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## **Greenest Industrial Buildings in Northern Alberta Under Construction in Fort McMurray**

**Local Companies are First to Break Ground**

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By the end of the summer, four state of the art “green” buildings will be visible in the TaigaNova Eco-Industrial Park, and more than 100 employees will be getting ready to move in to a landmark industrial area that boasts sidewalks, recreational trails, solar lighting, and high efficiency workplaces. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) has issued development permits for four buildings in the 131 acre industrial park, and two of those buildings are already under construction.

P-Ban Enterprises, a local concrete pumper, and D’Laundromat which has been operating a commercial, industrial, and coin-operated laundry facility in Fort McMurray since 1986, are the first businesses to build in TaigaNova.

D’Laundromat has recently enclosed their new 20,000 square foot eco-friendly operation. The state of the art commercial laundry facility is designed to run partially using ozone cleaning processes and will take advantage of the cost savings generated by more efficient operations. For example, water use will be drastically reduced by having an on-site filtering system that can purify the water used to wash sheets, so it can be reused to wash mud and sand from heavy floor mats. D’Laundromat will also be employing ozone technology which uses cold water and ozone to replace traditional methods that are chemically intensive and use high volumes of energy to heat water.

P-Ban Enterprises is also on schedule and expects to move out of their current rental facilities and into their new 17,000 square foot, state of the art building at the end of October. Their building, which will house concrete pumps and equipment as well as office space, will be more energy efficient and will incorporate features like natural day lighting and low impact landscaping.

“All of our employees are really looking forward to moving into their new offices,” says Al Evenson, General Manager of P-Ban, “the new location is better, and there’s more room for them to enjoy coming to work.” According to the Canada Green Building Council, green building features such as abundant natural light, superior indoor air quality, and landscaped surroundings increase employee satisfaction and productivity by 2-10%<sup>1</sup>, meaning real cost savings for companies like P-Ban and D’Laundromat.

“These are examples of the type of development we had anticipated for the park. We commend the work they’re doing,” says Bryan Lutes, President of Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation, who is developing TaigaNova. With 80% of the lots now sold, and the RMWB processing a number of development applications, Lutes expects to see more buildings breaking ground soon.

Photos of the new buildings are available from [jenny@ecoindustrial.ca](mailto:jenny@ecoindustrial.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Lucuik, M., Trusty, W., Larsson, N., and Charette, R., A Business Case for Green Buildings in Canada, Morrison Hershfield, 2005, presented to Industry Canada. Cited in Persram, S., Lucuik, M., and Larsson, N., Marketing Green Buildings to Tenants of Leased Properties, Prepared for the Canada Green Building Council 2007