested areas.
- Surface materials where localized infestations are encountered are stripped and stored to prevent mixing with surrounding soils
- In agricultural areas, topsoil piles are monitored for weed growth.

In your community



Coastal GasLink joined the **Union of BC Municipalities 2019 Convention and Trade Show** in Vancouver from Sept. 23 to 27. It was a great opportunity to catch up with key stakeholders and government officials from across the project right of way (September 2019).



Coastal GasLink is hosting a series of **Open Houses & Job Fairs** across the project right of way. More than 1500 people have attended the events to date to learn about the project and job opportunities (September - November 2019).



A vibrant, sustainable future for Northern B.C. was the focus at the **Nation2Nation Events** forum in Terrace Oct. 23-25. Coastal GasLink shared in meaningful conversations with First Nations, and industry and government leaders from across the region (October 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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