

# Oil & gas company donates \$50,000 to Chateh education

## Second local donation from Strategic Oil in three weeks

**Adam Kveton**

It doesn't take a huge corporation to spread the wealth, according to Strategic Oil and Gas Ltd.

With \$55,000 donated between the Youth Activity Centre (YAC) and Chateh education in the past three weeks, this is just the beginning of the company's local support, said Barbara Joy, Vice President of Land for Strategic.

This latest donation of \$50,000 is in support of the Dene Tha' Community School (DTCS) and other education-related projects in Chateh.

Split between several initiatives, the donation should have a lasting impact, said Director of Education for the Dene Tha', Perry Moulton.

"Twenty-thousand of it is going into the Chateh Ed Centre," said Moulton. "We are working with Northern Lakes College to put in an education centre that will facilitate more students getting post secondary training."

While the Dene Tha' currently help post-secondary students to afford education elsewhere, Moulton said that a high dropout rate has instigated the opening of Chateh's own post-secondary education centre.

With \$20,000 already invested into the centre, there are 19 students currently taking classes. Moulton hopes that when the centre is completed, it will host 60 students on a continuing basis.

Another \$20,000 will be going towards DTCS. "Some of that will be going into technology in the school, the industrial arts shop which is in dire need of equipment so we can do hands on skills training, and our library which is deficient in reading materials," said Moulton.

The last \$10,000 will go towards the Dene Tha' Land Department to help support new wildlife research and archaeology programs for students.

While Moulton said he is very happy with the donation, he is even more impressed by the way Strategic went about it, he said.

"I am actually very pleased to really see corporate citizenship that really counts. Strategic approached us, instead of me going out that way, and they have a mandate I think for long term, and towards projects that have meaning-

ful impact over time. So I think that's what's impressing me, just their initiative to do something for the communities that they work around."

With the company's most important assets an hour north of High Level, Strategic wants to make sure people know it is part of the community, said Joy.

"This is our core area of operatorship, and we see it to be our core area of operatorship for at least the next five years," she said. "We want to be working up here."

With that in mind, Strategic is looking at funding initiatives that have an impact on the lives of kids in the area, especially when it comes to their education, said Joy.

"They say it takes a whole community to raise kids, and we want to be part of the community, and we see ourselves as part of the community, so I think that for this year our focus is going to be on education type programs and aiding organizations and groups

that need a bit of funding to kick start those projects."

While Joy said the company is hoping to find some new employees locally in a few years' time thanks to the education they are try-

ing to support, the idea is also just to keep kids in school.

"We believe that if kids do stay in school that there is a huge impact in their own lives," said Joy. "You

can lose your house, you can lose your money, you can lose your family, but you can never lose your education. Once you learn something, you have that forever."

In support of that belief, Strategic hopes to help fund a Stay in School initiative for the coming Spring Break at High Level Public School, said Joy.



Strategic Oil and Gas Ltd. gave a cheque for \$20,000 in support of Dene Tha' education on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, with another \$30,000 to come. Strategic's Vice President of Land, Barbara Joy (centre left) gave the cheque to Perry Moulton, the Dene Tha's Director of Education, along with Jim Brown (l), Principal of the Dene Tha' Community School, and Alyssa Bruce with Strategic.

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