



Athabasca Minerals and McKay Métis Group Announce Partnership to Expand Aggregate Production and Sales in the Alberta Oil Sands

For immediate release

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For McMurray, AB – Athabasca Minerals Inc. (AMI) and the McKay Métis Group (MMG) are pleased to announce a strategic partnership between the two companies to deliver aggregates to the energy, infrastructure and construction sectors in the Wood Buffalo region. The partnership’s new business entity, Métis North Sand and Gravel, will provide both products and services to industry and local customers that include various types of sand and gravel, exploration and development of new resources, and pit reclamation.

AMI is an integrated group of companies that cover the aggregates lifecycle from resource exploration, mining engineering, development & production, supply chain management, logistics and marketing. MMG is a social enterprise owned by the Fort McKay Métis Nation. It is a diverse and rapidly growing group of companies providing services, products and support to the Alberta oil sands and beyond.

For AMI, the strategic partnership stimulates new business opportunities by leveraging MMG’s diverse company and client base, their deep knowledge of regulatory and approval processes as well as stakeholder management expertise from the Fort McKay Métis Nation. For MMG, this is a growth-oriented partnership designed to further expand their business service solution offerings in the region, and to generate long-term profits for the Fort McKay Métis Nation. The significance of the partnership is magnified with equity ownership opportunities for the Fort McKay Métis Nation through its Strategic Investment Group and the combined strengths of both leadership teams.

AMI’s Chief Operating Officer, Dana Archibald, commented on the agreement saying, “we are very excited to work with the McKay Métis Group, to support and contribute to their relationships with regional Industry as well as the McKay Métis community through Métis North Sand & Gravel. The partnership will generate economic, social and employment benefits to their Nation and its members.”

“MMG intensively listens to the needs of our industry clients and identifies what is important in helping them be successful,” said Crystal Young, CEO of MMG, “As a leading supplier of premium and domestic aggregates, this partnership will not only leave a positive economic footprint on our community but will provide our industry clients with the cost and reliability assurance required to ensure that they are receiving the best overall aggregate supply for their needs. This is a model for partnerships in the oil sands.”

Commenting on community benefits and the success of MMG, Ron Quintal, President of the Fort McKay Métis Nation, noted, “MMG’s growth through acquisition and strategic partnerships has been nothing

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short of stellar and speaks to a business model that is community-focused, and that fundamentally works. AMI has a vested interest in our community. Our shared vision to work together through our established and thriving business operation will provide long-term sustainability to the Fort McKay Métis Nation and its peoples. I congratulate AMI and MMG on this milestone.” Robert Beekhuizen, CEO of Athabasca Minerals, adds that “working alongside the Fort McKay Métis Nation has been a privilege and honour in so many ways. There’s mutual respect and excitement to achieve something meaningful and important together, and we are both committed to see this happen for the long-term benefit of the community”.

Commencing immediately, the new partnership Métis North Sand and Gravel has already triumphed with a procurement commitment for approximately 1 million tonnes of filter sand for a leading energy operator in the market. This opportunity is one of many that will create revenue sharing benefits for the Fort McKay Métis Nation.

About Athabasca Minerals Inc.

Athabasca Minerals is an integrated group of companies capable of full life-cycle development and supply of aggregates and industrial minerals. The Corporation is comprised of the following business units: **AMI Aggregates** (with aggregates from its corporate pits and which manages the Coffey Lake Public Pit for the Government of Alberta); **AMI Silica** (with resource holdings and business interests in Alberta, North-East BC, and the United States).; **AMI RockChain** (a technology-enabled business using its proprietary RockChain™ digital platform, automated supply-chain and logistics solutions, quality-assurance & safety programs to deliver products across Canada); and **TerraShift Engineering** which conducts resource exploration, regulatory, mining, environmental and reclamation engineering for a growing nation-wide customer base and is also the developer of its proprietary TerraMaps™ software.

About the McKay Métis Group

McKay Métis Group Ltd. (MMG) is a social enterprise owned by the Fort McKay Métis Nation (FMMN). We have a very diverse group of businesses providing support to the oilsands. We specialize in services such as cranes, security, tree clearing, infrastructure services, PPE Supply, chemicals, fuel and lube, road maintenance and snow removal, site amenities and more. We are a one-stop shop solution provider. Our profits are used to provide Fort McKay Métis Nation members access to affordable housing, education, elders & youth services, economic development, infrastructure and to defend the constitutional rights of the Fort McKay Métis members. The benefits of working with us are tangible – not just for your bottom line – but for the benefits you will see in our community.

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