



## Energizing a clean-air world

The Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP) is a component of the collaboration agreement (CA) signed between Cameco, Orano, four municipalities and three First Nations in northern Saskatchewan.

This summer, the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) awarded Cameco one of its prestigious Towards Sustainable Mining® (TSM) Excellence Awards in June, in recognition of the CBEMP program and its innovative and sustainable focus on community engagement and environmental stewardship.

CBEMP demonstrates the partnership between the community and industry and builds off 18 years of regional data collection through the former Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program. The AWG Monitoring Program had more of a regional focus but the signing of the CA signaled a switch in focus to a single community and rebranding the program as CBEMP.

Since then, CBEMP has tackled studies in Black Lake and Stony Rapids in 2018, Fond du Lac in 2019 while Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Lake are currently underway. The remaining communities of Uranium City and Camsell Portage are planned for 2021. In the program, traditional foods and areas are tested to ensure they remain safe for consumption. The program brings training and employment to community members, who are responsible for leading interviews, mapping harvesting sites, taking samples of foods for analysis and communicating this information to the broader community.



By involving community members directly in CBEMP's design and implementation, communities can have significant input into the way information is collected, submitted and reported. At the end, each community has their own tailored country foods study that they were closely involved with and local community members can have confidence that traditionally harvested foods remain safe to eat and water remains safe to drink.

Most importantly, the program provides peace of mind that the surrounding areas have not been influenced by the active uranium mining and milling operations in the region, all while also providing opportunities to local community members – a win-win.

It's innovative programs like CBEMP that have helped Cameco maintain its gold-level status in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business recognized Cameco for the sixth time in September. The distinction is given to select companies that excel at working with aboriginal communities and businesses.

In its report, the jury noted that Cameco's long-term strategic plan is aligned with PAR's four pillars: employment, business development, individual skills development and community relations. As one of Canada's largest employers of aboriginal people, PAR noted that Cameco has leveraged the opportunity to hire locally and have the added advantage of creating and establishing an able and capable employee pool in which to hire from.

The jury also recognized the inclusion of local and aboriginal businesses in the supply chain. Through December 2019, Cameco has procured \$3.85 billion for services from northern businesses since 2004.

The negotiation and implementation of CA's also plays an important role in developing "strong, lasting and trusting partnerships with their CA holders," the jury wrote.



# orano

As a signatory to the Ya' thi Néné collaboration agreement and a business and community partner in the Athabasca Basin, Orano Canada is pleased to reach out to Basin people through this newsletter to maintain our close relationship, especially in this challenging time. We demonstrate our commitment to the Basin and to the North through community investments, hiring, training, business opportunities, and scholarships.

### Meet Tina Searcy, Orano Canada Regulatory and Environmental Science Manager

You may be seeing more of Tina Searcy in the coming months as she has taken the lead on some important Orano projects such as the expansion of the JEB Tailings Management Facility (TMF) at McClean Lake and the stewardship of the Cluff Lake decommissioned mine. Tina has worked for Orano and its predecessor companies for 20 years and with a background in environmental monitoring, management and protection has worked in the mining industry for 25 years.

Recently, Tina joined the Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (AJES) for a presentation and tour of the JEB TMF at McClean Lake to discuss the importance of the project and the need for tailings capacity as uranium companies make decisions on future mining projects. Tina has a passion for sustainable development of uranium projects in Saskatchewan and the importance of community engagement. She is always open to hearing any concerns or questions that community members or leadership might have about the operations or future plans.

### Status of McClean Lake Operation

Following an announcement in late July, and the safe restart of the Cigar Lake mine and the McClean Lake uranium mill, the operations were able to begin processing uranium in mid September. Working closely with employees, contractors and northern communities, McClean Lake maintained safety protocols put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic threat.

Those procedures were tested in September when the mill experienced one positive case of COVID-19 at site. It was determined that the source of the infection was from outside the work environment. Through quick isolation and the testing of close contacts, Orano was able to limit the risk. Working with the Population Health Unit of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, site management ensured the safety of the workforce, resulting in only the one positive case.

While it was a difficult situation, Orano employees handled it calmly and the event served as a good reminder of why COVID safety protocols must be respected.



**Our congratulations to the 2020-2021 Basin Scholarship recipients. We wish all 23 recipients a successful year and we look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.**

As Orano prepares for a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) public hearing in the fall of 2021 on the tailings expansion you will hear more from the company on the details of the project, and there will be opportunities for feedback, questions and participation in the hearing process.

### Contact Us

As always, we welcome questions and comments any time. Please call us at: 306-343-4500 or

reach out through our website: [oranocanada.com](http://oranocanada.com) or social media.

