

Horn River Basin Shale Gas Producers Group Local Employment Becoming a Key Focus Area

Employment and keeping services busy is never far from the minds of those living in communities close to the Horn River Basin, such as the towns of Fort Nelson and Fort Liard, the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Acho Dene Koe First Nation. The Producers Group recognizes this and is stepping up efforts to make use of the local labour force and services.

For Producers Group companies, the 2008/2009 season saw increased activity relative to prior years in the Horn River area. Local business activity has remained relatively steady despite the downturn in the forestry sector, which has particularly affected the Fort Nelson community.

A key initiative of the Producers Group is the Fort Nelson Energy Expos, which took place in November 2008 and October 2009. The Expo brings local individuals and businesses together with producer representatives and contractors to share information on business requirements and capabilities. Over 250 people attended each event, resulting in exhibitors either hiring individuals or obtaining contact information for potential opportunities.

Another employment initiative underway as a result of Horn River activities is the establishment of an Energy Services BC procurement office in Fort Nelson. This office, funded jointly by the BC government and the Producers Group, provides a 'matchmaking' service, between Producers Group companies and local individuals and contractors.

The BC government is also developing an employment/contractor scorecard, with support from the Producers Group, to track use of local people and companies in the Horn River Basin area. This could become a useful tool for future planning.

The past two years have been a time of learning for the Producers Group and they are becoming more aware of the importance of, and drivers for local employment. While there is always room for improvement, the group is working hard to understand local capacity and service availability, and to appropriately incorporate this into their work plans going forward.

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*This document was prepared and endorsed by the
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