

# true north

cameco in northern saskatchewan

Cumberland House's  
**John Desjarlais Jr.**  
celebrated for his  
leadership with  
northern youth



**JUNE 1**

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR:  
**Cameco scholarships**  
offered through Indspire

**SPRING  
2015**

  
**Cameco**

# Key Lake engineer says he's paying it forward



**“ Too often people assume they won't be eligible,” says Desjarlais. “The best advice I can give is – just apply. Make the phone calls, send an email. There are people who want to help you in every organization and institution, but you have to reach out. ”**

**John Desjarlais Jr.**  
*junior maintenance engineer*

◀ The University of Saskatchewan Students Union (USSU) recently awarded John Desjarlais Jr. with this year's Engaged Young Alumni Award for his ongoing mentorship of aboriginal and northern youth.

Desjarlais graduated from the engineering program in 2011. As a student he was instrumental in creating the Northern Administrative Students Association that allows young people from northern Saskatchewan to visit the U of S campus and learn more about the opportunities available to them. He was also the president of the Indigenous Student Council which he helped revive. During that time his efforts were recognized with the USSU Walter Murray Leadership Award, given to an undergraduate who has helped create a positive environment through their leadership roles at the university.

**“ I'm just paying it forward. As they say, it takes a community to “feed” a child, and this child got fed! ”**

Desjarlais continues to reach out to first-year students as a U of S Learning Community Alumni namesake Mentor, sharing his knowledge and experience. He is also a sessional lecturer with the College of Engineering and mentors aboriginal students to foster growth and encourage more to pursue science and engineering.

Desjarlais is an active member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. He chairs the aboriginal sub-committee and spearheaded the creation of the aboriginal Engineering and Science Association of Saskatchewan. The aim is to establish valuable relationships that will help increase aboriginal enrolment in post-secondary science and engineering. He is also a regional representative of the Indspire Institute, an online resource centre that connects educators of Indigenous students with programs, information and tools to improve grades and increase high school completion rates.

**“ I get involved because of all the help I received along my journey. I wouldn't have accomplished much of anything without mentorship and support. ”**

Desjarlais believes education leads to opportunities. In addition to his full-time position at Cameco, he is pursuing his master of business administration at the U of S Edwards School of Business.



**THE DEADLINE  
FOR APPLICATION  
IS JUNE 1, 2015.**



The Cameco scholarships offered through the Indspire Building Brighter Futures program are open. The scholarships support northern aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary programs and training. The scholarships have increased in size and have the potential for renewal.

[indspire.ca/apply](http://indspire.ca/apply)



## creative spark

Cameco is proud to partner with Creative Kids Saskatchewan on a new program that will deliver cultural, artistic and creative activities to kids in northern Saskatchewan. Details on how to apply can be found at [creativekidssask.ca](http://creativekidssask.ca)



**Deadline to apply is May 1, 2015**



## up for a challenge

The excitement of the dogs could be felt in downtown Prince Albert February 24, as teams crossed the start line of the Canadian Challenge International Sled Dog Race. Cameco was happy to take part in and support the 18th annual premier mushing event.



## celebrating diversity

The work of people like Freddie Throssie ensures Cameco stays connected to communities near its operations and continues to be named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers. *Read Freddie's story at [cameco.com/careers](http://cameco.com/careers)*



**four communities | 36 hours | 2 000+ kms**

Cameco arranged for Saskatchewan Roughriders Dan Clark and Neal Hughes to travel to northern Saskatchewan to deliver the Red Cross anti-bullying program. The program helps identify bullying and provides strategies on how best to handle bullying.

# The fuel cycle in Saskatchewan



## mining at mcarthur

[cameco.com/uranium\\_101](http://cameco.com/uranium_101)

McArthur River mines the world's largest high-grade uranium ore deposit. The mine consists of equipment and processing facilities and a network of underground tunnels and shafts.

Ore is removed using a raise boring technique to maximize worker safety. The first step is to drill a 30 cm hole from the upper level, at about 530 metres, down through the orebody and into a tunnel on the lower level that's 640 metres below ground.

An operator collects the broken ore on the lower level using a remote-controlled scoop tram.

Kevin Quesnel, McArthur River's general manager, says each raise removes about 200 tonnes of ore.

**“ Three or four raises are completed each month. We are very busy place, but mining safely is our number one priority. ”**

For the second year in a row McArthur River has been recognized as Canada's safest workplace by the Canadian Institute of Mining (CIM).

## Bill Pedersen

Services Operator,  
McArthur River Operation

### Q What does your job involve?

A It's my job to keep everyone going. I get gear and prep tools, and then once everyone is up and running, I go where I am needed. The boys call it OTAR – other tasks as required. I work with multiple departments such as the mucking and shaft crews, raise bore and construction.

### Q You had a long career working for yourself. What was the transition like coming to Cameco?

A Working at McArthur River has been a good opportunity for me. Logging had gone downhill and the gravel side of my business wasn't consistent enough. Cameco was really excited to bring me on because I'm so versatile and mechanically inclined. I had the experience operating heavy duty equipment and the rest I learned on the job. The training department here is great, so it was a really easy transition.

### Q Has anything about the job surprised you?

A The mine itself is totally different than what I expected. I had always pictured it as this deep, dark, cramped, wet and muggy place that I would never want to be in. I was surprised to see its spacious, well-lit and really organized. It's like any other construction site I've worked on, there are just no windows.



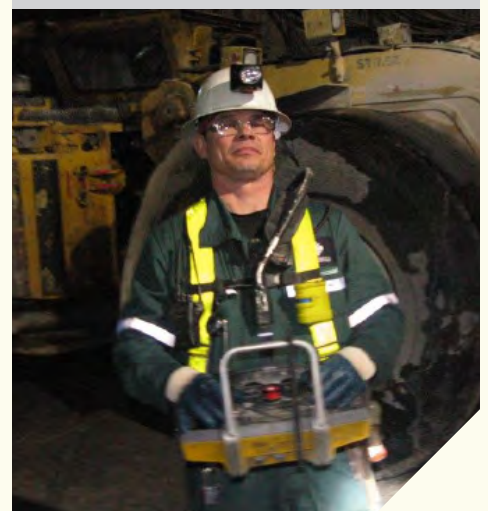
Take a virtual tour of McArthur River on Cameco's YouTube channel.



@camecocommunity



Cameco Connects



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Cameco Northern Affairs Office 306.425.4144  
[cameco.com/northernsk](http://cameco.com/northernsk)

  
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