



BC's Energy College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Horn River Basin Producers Group and NLC partner to offer Oil and Gas Field Operations program in Fort Nelson

FORT NELSON – Residents of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality will be the major beneficiaries of a unique training partnership between the Horn River Basin Producers Group and Northern Lights College (NLC).

Fort Nelson and area residents will have the opportunity to complete training in NLC's Oil and Gas Field Operations program without leaving the area.

The four and a half month program, which provides a certificate in Oil and Gas Field Operations upon successful completion, will be offered at the Fort Nelson Campus, starting in September.

Funding for the program, which totals approximately \$165,000, is being provided by those shale gas exploration and development companies that are members of the Horn River Basin Producers Group.

The Horn River Basin Producers Group is comprised of 11 companies: Apache Canada Ltd., ConocoPhillips, Devon Canada Corp., EnCana, EOG Resources Canada, Imperial Oil Resources/ ExxonMobil Canada, Nexen Inc., Pengrowth, Petro-Canada, Quicksilver Resources Canada Inc., and Stone Mountain Resources.

"We have been working very hard for the last 15 months with other stakeholders and First Nations to understand the capacity and

availability of local services. It is important for all companies involved to recognize the potential benefits that this development can bring to the local community," said Rob Spitzer, Chair, Horn River Basin Producers Group. "By offering this course in Fort Nelson we hope to provide residents an opportunity to enhance their industry training and to better position themselves for future employment in the area."

The mandate of the Horn River Basin Producers Group is to facilitate cooperation and communication between companies, First Nations, government and other key stakeholders including the community of Fort Nelson.

"Our northern governments have been stressing that Fort Nelson people, both First Nations and non-First Nations, must participate in the economic activity in our collective backyard. We have built our lives and families in Fort Nelson and we cannot be on the sidelines watching the resources leaving our community," said Kathi Dickie, Chief, Fort Nelson First Nation. "By supporting this initiative, whereby northern people will be trained in the north to take advantage of opportunities in the north, the Horn River Basin Producers Group is beginning to see the importance that northern residents place on being able to take our rightful place in the local economy."

The Oil and Gas Field Operations program offered at NLC was developed at the request of industry in northeastern British Columbia to address present and projected shortages of skilled workers in this field.

Program graduates in Fort Nelson will be the "on the ground" field operations personnel that monitor and work within the companies that will be developing the Horn River Basin.

"We want to develop local expertise through job training and specialized courses so that local residents are qualified for employment with good jobs in the Horn River Shale Gas Basin," said Bill Streeper, Mayor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality. "It is critical that the courses and education programs specifically focus on areas where the jobs will be found. We strongly encourage and promote a qualified Northern Rockies workforce."

NLC's Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship Jeff Lekstrom, Chair of Trades and Apprenticeship Stacy Smith, and Fort Nelson Campus Administrator Sandra Sandvik recently made a presentation in Calgary to representatives of the Horn River Basin Producers Group, outlining the program, and its potential impact for the Fort Nelson region.

"It is very important for Northern Lights College to be able to offer the training in the community of Fort Nelson, to ensure we train local people to meet the demands of the companies working locally. We believe



this is a great partnership and opportunity for all involved to train in the north and to stay in the north," said Jeff Lekstrom.

Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom believes that these types of partnerships are very important, for the groups involved in the project and especially for the people of northern B.C.

"When we look at what has taken place in the northeast, and the ability to partner with industry and Northern Lights College, this type of program undertaking shows a true leadership role by Northern Lights College," said Blair Lekstrom.

"I want to thank Northern Lights College, and the staff members who have brought forward this programming initiative," he added. "But, equally, I want to thank the oil and gas companies who have stepped forward to fund this program. They have recognized that their partnership in this program not only helps their industry, but also helps our communities and our people in the Fort Nelson area who want to stay and work in the northeast."

NLC will continue to offer the regular September and February intakes for the Oil and Gas Field Operations programs at its Fort St. John Campus.

For information on applying to the program in Fort Nelson, contact the Recruiter at the Fort Nelson Campus, 250-774-2741.

To the media:

For additional comment, please contact the following individuals:

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