

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE OIL SANDS

- Fourteen First Nations – with a combined population of 15,500 people living on-reserve – and six of eight Métis Settlements with a population of 6,600 are located in areas of Alberta where oil sands are found.
- Aboriginal people continue traditional activities in the region and have significant involvement in industry ranging from direct employment to service contracts to land agreements.
- The Athabasca Tribal Council – comprising the Athabasca Chipewyan, Chipewyan Prairie, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray and Mikisew Cree – is working with the Government of Alberta and industry to design a consultation process specific to the northeast oil sands region.
- In 2007, more than 1,500 Aboriginal people were employed in oil sands operations, a 60 per cent increase since 1998. This figure does not include construction-related employment.
- Many major oil sands companies have Aboriginal employment policies to recruit local residents. About nine per cent of the Syncrude workforce is made up of Aboriginal people.
- There are more than 1,200 Aboriginal apprentices in Alberta, an increase of more than 400 per cent since 2002. Many work in the oil sands industry.
- A joint venture between the Bigstone Cree Nation and Bronco Energy has resulted in the biggest oil sands project ever undertaken on First Nation reserve lands in Canada.
- In 2007, the value of contracts between Alberta oil sands companies and Aboriginal companies was \$606 million, up from \$412 million in 2006.
- Over the past 10 years, Aboriginal-owned companies across Alberta have earned more than \$2.6 billion.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations:

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[www.aboriginal.alberta.ca](http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca)



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