

Building Trades of Alberta Goes to Europe in the Pursuit of Available Skilled Tradespeople

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Edmonton, AB) - The announcement last week by North West Redwater Partnership (NWR) that they intend to proceed with Phase 1 of the Sturgeon Refinery (50,000 barrels per day) in spring of 2013 is another reminder of possible skilled labour shortages facing construction companies in Alberta in the immediate future.

Potential skilled labour shortages are being taken seriously by James Gibbins, Executive Director of Building Trades of Alberta, as he is en-route to Ireland to continue discussions with officials about the availability of highly skilled tradespeople who are unemployed and seeking work in Canada or Australia. Mr. Gibbins will also meet with people from Portugal to discuss the availability of skilled workers as they have an even higher rate of unemployment than Ireland.

This will be Mr. Gibbins' second visit to Ireland this year to discuss the availability of skilled labour. He has previously met with officials from the Irish Training and Certification Authority (FAS).

The Building Trades of Alberta initiative was welcomed by the Irish Ambassador when he visited Alberta recently. In his discussion with the Alberta Government, the Ambassador indicated that Alberta was a very attractive destination for Irish skilled labour. This visit to Ireland by Mr. Gibbins comes at a very opportune time because of the rising rate of unemployment in Europe and the increasing number of job opportunities in Alberta.

The Building Trades of Alberta have been proactively pursuing available skilled tradespeople across Canada and the US as a first option to address shortages in specific classifications while at the same time encouraging Albertans to consider a career in the trades.

About Building Trades of Alberta

Building Trades of Alberta represents 75,000 skilled trades professionals in the construction industry across the province. We invest in people, partnership and community. Outfitted with world class training facilities on sites, the Building Trades affiliates are the province's largest apprenticeship and training provider in the private sector. Building Trades of Alberta works in collaborative partnerships with contractors and owners and contribute to their success by providing highly skilled, reliable and safe workforce. Since 2001 members have donated more than \$5 million through Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation to worthwhile organizations across the province. For more information about Building Trades of Alberta, please visit us at www.buildingtradesalberta.ca.