

### ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE OIL SANDS

- Aboriginal people have a long history in the oil sands region. Recorded accounts dating back to the 1700's show Aboriginal people of the Athabasca region used bitumen to waterproof birch bark canoes.
- An estimated 23,000 Aboriginal people live on the eighteen First Nations and six Metis Settlements located in the province's oil sands areas. Thousands more Aboriginal people live off-reserve and off-settlement in the region.
- Aboriginal people are benefiting from oil sands projects. In 2010, there were more than 1,700 Aboriginal employees in permanent oil sands jobs in the Wood Buffalo region, an increase of more than 60% since 1998.
- Many major oil sands companies have Aboriginal employment policies that recruit local residents. About 10% of the oil sands workforce is Aboriginal.
- From 1998-2010, Aboriginal-owned companies secured \$5 billion worth of contracts from oil sands companies in the Wood Buffalo Region. This includes \$1.3 billion worth in 2010 alone.
- The Fort McKay Group of Companies is a successful, multi-million dollar business wholly owned by the Fort McKay First Nation. The group's extensive work with oil sands companies provides \$16 million in return value to the community, including over 500 jobs.
- Alberta's *First Nations Consultation Policy* ensures First Nations people are consulted when resource development and land management may affect Treaty rights.
- Aboriginal interests are also protected through the government's 20-year strategic plan *Responsible Actions: A Plan for Alberta's Oil Sands*.

Sources: Oil Sands Developers Group, May 2011; Oil Sands Discovery Centre; Alberta Energy, [www.oilsands.alberta.ca](http://www.oilsands.alberta.ca), August 2010; Fort McKay Group of Companies 2009 Annual Report

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations:  
780-427-8407  
(Toll-free in Alberta – 310-0000 then the number)  
[www.aboriginal.alberta.ca](http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca)

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