

A stronger West. A stronger Canada.

ACCESSWEST

spring/
summer 2013

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CREATING JOBS AND BOOSTING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

See how the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund is driving economic growth across the West



ALSO INSIDE:

Strengthening the West Coast's Shipbuilding and Marine Industry

Find out what's happening under Western Canada's Shipbuilding Action Plan



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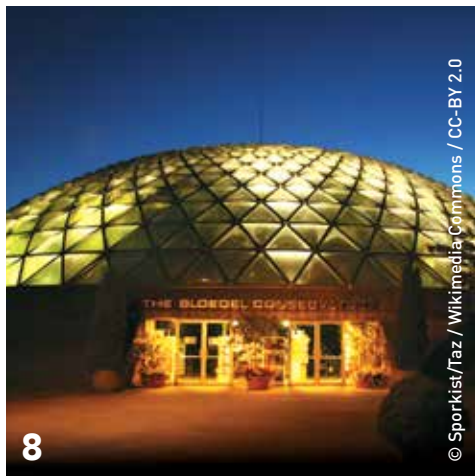
spring/summer 2013

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Aussi disponible en français
 ISSN: 1495-6802 (print)
 ISSN: 1495-6543 (online)

ON THE COVER:

Minister Yelich tours the Bloedel Conservatory, which received federal infrastructure funding through CIIF.





MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE LYNNE YELICH

The Honourable Lynne Yelich,
Minister of State for Western
Economic Diversification

I have been fortunate to visit many western Canadian communities where I have witnessed the benefits of our Government's continued focus on job creation and economic growth. I am happy to say that my department of Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has been an important part of this success as we continue to deliver on projects that strengthen our economic future and leave us well-positioned for continued growth.

Our Government has made infrastructure improvements a key part of our plan to create jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for Canadians. This commitment led to the creation of the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF). As you'll read in the coming pages of Access West, WD is supporting towns and cities across

Western Canada by helping them renew and improve existing infrastructure. In fact, I am proud to say that there are already hundreds of infrastructure projects well under way across the West. With our investments in them, we are keeping these valuable local assets viable for today and future generations while generating economic growth and jobs.

The good news does not stop there. At WD, we continue to encourage the growth of Canada's small- and medium-sized businesses through timely investments and new opportunities. This past spring, Western Canada's Shipbuilding Symposium, hosted by WD, brought together more than 500 representatives from companies across the West, across Canada,

and even internationally. The Symposium provided participants with the information needed to get involved in Canada's growing shipbuilding industry, and gave them the opportunity to make valuable business connections with key stakeholders under our Government's National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. Through hosting events like these, WD is delivering on Western Canada's Shipbuilding Action Plan to strengthen this important industry.

Together, we are working to build a stronger West for a stronger Canada.



SHIPBUILDING SYMPOSIUM **BRINGS BUSINESSES TOGETHER** FROM ACROSS THE WEST

Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from across Western Canada received important information and made valuable business connections at Western Canada's Shipbuilding Symposium, hosted by WD, in Vancouver earlier this year.



> Minister Yelich delivers keynote address at Western Canada's Shipbuilding Symposium.

"Western Canada's Shipbuilding Action Plan is working to create jobs, growth, and long-term prosperity in the West," said Minister Lynne Yelich, who delivered the keynote address at the event. "Events like today's Symposium are crucial in helping western Canadian industry continue

to grow by taking advantage of key business opportunities."

The Symposium, titled Get on Board the Supply Chain, brought together representatives from more than 350 SMEs across the West, and across Canada with prime contractors under the National Shipbuilding

Procurement Strategy (NSPS) to discuss specific projects and opportunities in British Columbia's shipbuilding industry. Prime contractors included Vancouver Shipyards and its first-tier suppliers (Thales and Imtech), as well as Irving Shipyards and its first-tier suppliers (Lockheed Martin and GE Canada).

"Our Government's first priority is creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity," said Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Saxton, who provided closing remarks at the Symposium. "The National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy is supporting Canadian jobs and industries, while bolstering the Canadian economy by building ships right here in Canada."

The Vancouver event aimed to educate western Canadian SMEs involved in the shipbuilding industry about the Government of Canada's defence-related procurement process, specifically for projects under the \$33-billion, 30-year NSPS.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM WERE TO:

- **Inform industry about the status and relevant key issues for each of the NSPS related projects;**
- **Advise industry of the general capabilities of interest to prime contractors and various supplier selection processes;**
- **Explain how to obtain pertinent certifications and standards; and**
- **Provide opportunities for SMEs to establish business connections.**

The NSPS is expected to create about 4,000 high-value jobs on the West Coast and to produce a wide range of economic opportunities for local businesses throughout Western Canada.



Among those opportunities will be skilled work in a variety of sectors, such as steel manufacturing, information technology, and defence systems development and integration. As well, SMEs across the West will benefit not only through the construction of large and small vessels, but from work related to repairing and refitting Canada's ships.

"The Shipbuilding Symposium was the latest example of WD stepping up to put my company in front of key international companies as a qualified potential partner," said Martin Cronin, Chief Executive Officer of Helios Global Technologies Ltd. "It would be impossible for SMEs in particular to achieve with their own resources the high level of exposure and advocacy that WD undertakes on their behalf. I truly believe events like these are government working at its best." AW

▲

Minister Yelich with key stakeholders at the Symposium. Left to right: Tim Page, President, CADSI, Eugene Stewart, Senior Project Manager, International Trade Development, Lockheed Martin, Daniel Verreault, Country Director for Military Systems Operation, GE Canada, Gerhard Hones, Manager, Industrial and Regional Benefits, Lockheed Martin, Member of Parliament Wai Young, Brian Carter, President, Seaspan Shipyards, Gerry Neven, Vice President of Marketing and Sales, Imtech Marine Canada, Minister Lynne Yelich, Gary Payne, Contracts and Industrial Benefits (Offsets) Manager, Thales Canada Defence and Security, Stefan Nieuwenhyus, Area Manager, Imtech Marine and Offshore SAS, Mike McAloon, Vice President, Industrial Regional Benefits Program, Irving Shipbuilding.

BUILDING FibreCITY ...AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

With the creation of FibreCITY, North America's first centre of excellence for fibre grading, Canada is set to become a leader in the development of composites using agricultural fibre.



A WD investment has allowed the Composites Innovation Centre (CIC) to establish a centre for the innovative use of agricultural products. Federal funding went towards the purchase of equipment for the new Winnipeg facility, which is designed to evaluate and grade the physical, chemical and mechanical properties of fibre available in agricultural crops across the Prairies. The ultimate goal is to be able to use this fibre in development of new, leading-edge composites.

"Our Government is helping ensure that Canada remains at the cutting edge of the composites industry," said MP Rod Bruinooge at the January 2013 funding announcement. "Through this investment we are helping Canadian manufacturers gain a competitive advantage in this growing sector."

According to Simon Potter, Product Innovation Sector Manager at the CIC, the uptake of biofibre composite

products in the wider market is currently being prevented due to lack of consistency.

As it stands now, the use of agricultural fibres in composites is done through experimentation, thus not allowing for large-scale applications. While Potter acknowledges this is the current state of the technology, he said he believes the new facility will change all that, and explained that the goal of the centre is to move research on agricultural fibres "from empirical to rational design."

"We have representatives from the automotive, heavy equipment, and aerospace industries on board," Potter said. "They are keen to apply the technology to their respective sectors, they just want to see consistency, and that is specifically what FibreCITY is set up to demonstrate."

In composite development, there are many benefits to using

agricultural fibre over synthetic. Among the advantages are:

- **agricultural fibres are a renewable resource;**
- **the final product contains less embodied energy than synthetics; and**
- **agricultural fibre composites are lighter than their synthetic counterparts.**

There is also enhanced value for farmers, who would normally burn plant matter left over from crop harvest. In the future, they will be able to generate additional income from this.

"This is a very important science initiative, and a significant business opportunity for the Canadian agricultural sector," said Potter. "It brings together various aspects of scientific research, and allows Canadian farmers to directly benefit from them." AW

PUTTING TOOLS IN THE HANDS OF INNOVATORS

Winnipeg's innovators and inventors are expanding their horizons thanks to federal funding which will enhance AssentWorks' prototyping and fabrication facility.

"Our Government is committed to creating jobs, economic growth and prosperity," said Minister Vic Toews. "This investment will remove barriers for new entrepreneurs who would not otherwise be able to purchase the specialized equipment necessary to undertake the research and development needed to produce new prototypes."

Prototypes are working models that allow builders of everything from snowboards to complex machines to test the functionality of their designs and explore different alternatives to their design concepts. They can also serve as a finished product to bring before investors when seeking funding for mass production and marketing.

"The funding we received from WD will give us finished prototyping capability, which means entrepreneurs will be able to produce a finished object that is refined enough to showcase to investors, and even do small-run batches," said AssentWorks co-founder Michael Legary.

The equipment needed to develop an idea from a concept to a marketable physical object is prohibitively expensive for most entrepreneurs.



Minister Toews speaks with David Prystupa, who has invented a more effective grain-sorting machine.

This is where AssentWorks comes in. For an affordable monthly fee, they provide their members with access to 3D printers, wood and metal working equipment, and a host of other tools used in building prototypes.

The successful marketing of prototypes built by AssentWorks members will bring many economic benefits to the province. As Legary puts it, this will be a case of the Manitoba economy "reinvesting in itself."

AW

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WEST

Hundreds of projects to revitalize community facilities, such as swimming pools, hockey arenas and community centres, are now underway across Western Canada.

These initiatives are part of the Government of Canada's \$150 million Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) to support repairs and improvements to existing community facilities across the country and help create jobs.

"Our Government remains focused on delivering strategic community and economic development programs that have a long-lasting, positive impact on our residents," said Minister Lynne Yelich, who launched the program

in Kenaston, Saskatchewan in 2012. "Community facilities bring families and residents together, and our Government's support for these facilities is generating economic activity and jobs."

WD is responsible for delivering Western Canada's share of the fund, which is \$46.2 million. A resounding success, the program was met with enthusiasm across the West, and all funding under the program has now been allocated.

Community infrastructure projects supported through CIIF are strengthening communities across the country and making Western Canada an even better place to live, work and play. As part of the government's Economic Action Plan, this funding is creating jobs in communities across the country, offering broad-based economic benefits as well as renewed infrastructure.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Upgrading a Vancouver Landmark

Thanks to structural upgrades made possible with federal funding, the Bloedel Conservatory in Vancouver will continue to provide a home for exotic plants, flowers and wildlife.

"Our Government is pleased to support infrastructure projects across the country like the roof replacement project at the Bloedel Conservatory," said Minister Lynne Yelich. "This investment will serve to enhance the experience and services provided by this facility, which provides visitors with access to a year-round tropical garden."

Federal support is helping the City of Vancouver to replace the existing

roof panels and refurbish the central ventilation fan at the top of the conservatory's dome.

Twelve-year old Emma Bolzner helped Minister Yelich announce the investment. Emma is one of the conservatory's biggest supporters and has raised over \$750 for the facility. Her creative fundraising efforts include encouraging friends and family to donate to the conservatory instead of giving her birthday gifts.

Since 1969, the Conservatory has stood at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Park, featuring 500 unique plants and flowers and over 100 free-flying birds.

The investment made by WD will extend the life of the conservatory and ensure that it remains a valuable asset to the community.



Left to right: Bill Harding, Director of Parks, City of Vancouver; Niki Sharma, Commissioner, Vancouver Parks Board; John Coupar, Commissioner, Vancouver Parks Board; Emma Bolzner, Minister Yelich, Geoff Meggs, Deputy Mayor, City of Vancouver, Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Saxton.

Enhancing the experience at Maplewood Farm

North Vancouver families were happy to hear that one of their beloved destinations is getting much-needed support from the federal government.

Boasting some 90,000 visitors a year, Maplewood Farm is one of North Vancouver's top tourist attractions. Thanks to a WD investment under CIIF, it is undergoing several infrastructure upgrades to ensure it continues to attract families and boost the economy well into the future.

In November 2012, Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Saxton announced that Maplewood Farm will receive federal funding for improvements to the farm.

"Here in North Vancouver, Maplewood Farm is an important part of community life," said Parliamentary Secretary Saxton. "Our Government's support for this facility will provide it with new, modern components and increase accessibility for visitors."

Upgrades to the farm include new shelters by the animal-viewing pens, washroom renovations, and increased accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The CIIF investment will build upon funding already dedicated to this project by the District of North Vancouver.

"The District is pleased to partner with the Government of Canada to upgrade Maplewood Farm's infrastructure," said North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton. "The funding, which the District will match, will allow us to carry out much-needed upgrades to the Farm, including increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities."



PS Saxton, Mayor Walton and some of the school children with goats at the Farm.

First opened to the public in 1975, Maplewood Farm has a long legacy of providing a truly unique experience for families and animal-lovers alike.

With a collection of over 200 domestic farm animals and birds, picnic areas, and pony and pedal tractor rides, the five-acre farm provides a variety of options for family fun.

Federal funding improves fire rescue training facility

Thanks to recently-announced CIIF funding, the Oyster River Volunteer Fire Rescue Association's facility is undergoing important renovations.

"Our Government is pleased to support infrastructure projects across the country like the renovations to the fire rescue training facility here in Black Creek," said MP John Duncan. "The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund will benefit Canadian families and communities immediately, helping to support job creation, boosting economic activity,

as well as creating safe and accessible community infrastructure facilities for years to come."

With federal support, the Oyster River Volunteer Fire Rescue Association will purchase and install new doors, windows, insulation and locks at the Black Creek facility. They will also paint the structure, and upgrade the plumbing, wiring and culverts.

"The members of Oyster River Volunteer Fire Rescue very much welcome the opportunity to complete the interior of the facility and expand its training capabilities so that it can be put to full use in the training of emergency response personnel," said Fire Chief Niels Holbek.

Founded in 1976, the fire rescue training association provides fire protection, rescue, extrication from motor vehicle accidents and emergency first responder service in the Black Creek, Oyster Bay, and York Road areas of British Columbia.



Left to right: Joan Westgard, President of the Thistle Curling Club, Minister Yelich, MP James Rajotte, and Barry Westgard, Vice-President of the Thistle Curling Club.

ALBERTA

Infrastructure Improvements "Sweep" Across Edmonton

Thanks to federal support through CIIF, six community facilities in Edmonton are seeing significant infrastructure improvements to bring long-term economic benefits to the city.

Minister Lynne Yelich and MP James Rajotte were in Edmonton mid-March to announce the series of investments. Specifically, upgrades will be made to the Thistle Curling Club, Pleasantview Community League, Edmonton Ski Club, Alberta Avenue Community League, Fort Edmonton Park and the Edmonton Radial Railway Society.

"Our Government is pleased today to announce support for so many excellent projects in Edmonton,"

said Minister Yelich. "Families and communities across the city will benefit from these initiatives, which will leave a lasting legacy of modernized community facilities."

Funding for these facilities was announced at the Thistle Curling Club, which was founded in 1920, making it Edmonton's oldest curling club. The Thistle caters to recreational and competitive curlers of all ages and is home to the annual Icemakers Bonspiel, an event held in the late spring to honour those who work and volunteer in the curling world.

With help from federal funding, visitors of the curling club will see several improvements to the facility, most notably upgrades to the front entry area. In addition, the club will undergo upgrades to its ceiling, the installation of a new cafeteria counter,



Left to right: Barry Westgard, Vice-President of the Thistle Curling Club, Minister Yelich, and MP James Rajotte at the Thistle Curling Club.

and interior improvements throughout the facility. The Thistle has enjoyed decades of busy and successful seasons, and support through CIIF enables it to continue doing so long into the future.

"We are very appreciative of this assistance from the Government of Canada," said Joan Westgard, President of the Thistle Curling Club. "Our now brightly lit and newly refinished entryway is a welcome sight as we enter or exit the club. And we look forward to being able to renovate the concession area at the conclusion of the curling season."

The other announced infrastructure projects will also boost tourism and generate economic activity across Edmonton. Improvements to the streetcar tracks at Fort Edmonton Park will lead to an increase in visitors and a variety of upgrades to the Alberta Avenue Community Centre will ensure that it may continue to host a number of sports, recreation and social activities for the community.

Federal funding will also improve passenger safety Edmonton's High Level Bridge streetcar line, enhance Edmonton Ski Club's lighting facilities and snow delivery system, and upgrade the Pleasantview Community League's parking lot.

"I am proud to see Edmonton benefit from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund," said MP Rajotte. "Investments under this fund will ensure the longevity of these important community facilities."

Red Deer Library Revitalized

The Red Deer Public Library will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2014 – and now, thanks to federal funding through CIIF, the facility is prepared to serve residents and visitors for another hundred years.

A federal investment towards the library, announced by MP Earl Dreeshen in November, supported electrical upgrades and the installation of new air conditioning equipment, along with several other interior renovations.

"I am proud to see Red Deer benefit from our Government's support for local infrastructure," said MP Dreeshen. "Libraries are integral facilities that provide communities with accessible facilities for academic, educational and recreational use. Our investment is allowing the Red Deer Public Library to continue serving the community for years to come."

Upgrades made to the Red Deer Public Library are reducing operating costs, creating a more energy efficient facility, and providing a more comfortable, modernized learning space for public enjoyment.

"Red Deer Public Library is pleased to receive support from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund for important renovations to one of Red Deer's most used public facilities," said Duncan Anderson, Board Chair of the Red Deer Library Board. "Along with support from the provincial Community Facility Enhancement Program and the City of Red Deer's tax levy, the federal funds will help to make the Library's Downtown Branch more accessible, energy-efficient, and aesthetically pleasing."

Major Upgrades to Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre

The Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre in Beaumont, Alberta received much-needed upgrades, including the replacement of the ventilation system, improvements to the roof, and the installation of new signage, thanks to federal support through CIIF.

Federal funding was announced in January by Parliamentary Secretary Mike Lake.

"Our Government is focused on what matters to Canadians – creating jobs and growth," said Parliamentary Secretary Lake. "By investing in local infrastructure projects, our Government continues to support communities like Beaumont across the country while boosting economic activity."

JJ Straker, Director of Parks and Facilities with the Town of Beaumont, says that renovations are on schedule and are not impacting day-to-day operations.

"Currently, all users have normal access and bookings are continuing as normal," says Straker. "The tender process has been completed for both the architectural upgrades and the curling floor replacement. The building will still be in use during the renovations, so user safety is our number one priority."

As a community hub, the Centre offers a wide range of activities year-round, from public skating to curling and dance classes. The CIIF investment will be used to improve the Centre's operational efficiency and enhance the recreational experiences of visitors.

SASKATCHEWAN

Federal Support Benefits Saskatchewan Residents with Learning Disabilities

Thanks to federal funding, the Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan (LDAS) offices are undergoing a much-needed facelift that is seeing the Saskatoon location get a new kitchen, automatic door opener and washrooms that meet accessibility standards.



▲ Minister Yelich celebrates CIIF funding with LDAS President Michael Karras, student Ian Small, and Executive Director Dale Rempel.

"I am very happy to see Saskatchewan residents with learning disabilities benefit from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund," said Minister Lynne Yelich at the funding announcement. "By improving facilities such as this, we are ensuring that residents have access to the community services they need."

Upgrades are also being made to electrical and mechanical systems at the Saskatoon offices. These

renovations significantly improve the quality of service LDAS can provide to its clients.

"It has long been our dream to purchase our own building, and when the opportunity came up we seized it. But it was an older building, so the retrofits needed were costly," said Dale Rempel, Executive Director of the LDAS. "This funding couldn't have come at a better time for us. It has allowed us to expand the programs we offer and to have a bright and pleasant environment for our clients."

The LDAS offers a range of programs to improve skills such as reading, writing and problem-solving to help those with learning disabilities succeed.

Yorkton Airport Gets Runway Upgrade

Thanks to federal support, the Yorkton Municipal Airport is receiving upgrades to improve the movement of aircraft on its runways. New signage and lighting, and better runway drainage, will also help make the airport safer.

"Facilities like this one are important – they serve the business community, which provides the foundation for continued economic growth in the area," said MP Garry Breitkreuz.

Federal funding under the CIIF program will cover construction work – slated for summer 2013 – and support the creation of additional jobs for the community of Yorkton.

"The projects made possible by this funding will help improve the safety of the airport," said Josh Mickleborough, City Engineer and Airport Manager. "New approach lighting, signage and an extension to the taxiway will allow pilots to be more precise in their landings, and assist their movements on the taxiway and runway. These improvements may have been years out if it were not for this investment in the airport's infrastructure."

The Yorkton Municipal Airport, as the regional transportation hub of East-Central Saskatchewan, is the second-busiest airport in southern Saskatchewan after Regina.

"This is good news for Yorkton," said Mayor Bob Maloney. "This significant funding helps us to move forward with much-needed improvements to our airport infrastructure and will enhance our stature as the regional transportation hub of East-Central Saskatchewan."



▲ An aerial shot of Yorkton Airport. Photo courtesy of the City of Yorkton.

MANITOBA

St. Norbert Community Park and Farmers' Market gains ground

Manitoba farmers and artisans who have been selling fresh produce, flowers, meat and other locally-crafted items at St. Norbert Farmers' Market are welcoming a federal investment that will ensure their market continues to thrive well into the future.

Federal funding for this project builds on contributions from the City of Winnipeg, community groups, and the St. Norbert Foundation.

A valuable contributor to the local economy, the market attracts more than 150,000 visitors during the season and is only part of a larger community space, which includes other facilities such as École Noël-Ritchot and the St. Norbert Community Centre.



MP Bruinooge and Minister Yelich announce support for community infrastructure at Le Marché St. Norbert Farmers' Market in Winnipeg.

With funding from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund, improvements will be made to the market entry, park access, and pathways. In addition to landscaping, the seating will be replaced and the floor in the market area will be upgraded.

Minister Lynne Yelich and MP Rod Bruinooge made the announcement in January 2013.

"I am pleased to see Winnipeg benefit from our Government's commitment to renew and improve community infrastructure," said Minister Yelich. "Our investment in the St. Norbert Community Park and Farmers' Market will upgrade a tremendous local asset."

These infrastructure improvements will enhance the experience for Farmers' Market vendors and visitors, while creating economic opportunities for Winnipeg residents.

Altona Airport lands funding for runway repairs

Thanks to federal funding, upgrades to the Altona Municipal Airport will improve safety and ensure the region retains its emergency air ambulance service.

The federal investment will go towards much-needed repairs to the runway, such as removing weed growth, repairing surface cracks, and installing

an asphalt overlay on the existing runway, taxiway and apron.


"Our Government is committed to creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity in our communities," said Parliamentary Secretary Candice Bergen. "Improvements to the runway will ensure safe and reliable access while helping to boost economic activity and maintain a high quality of life."

The upgrade will yield some other "on-the-ground" benefits as well. The improvements will ensure a safer runway for users, while creating local jobs and economic opportunities.

R.M. of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe said he looks forward to the benefits this will bring to his community, and says the good news couldn't have come at a better time.



Parliamentary Secretary Bergen makes CIIF funding announcement at Altona Municipal Airport.

"The runway was showing its age – it was deteriorating every year and this needed to be addressed," he said. "The Altona Airport gets a lot of use, from private planes to medical aircraft, and we believe with these repairs it will continue to bring in business for years to come." 

EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY IN HEAVY OIL COUNTRY

Alberta's Lakeland College is helping to address the province's increasing need for workers skilled in heavy oil production by expanding training and facilities at its Lloydminster campus.

Kara Johnston, Director of Energy, Entrepreneurship and Aboriginal Programming for Lakeland College, looks on as Minister Yelich delivers her remarks.



According to the Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada's labour market outlook, the oil and gas industry will need to fill almost 10,000 positions by 2015.

To help fill the gap, the college introduced a two-year Heavy Oil Power Engineering diploma program in September 2012, supplementing the one-year Heavy Oil Operations Technician certificate program already offered.

Lakeland's power engineering program is unique in Canada because of the addition of the heavy oil training, a change that was important to the college's industry partners.

Also significant is that companies will be able to upgrade workers' heavy oil

skills through new evening, weekend and online courses.

To support the growth of the program, WD is investing in four pieces of specialized heavy oil processing simulators and equipment that will allow students to simulate heavy oil upgrading and steam-assisted gravity drainage processes.

"This initiative will help to develop a highly skilled and flexible workforce, while ensuring small- and medium-sized businesses remain competitive in the local and global marketplace," Minister Lynne Yelich said when announcing the investment in March 2013.

The equipment will be housed at the College's new Petroleum Centre. The expansion, expected to be complete by early 2015, will offer a large power

engineering and heavy oil lab with three steam boilers, water treatment equipment, a turbine generator and simulation training spaces.

"We're in the heart of heavy oil country out here, so we're trying to be very responsive to both the industry and our students," said Kara Johnston, Director of Energy, Entrepreneurship and Aboriginal Programming. "The expansion gives us a chance to train our students to be complete operators so that when they hit industry, they are more fully trained and they have a greater depth of knowledge."

WD's investment builds on previous support, announced in February 2012, to Lakeland College for two mobile pyrolysis units to test, evaluate and demonstrate biochar products for the agricultural and environmental marketplace. **AW**

ENHANCING ANIMAL HEALTH TESTING IN THE WEST



Federal support is helping Saskatoon's Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc. (PDS) purchase new equipment that will give western Canadian veterinarians and animal producers access to enhanced diagnostics testing services.

The federally-funded equipment will support the development of new testing for toxins in animal feeds, and enhance existing services in other areas. This will allow veterinarians to maintain the health of food animals and wildlife while supporting the export of food products from all of Canada.

"Our Government is committed to helping businesses develop and maintain a competitive advantage," said Minister Lynne Yelich when she announced WD funding to the laboratory in April. "A strong private sector and regional economies are crucial to job creation and long-term prosperity for Canadians."



Maggie Schwab, Area Supervisor, PDS Microbiology Lab (left) and Dale Godson, PDS Microbiologist (right) show Minister Yelich lab equipment.

The increased testing capabilities will also allow PDS to better help western Canadian producer groups meet domestic and international regulatory standards. For example, tests for detecting bacteria and viruses using molecular biology techniques will be expanded. This testing methodology is being utilized to a much greater extent in testing for export. Molecular diagnostics is also playing an increasingly important role in the early diagnosis of serious diseases, including avian and swine influenza.

"PDS is very excited about the opportunity that this investment provides," said PDS CEO Marilyn Jonas. "The new services will enhance the value of our laboratory to Western Canada's animal production and veterinary community by expanding the breadth and depth of our diagnostic capability and expertise. We see this as important for individual clients and as a key component of our broader role in animal disease detection and surveillance in the western Canadian region, and in Canada as a whole."

Jonas explained that this equipment will provide western Canadian industry with opportunities that don't currently exist in the region.

"We're in constant contact with our veterinarian clients and through them to producers," said Jonas. "Some of the new testing that will be provided through this investment is either not currently available in Western Canada, or not available to the extent that they would like it to be." **AW**

STRENGTHENING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MARINE INDUSTRY

A growing focus on marine, aerospace and resource industries in the West will require a new generation of skilled workers- and Camosun College in Victoria is committed to providing them. WD is helping Camosun reach that goal with funding for its new Marine, Aerospace, and Resource Industry Centre for Trades and Technology Support (MARCentTS).

This investment is part of Western Canada's Shipbuilding Action Plan, which helps small- and medium-sized businesses take advantage of opportunities created through the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. The Strategy, which is the Government of Canada's 30-year, \$33 billion initiative for renewing the federal fleet, uses Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRBs) to ensure Canadian companies benefit from these major federal contracts.



Minister Yelich joins (left to right) Wärtsilä's Mark Keneford and Camosun College's Kathryn Laurin and Dr. Tom Roemer at an announcement at Camosun College.

"Over the last year, our Government's Shipbuilding Action Plan has helped contribute to the thriving and competitive shipbuilding industry in Western Canada," said Minister Lynne Yelich at the funding announcement in January. "Today's investment supports our Plan by ensuring that Canadians have the skills needed to address the demand for 30,000 skilled workers in the shipbuilding, repair and resource industries."

Federal funding is being used to buy and install marine, aerospace and trades training equipment, improve infrastructure and facilities for applied research and innovation, and enhance the College's Technology Access Centre.

In addition to providing small- and medium-sized businesses with qualified staff, MARCentTS will offer them access to innovative problem-solving resources.

"In order to create a true centre of excellence to help regional industry be more successful, we developed a more integrating concept that



Minister Yelich speaks at an announcement in support of Western Canada's Shipbuilding Action Plan at Camosun College.

combines traditional training with the opportunity to be innovative and to create new approaches and spot solutions through applied, practitioner-led research," said Dr. Tom Roemer, Vice President for Strategic Development.

The MARCentTS facility will also incorporate a Centre for Trades Education and Innovation, now under construction, the Vancouver Island Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Prototyping, and a Technology Access Centre to help industries adopt and commercialize new technologies. AW

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