



Media Release

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Fort McMurray Youth Rebuilding Fort McMurray's Future

(Edmonton, AB) CAREERS: The Next Generation Foundation is launching a \$1,000,000 campaign in Fort McMurray on August 30 to Rebuild Fort McMurray and create promising futures in trades and technologies for youth and young apprentices throughout Alberta.

The first priority of the Rebuilding Fort McMurray initiative is to ensure that CAREERS young apprentices in Fort McMurray are back to work as quickly as possible. As Fort McMurray operations resume, many young apprentices are being brought back to work, employers are being recruited for the next term, and graduating Co-Op Apprentices are completing their journey person certification.

One of the key priorities of the campaign is to facilitate workforce development partnerships that support youth and young apprentices, including Aboriginal youth throughout the region. On Aug 9, 2016, CAREERS entered into partnership agreements with Fort MacKay First Nations and Metis Council 1935. "Fort McKay First Nation is very excited to partner with CAREERS: The Next Generation on this project which focuses on our youth and education. This program will help ensure our youth have the necessary tools to transition into the workforce and remain close to home," said Chief Boucher, Fort McKay First Nation.

The wildfires in the Fort McMurray region have far reaching effects. CAREERS programs throughout the province may experience a shift of resources to Fort McMurray, diminished resources in other regions, and long term changes to demands for skilled workers. Partners like the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (ECAA) ensure that young apprentices are encouraged and supported to pursue a future in trades. "The wildfires affected all of Alberta. ECAA and our Member Contractors will do what it takes to support Fort McMurray, young apprentices, and CAREERS to assist in the rebuilding," said Tim Brundage, President ECAA Fort McMurray Chapter.

Eric Newell, former CEO of Syncrude and Chair of CAREERS, pledged the first \$100,000 and is challenging friends, colleagues and any journey person that got their start in Fort McMurray, to join him in supporting this campaign. "We need to support young apprentices to continue to choose trades and to continue to choose Fort McMurray for lifelong success," said Newell. "A lot of people have passed through Fort McMurray in the last 20 years. I encourage them all to consider giving back now to help **Fort McMurray youth rebuild Fort McMurray's future.**"

Donations to the Rebuilding Fort McMurray – Creating Youth Futures campaign will support students, young apprentices, employer programs, and partnerships. Details about the campaign can be found at www.nextgen.org/rebuildingfortmcmurray

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CAREERS: Fort McMurray Serving the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) since 1990

CAREERS: The Next Generation – Fort McMurray works with students, schools and businesses, including First Nations and Metis communities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, to build a skilled workforce for the future. High school students and recent graduates gain career exposure, maturity, and experience through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), CAREERS Co-op Apprenticeship Program, Power Engineering and Health Services internships, and Career Pathways for Aboriginal youth.

CAREERS: The Next Generation Foundation is a student focused, industry driven community partnership that provides career awareness, exploration and work experience to enable Alberta students to discover a career passion in trades, technologies, health services and occupations in high demand. Learn more about CAREERS and its programs at www.nextgen.org.