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Big Move for Local Business

Local Companies Start the New Year the Green Way

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Three local businesses have started the new year by going green. Stony Valley Contracting; Coveralls, Linens, and Mats; and P-Ban Enterprises, have relocated their operations into three of the greenest buildings in all of Fort McMurray. The trio was among the first businesses to purchase land in the TaigaNova Eco-Industrial Park (EIP), a development that aims to “support the business needs of the resource sector and the local economy” while “minimizing environmental impacts and enhancing quality of life”, and their example has blazed a path for other companies following suit with more sustainable buildings.

Having businesses settled into TaigaNova marks an important milestone for the Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation (WBHDC), who has been developing the project over the last few years. The EIP is their first foray into industrial development, and it’s landmark project not only because of the sustainability components, but because proceeds from the land sales will directly support low income housing in the region. “Our mission is to provide affordable housing alternatives to citizens in need,” explains Bryan Lutes, President of WBHDC “and in this case we’ve also been able to leverage our development expertise to address a critical shortage of industrial land”.

For businesses owners like Pat Provencal, of Coveralls, Linens, and Mats, access to new industrial land provided an exciting prospect. It was the “opportunity to build a state of the art facility. . . from the ground up” that he says sparked their decision to relocate from a cramped rental space to a custom designed facility of their own in TaigaNova. Each of the new buildings in the EIP incorporates a variety of low impact and employee-friendly features, from the grey water reuse system used for industrial laundry at Coveralls, Linens, and Mats, to the natural day lighting in P-Ban’s office, to the shared outdoor amenities.

“The location is superb”, explains Janet Fouts, Stony Valley Contracting’s Project Coordinator/Manager. Stony Valley built their new head office in TaigaNova last summer and moved in at the end of November. As a gravel company, their new facility is now in a prime location; it’s still close to their oil sands client base, but it’s close enough to downtown to be convenient for employees and local projects within the Regional Municipality.

With all 24 of the industrial lots now sold, the WBHDC expects that more businesses will be following these pioneers, constructing green buildings in TaigaNova and moving in before the year is through.

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