

2016 ABORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Birch Mountain Enterprises Ltd., AB



With nearly a decade in business and over 250 employees, Birch Mountain Enterprises (BME), is a proven and dependable fluid handling and steaming specialist in the Fort McKay area. Specializing in safety and service, the 3 cofounders and owners of the company know the importance of giving back to the community and supporting Indigenous programs, employees and business.

Primarily serving Fort McMurray's oil sands clients and area, they are proud to be local and Indigenously owned. With a 60% Indigenous employment rate, BME has created numerous jobs in the community. They utilize Indigenous-owned contractors when possible, they are members of the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association and their mandate is to support children's health and wellness programs in local Indigenous communities.

Thanks to the generosity of BME, Fort McKay has been able to offer amazing educational, sports, health and wellness programs for youth in the community. The Fort McKay Wellness Director is quoted in saying, "it has helped a lot of our kids to progress in their communication skills in addition to having fun!" Since 2011, BME has been a huge supporter of the community hockey program, resulting in a very successful program with over 80 youth playing the sport.

BME was a great support to the community during the wildfire catastrophe that hit the region in May 2016; they donated truckloads of groceries and supplies to evacuees. BME is constantly striving to touch the lives of their community members and give back in any way they can.

BME is innovative and this is clear with their new Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Their goal is to be the go-to company for these types of services and they hope to streamline their services on hauling sewage, sewage processing, bio solids management and certified laboratory services. This project will also create new job opportunities for community members, increasing the overall well being in the community. BME is committed to environmental sustainability and everything they do is viewed through a lens of reducing environmental pollution.

BME comes from humble roots and demonstrates that with all that they do. They are extremely deserving of this award and are a great example of a thriving company that puts community and people first.