CLC active in Upper Lake Melville

The Lower Churchill Project’s Community Liaison Committee (CLC) met for its quarterly meeting early in December in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Items discussed at the meeting included a full project update, community initiatives, upcoming jobs and training and general matters related to the project.

CLC members include: Darren Wells (Co-Chair), Leander Baikie (Member-at-Large), Wanda Lyall (Member-at-Large), Melissa Best (Mud Lake), Art Williams (North West River), Rosanne Williams (Co-Chair/Nalcor), Matthew Pike (Nalcor) and Lorie O’Halloran (Nalcor).

For more information on the CLC, including meeting minutes and presentations, please visit the “In the Community” section of our website at www.muskratfalls.nalcorenergy.com.

Investing in our communities – over $215,000 donated in 2013

In 2013, the Labrador Hunting and Fishing Association (LHafa) and Nalcor Energy celebrated the completion of the Safe Boating initiative. Over a two-year period Nalcor contributed $30,000 to the LHafa for safe docking infrastructure and an information campaign about safe boating practices.

2013 was another successful year for community investment across Labrador. Over $215,000 was invested by Nalcor and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro across more than 50 Labrador-based organizations and events including:
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Conservation Corps Green Team
- Expo Labrador
- Goose Bay Curling Club
- Great Labrador Canoe Race
- L’Anse Au Loup Come Home Year
- Labrador Creative Arts Festival
- Labrador Winter Games
- Libra House
- Multi-Cultural Youth Gathering
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- North West River Beach Festival
- Trappeur Marathon
- Wonderbolt Circus

"Every year our investments help ensure that Labrador-based organizations and events remain vibrant and have a positive impact on the community overall," said Matthew Pike, Community Relations Advisor, Nalcor Energy.

For more information on Nalcor’s Community Investment Program visit the “In the Community” section of our website at www.muskratfalls.nalcorenergy.com.

Nalcor tours Labrador with new contractor

A new contractor means new job opportunities and Nalcor recently travelled around Labrador to spread the word. Astaldi Canada Inc. was awarded the contract for the powerhouse, intake and spillway, the biggest contract that will be awarded for the Muskrat Falls Project.

Hundreds of interested Labrador residents attended job fairs across the region and expressed great interest in working on the project. Paul Shelley, Senior Director of Business Development with Astaldi Canada, was thrilled to see the positive response across Labrador.

“We started with a positive event in Sheshatshiu and that trend continued across Labrador. Day-after-day we spoke to more and more people who want to come work on the project,” says Shelley. “It is important for people to know that although we are an international company we have a strong focus on engaging and hiring local. With this strategy in mind, everyone benefits.”

It is anticipated that Astaldi Canada will begin hiring in early 2014 with peak workforce in 2015. For more information on employment opportunities with the project, visit www.muskratfallsjobs.com.
Worker profiles

George Morris of Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a heavy equipment foreman on the Muskrat Falls Project. As an employee of IKC-ONE, George is responsible for overseeing the work of about 15 heavy equipment operators for the bulk excavation work.

“I was more than happy to be able to come home and work on the project,” says George. “Being a local resident and a Nunatsiavut Inuit, being able to work at home is something I am very appreciative of. IKC-ONE knew I was an experienced worker and did not hesitate to put me in a foreman position.”

George says he looks forward to many more years of work on the project. “We are only getting started here and as a qualified and experienced local resident, I’m looking forward to going to work in the day and being home every night.”

Chris Bartmann did not take long to make an impression with his new employer on the Muskrat Falls Project. At the age of 22, Chris recently became the first Innu and youngest foreman for the project with Liannu.

“At first I never really told anyone about it but my family was really proud of my promotion,” says Chris. “Other workers look up to me and it is a great feeling.”

After graduating from high school, Chris travelled to Labrador west to work on the railways and then moved to Toronto for school. After working in the mines in Schefferville, Quebec, Chris took a job with Liannu in the summer of 2012 where he still works today.

“Other workers look up to me and it is a great feeling.”

Project progress

Since April 2012, construction activities at the Muskrat Falls Project site have increased substantially. With just over a year-and-a-half of site preparation and construction activities, the project progress can be clearly seen in the below pictures.

January 2013 – Bulk excavation begins at Muskrat Falls.

August 2013 – Crews showing significant progress at the bulk excavation site.

September 2013 – Accommodations complex construction continues in preparation for 1500 workers. Labrador Catering will provide catering, housekeeping and janitorial services to all camp facilities.

November 2013 – 1.8 million cubic metres of rock removed from the powerhouse location as bulk excavation is completed (North Spur seen in background).

“Other workers look up to me and it is a great feeling.”

Labrador Catering awarded accommodations services contract

Labrador Catering Limited Partnership, an Innu business partnership, was recently awarded the catering, housekeeping and janitorial services contract for the 1500 person accommodations complex at the Muskrat Falls construction site. Labrador Catering will also have full 24/7 management and administration responsibilities for the accommodations complex. They are a major employer for the Muskrat Falls Project.