

2008

Remarks



**Remarks by Neil Camarta, Sr. Vice-President, Oil Sands
WBF Petro-Canada Training Centre, Edmonton
May 9, 2008**

Thanks JudyLynn.

When I first heard about Women Building Futures, I knew that this would be a great organization for Petro-Canada to get involved with.

WBF has just what we need—women who have set their sights on working in our industry.

The speakers before me have talked about the labour shortage that our province is facing. Let me give you a couple more stats.

Government estimates a shortfall of 100,000 workers in Alberta over the next decade. And the COAA predicts labour demand will double by 2010.

The business I'm in—the oil sands— is part of that big draw on labour.

We're going to need about 10,000 workers to build our oil sands facility at Fort Hills, north of Ft. McMurray. And a stone's throw from here in Sturgeon County, we'll be building an up-grader to process the bitumen from our oil sands operations. We'll need about 4,500 people, in all sorts of trades, to undertake that construction.

Just to give you the big picture, over the next 5 years, Petro-Canada's employee population needs to double to support our oil sands and our other business growth areas. That's 2 to 3 new people a day! No small feat!

So my top 3 priorities these days are: people, people and people. If we can't get the people we need, we can't grow our projects. People are key!

Industry is talking non-stop these days about labour sourcing. We're part of that problem with our exponential growth. So we need to be part of the solution. We're putting our money where our mouth is by investing heavily in education, particularly in Alberta.

We want to provide opportunities for good people to get into our industry.

So we're heavily funding programs at U of A, U of C and NAIT to help address our recruitment needs across the company, by hiring the best and brightest from our province.

JudyLynn and her team are doing a fantastic job of being a key player in the solution to Alberta's labour challenge. WBF is tapping into a great pool of talent, right in our own backyard.

We like that. At Petro-Canada, we're looking to provide opportunities to untapped sources of labour in our province—women, First Nations, and youth. And that's why we think that this is going to be a great partnership!

On that note, I'd like to ask JudyLynn to help me unveil Petro-Canada's announcement to launch this new and exciting partnership.