

Łuéchogh Túé

Newsletter

January 2021 Special Edition

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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DURING A YEAR OF UNCERTAIN TIMES**

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Hotel Dene Rebrand

Cold Lake First Nation's closed out the year with the long the long awaited rebranding of the new Hotel Dene & Conference Centre (formerly Courtyard by Marriott). The new independence of the hotel will allow for greater connectivity with Casino Dene and provide a win for local tourism.



~ The former Courtyard Cold Lake by Marriott in Cold Lake, Alberta is now the Hotel Dene & Conference Centre. Photo supplied.

Crescent Hotels & Resorts has announced the former Courtyard Cold Lake by Marriott in Cold Lake, Alberta is now the Hotel Dene & Conference Centre. As an independent hotel, it will join Crescent's "Latitudes" collection of lifestyle hotels & resorts. Crescent, based in Toronto, Ontario and Fairfax, Virginia is a nationally recognized operator of major hotels and resorts throughout Canada and the United States.

"We have made this an independent hotel so that we can fully capture our indigenous heritage and a true Cold Lake experience through-out the hotel, conference centre and Casino Dene," said Chief Roger Marten from Cold Lake First Nations, which owns the hotel

"Our guests will appreciate the authenticity, while also enjoying contemporary design and modern amenities."

"The Hotel Dene & Conference Centre is the perfect fit for Crescent's lifestyle collection, Latitudes," said Michael George, Crescent's CEO. "Crescent's award-winning operating experience in managing luxury independent lifestyle properties will help to maximize the experience at this fabulous hotel."

"Hotel Dene & Conference Centre was created for those who appreciate First Nations

Hotel Dene Rebrand (cont)



~ The view of the yet to be revealed new cafe inside the new Hotel Dene and Conference Centre. Photo supplied.

heritage and culture and wish to enjoy their time surrounded by views of nature,” said Douglas Horner, General Manager for the property. “Our lobby features art pieces by Alex Janvier, one of Canada’s leading indigenous artists, including a unique, custom-designed chandelier. Our friendly staff and convenient location adjacent to the excitement of the Casino Dene makes us the perfect choice for those who appreciate high-energy entertainment.”

A seasoned hotelier with a proven track record of operational excellence and teambuilding, Horner has been proudly serving The Hotel Dene & Conference Centre as General Manager. He is incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication his

team of associates has put in to grow the hotel’s reputation in the community. “To see the growth of the fine people who work here is something that brings me great pride,” he says.

Horner adds that as a young hotel in a competitive marketplace, it’s been gratifying to see how well the hotel’s success has coincided with the relationships they have developed with the Lake Land Regions.

“It’s been amazing to see what we’ve been able to do within the community, now that we’ve established ourselves as a leading hotel in Alberta.”

Located next to Casino Dene, and close to the 4 Wing Cold Lake Air Force Base and

downtown Cold Lake, the Hotel Dene offers a genuine Northern experience with all the comforts and amenities of the highest-rated hotel in town. The hotel received AAA Inspector’s Best of Housekeeping for 2020, and has a perfect score of 5.0 from TripAdvisor the hotel is ranked #1 in Cold Lake. Guests also enjoy stunning natural views, an on-site restaurant, 24/7 fitness centre, indoor pool, and a full conference centre with more than 2,000 square feet of event space for up to 300 people.

For information or to book your stay at the Hotel Dene & Conference Centre, visit www.hoteldene.com.

~Story provided by the Hotel Dene & Conference Centre

Cenovus Housing Project Nears Completion

In January 2020 Cenovus announced an historic investment into First Nation's housing, as we move into 2021 the first of several homes from that investment are about to be completed.



~ Roger Marten, Cold Lake First Nations Chief, speaks at a news conference regarding a major housing investment by Cenovus on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020. Azin Ghaffari/Postmedia

Construction of the first phase of the Cenovus Housing Project is nearing completion.

In January 2020, Cenovus Energy Inc. pledged \$50 million to build homes in six Indigenous communities near its oilsands projects in northern Alberta.

The investment, the company says, is a way to “contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.” The funding was broken down into a \$10-million yearly contribution for five years to build about 200 homes in the communities of Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Chard Métis Local 218, Chipewyan Prairie Dene First

Nation, Cold Lake First Nations, Conklin Métis Local 193 and Heart Lake First Nation.

“We can’t solve the Indigenous housing crisis by ourselves, but through this initiative, we have the opportunity to significantly improve the lives of many families currently living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions,” CEO Alex Pourbaix said in a press release.

As the year 2020 ends, that initial announcement came to fruition as the first of several homes are just about to be completed.

These homes were built with guidance from community leadership, and helped develop a training program to pass on skills that can be used to maintain the homes in the future. Should the program be successful, Cenovus says, the company will consider extending the commitment to \$100 million over 10 years.

Along with the funding for homes from ISC, Cold Lake First Nations and Cenovus, have taken the first steps to help remedy a housing crises that befalls most First Nation communities.

Cenovus Housing Project Nears Completion (cont)



~ The first of several almost complete homes (top) and an ariel view of the construction process (below).



Mental Wellness Centre Construction Complete



~ The front of new Mental Wellness Centre.

Mental wellness is and always has been a serious concern for the people of Cold Lake First Nations. In the past year, COVID-19 has caused skyrocketing numbers of depression and suicide rates nationally and globally. This summer construction started began and now thankfully, Cold Lake First Nation's new Mental Wellness Centre is complete and ready to be opened.

Once fully operational, the eight office Mental Wellness facility will focus on specialized mental health care and the developmental needs of the members of our community.

Currently the facility is being utilized as a COVID-19 isolation centre and will remain as such until the second wave of the pandemic subsides. After that, the fully staffed centre will be open as a regular component of

the Health Centre and in conjunction with the new adjacent Fitness Centre.

This year Cold Lake first Nations members will now have access to full on reserve, mental, physical and spiritual health resources.

CLFN'S Waterline Project

Clean running water has always been a huge challenge for First Nations communities thankfully do to our proximity to Łuéchogh Túé and the new regional water line, Cold Lake First Nations is about to enter the modern age of water distribution.

The project includes the installation of a distribution network to connect 102 homes with potable (piped) water supply and the construction of a new pump house building on the existing concrete water storage reservoir.

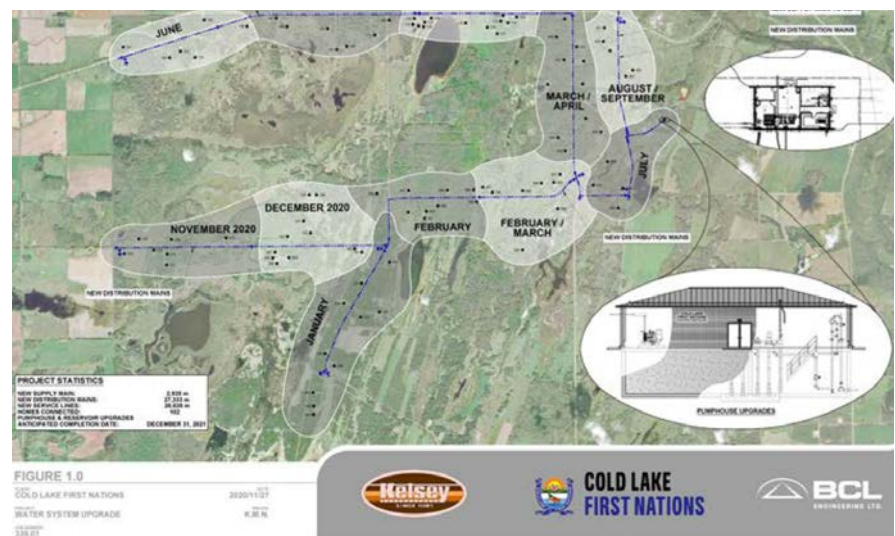
The supply line will provide continuous water supply to each residence, eliminating the need for truck haul water, outdoor cisterns and related pumping equipment. This is an exciting initiative for Cold Lake First Nations. Chief and Council are actively pursuing similar projects for the balance of Le Goff, English and Little Cold Lake reserves!

The contractor began work on November 1, 2020, and will work continuously to the completion of the project. For those included within these first phases, the contractor is tentatively planning for the work to occur throughout 2021 during the months indicated – please note that ground conditions, weather and other construction duties may alter the schedule.

What you can expect is the “main line” to be installed in 2.5 to 3km sections, followed by the extension

of the service line up to the vicinity of each home. A shut off valve (curb stop) will be installed near the home, which will allow for proper pressure testing, flushing and disinfection procedures to occur before the final

existing cistern to expose the supply line, a connection to the exiting supply line between the cistern and home, followed by decommissioning of the existing cistern. There is no in-home work expected, however we



~ An overview of the first two phases of the project which have been approved and are currently underway.

connection is made. Due to the logistics of the project, the connection will occur later in 2021, once the new pump house new supply main to the Cold Lake Regional Utility Services Corporation is in place. This is expected to be in place by August 2021.

The contractor will return to each home beginning in September 2021 to complete the final housing connections. What can be expected at this time is an excavation near the

suggest you run your taps to flush out the service lines of any chlorinated water and verify and repair any leaks within the home.

Most of the works will be completed by directional drilling to minimize disruption to any yard sites and avoid extensive open excavations. Please be mindful of the workers and take care when passing by the work sites.

Saddle Lake Lateral Loop Pipeline Begins Construction

Mastec Canada, contracted by TC Energy, has begun construction of the Saddle Lake Lateral Loop Pipeline.

The Saddle Lake Lateral Loop NPS 20 pipeline project is an approximate 20km long new NPS20 transmission pipeline. The purpose of the Project is to provide transportation and metering facilities to transport and measure sweet natural gas to meet a customer's increased delivery transportation service requirement. The Project includes approximately 20 km of 20-inch (508 mm) diameter pipeline, which includes a 1,084m HDD crossing of the Beaver River,

tie-in facilities and decommissioning of the existing Saddle Lake Lateral (NPS10).

The project was kicked off in early

October with a traditional pipe ceremony and will continue with substantial completion prior to April 1, 2021 and final clean-up scheduled for summer 2021.



~ An Elder prepares for the pipe ceremony.



~ Project map of Saddle Lake Lateral Loop Pipeline.

Indigenous Skills Training Program

Portage college to provide skills training program for cenovus's indigenous housing initiative

Portage College is pleased to announce it is collaborating with Cenovus Energy Inc. and six Indigenous communities including Cold Lake First Nations to support Cenovus's Indigenous Housing Initiative with the 24-week Construction and Trades Readiness Program. The Cenovus-funded program will provide home construction and maintenance training opportunities for members of the six Indigenous communities that are part of the company's \$50 million, five-year program to help address the shortage of housing in Indigenous communities near the company's oil sands operations in northeastern Alberta.

"Work-integrated learning opportunities are critical to student learning and a successful entry into the workforce. I want to commend Portage College and Cenovus Energy for putting student learning at the forefront of this partnership by ensuring students get the education they need to find careers in their communities."

- *Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education, Government of Alberta*

Cenovus launched its Indigenous Housing Initiative in early 2020 with the six Indigenous communities closest to its Foster Creek and Christina Lake oil sands operations: Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Chard Métis Community Association, Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, Cold Lake First Nations, Conklin Métis (Local 193) and Heart Lake First Nation. In addition to the construction of new homes and the training program, Cenovus also aims to work with communities to raise

awareness about the Indigenous housing shortage and help advocate for solutions.

"This housing initiative and training program are the largest community investment in the history of Cenovus, and Portage College is proud to be a partner in the project."

- *Guy Gervais, Vice President Academic, Portage College*

"Training local residents so they have the skills to participate in building and maintaining their homes is crucial to the success of our Indigenous Housing Initiative. We worked with the communities and Portage College to design a tailor-made training program that we're confident will provide the foundation for valuable education and employment opportunities for local residents in the long term."

- *Rhona DelFrari, Cenovus Vice-President, Sustainability & Engagement*

Working with Cenovus and the communities, Portage College will provide a 24-week Construction and Trades Readiness Program focused on trades preparation and construction skills. The program is expected to start recruiting students in early 2021, and the program will be delivered in some of the participating communities.

"By collaborating with Cenovus and the communities we are bringing work integrated learning to Indigenous students. This will create valuable education and employment opportunities for local residents in the

long term, beyond the duration of the housing initiative."

- *Nancy Broadbent, President and CEO, Portage College*

The program begins with identifying the learners' personal and educational goals and getting to know their individual needs. Students will then focus on trades training and work-integrated learning to develop the employment-focused skills designed for entry into the workplace such as home construction and maintenance. Throughout the program, Portage College will utilize an instructor, journeyman and success coach to support student learning and student success.

"This training program will provide an opportunity for members of the community to learn valuable skills which they will carry into future careers and holistically into their personal lives and the well-being of their communities. Graduates can work toward a trade certification, which will certainly assist communities where we currently face shortages of skilled trades persons. Portage College is so grateful for the initiative Cenovus has shown and is honoured to have been chosen as the delivery partner. We are looking forward to connecting people with knowledge and opportunities, empowering transformation for the people and their communities."

- *Nancy Broadbent, President and CEO, Portage College*

Source: <https://www.portagecollege.ca/News/News-Archive/Cenovus-Housing-Initiative>



DRIVER & OPERATOR COLD LAKE

This **tuition-free** program is perfect if you are looking for a career operating various equipment in construction and city maintenance. Drive equipment such as snow plows, wireline trucks and hydrovacs.

This six-week program provides students with the essential safety awareness and certification, workplace culture preparation, theory and hands-on training needed to support and prepare them to enter the operating industry and successfully obtain their Class 3 Driver's Licence.

This is a competitive program with a maximum of 12 spaces available.

Training will take place at



Funded by the Government of Canada's Women in Construction Fund.

Program Components:

- Class 3 Driver's Training-includes 14 hours of in-truck training per student
- Basic Tools and Engines
- Air Brake Endorsement for Learners
- Face to Face Safety Training:
 - First Aid, H2S, Flagger
- Online Safety Training:
 - Professional Driver Improvement (PDIC)
 - Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)
 - WHMIS, Ground Disturbance
 - Confined Space Pre-Entry
- Healthy Choices for Productive work

To support employment opportunities, students will also have job search support and introductions to employers in the field.

Admission Requirements:

- Successful completion of drug, alcohol and fitness testing
- Class 5 Driver's Licence (no GDL)
- 5 year driver's abstract

Live, train and work in Cold Lake!

Application Deadline: January 11, 2021

Class Starts: March 29, 2021

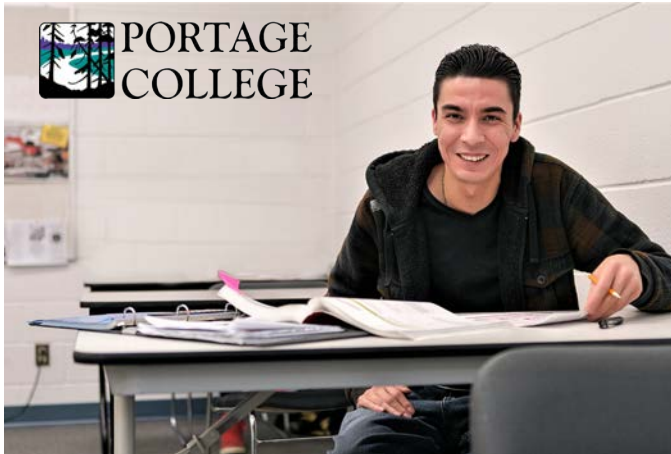
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PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Get the skills, education and experience you need!



Don't miss out on this great learning opportunity that gives you the skills and experience you need. Your career is waiting!

Give us 12 months and we'll give you:

- ✓ Essential Skills Training - workplace success
- ✓ Academic Upgrading - based on your needs
- ✓ Work Experience - safety training included

Pathways to Employment

Starts February 2021

52 weeks of instruction

Proudly offered by:
Cold Lake First Nations in partnership
with Portage College
and Alberta Advanced Education



To register or for more information - contact us today!

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Emergency Contact List

HEALTH LINK
DIAL 811

POLICE EMERGENCY CALL 911

Cold Lake R.C.M.P.
24 Hours 780-594-3301
Office Hours 780-594-3302

Victims Services
Dave Zimmerman 780-594-3302 ext.3

Cold Lake Ambulance Authority
780-594-6674

Cold Lake Healthcare Centre
780-639-3322

Bonnyville Health Centre
780-826-3311

CLFN Emergency Management
Roy Dell 780-594-7184

CLFN Health Centre
780-594-2473

Dene Wellness
780-594-1471

PUBLIC WORKS
780-594-1073

Dangerous Goods
24 Hours 1-800-272-9600

Poison Centre 24 Hours
1-800-332-1414

CANADA SUICIDE PREVENTION
1-833-456-4566 OR TEXT 45645

Power Outages Atco Electric
1-800-668-5506

Gas Emergencies Northeast Gas
780-826-4002