

# NAIT Centre gets \$7.6 million to build skilled workforce and manufacturing capacity

A multi-million dollar investment by industry and government is helping create a unique new Centre at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) to develop the next generation of skilled workers and enhance manufacturers' productivity.



Celebrating major donations that will make the NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre a reality are (left to right): Lauren Russell and Armie Tremblay, NAIT grads now employed by Shell Canada; Brian Straub, Shell Canada's Sr. Vice President, Oil Sands; Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre; George VanderBurg, Acting Minister of Alberta Innovation and Science; Dr. Sam Shaw, NAIT President.

Shell Canada has invested \$3 million in NAIT's *Building on Demand* campaign – the largest community investment in the company's history. Shell Canada has invested \$2.5 million to create the NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre and \$500,000 for trades bursaries and scholarships for students pursuing apprenticeship and technical training.

As well, Western Economic Diversification Canada has committed \$3.1 million to the Centre and the Government of Alberta has contributed \$1.5 million.

"The average age of a skilled worker in Canada is over 50 years old and with 40 per cent of our workforce expected to retire over the next 10 years, we are facing a significant skills shortage," said Brian Straub, Shell Canada's Senior Vice President, Oil Sands. "Shell Canada's ongoing growth depends on the availability of skilled workers who can deliver world-class technical projects. NAIT targets the manufacturing, trades and technical skills Shell Canada needs for its current and future operations."

Opening in March 2007, the NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre will help Alberta-based manufacturers achieve new levels of productivity and competitiveness, while training up to 300 students annually in state-of-the-art technologies.

"The Government of Canada strongly supports building Canada's skilled trades capacity through facilities such as the NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre," said MP Laurie Hawn, Edmonton Centre on behalf of Minister Carol Skelton, for National Revenue and Western Economic Diversification. "Our economic prosperity depends on improving manufacturing productivity and our capacity to compete globally."

"Training Albertans on leading-edge technology in a centre of this calibre helps to ensure that our province can keep pace with world trends and advances in manufacturing," said George VanderBurg, Minister of Government Services and Acting Minister of Alberta Innovation and Science.

The \$7.6 million investment made by Shell Canada and government brings NAIT's \$50 million *Building on Demand* campaign total to more than \$33 million. The campaign supports NAIT's \$750 million campus expansion, which will increase the Institute's training capacity by nearly 50 per cent, from 65,000 to 95,000 registrants each year.

"We are extremely pleased that Shell Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, and Alberta Innovation and Science are supporting this Centre," said NAIT President Dr. Sam Shaw. "This will position NAIT as a global trainer in manufacturing and will be an asset to Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada."



After completing NAIT pre-trades training in his home community of Conklin, Alberta, Armie Tremblay was hired by Shell and now works in the Muskeg River Mine as a Millwright apprentice.

## Shell investment supports tomorrow's workforce

Shell is the majority owner of the Athabasca Oil Sands Project, a 155,000-barrel per day operation that manufactures bitumen from the Muskeg River Mine in Fort McMurray and upgrades into synthetic crude at Shell's Scotford Upgrader in Fort Saskatchewan. Shell has long-term plans to grow mining production from the Athabasca region to more than 500,000 barrels per day.

The project's success depends on the availability of a labour pool that is trained, skilled and ready to work. To meet its long-term growth goals, Shell has a tremendous need for skilled people. Shell needs people both to operate its existing facilities, and people to build the various phases of planned oil sands ex-

ansion. Shell expects its AOSP Expansion construction workforce will peak at more than 10,000 construction workers in 2008. The majority of the AOSP Expansion workforce will be skilled trades people including welders, pipefitters, electricians, boilermakers, cement masons, millwrights, ironworkers, instrumentation technicians and carpenters.

That's why Shell Canada invested \$3 million into NAIT's *Building on Demand* fundraising campaign. NAIT prepares skilled workers and helps them build careers in Alberta's manufacturing industries, like the oil sands. For example, Lauren Russell, at Shell's Scotford Upgrader, and Armie Tremblay, with Albion Sands at the Muskeg

River Mine, are both NAIT-trained. Lauren graduated with a 4th Class Power Engineering Certificate and has been with Shell for over four years, holding the position of Shift Team Member/Process Operator. Armie participated in NAIT's Trades in Motion, a mobile classroom program that delivers 24 weeks of intensive pre-trades training directly to residents of remote communities. Originally from Conklin, part of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Armie now works at Albion as a Millwright and is pursuing his Journeyman Millwright.

Shell and Albion need more people like Lauren and Armie and they are working with NAIT to make it a reality.

## New Centre positions NAIT as global trainer in manufacturing

A new world-class Centre at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) will give Alberta petroleum and other manufacturers an edge, while training students in advanced manufacturing technologies.

When it opens in March 2007, the \$12.5 million NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre will be the first in Canada to link productivity enhancement services with manufacturing solutions.

"Alberta's manufacturing sector faces significant competitive challenges to reduce operational costs, increase efficiency and improve customer service,"

said Mave Dhariwal, Chair, Mechanical Engineering Technology and Productivity Enhancement Services. "The NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre will help Alberta organizations improve their productivity and enhance their capacity to meet global competitive pressures."

As a complete production plant, the Centre will simulate the manufacturing environment, allowing clients to identify challenges and develop software solutions.

The Centre, a one-stop shop for manufacturers, will also assist with

applied research and product development, support student projects and house NAIT's Productivity Enhancement Services programs, which are taken by more than 300 business leaders annually and include Project Leadership, Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma.

Each year, up to 300 students will train in the advanced manufacturing technologies located at the Centre, such as rapid prototyping technologies, laser cutting, welding robotics and Computer Integrated Manufacturing systems.



NAIT staff use an advanced metrology instrument that provides measuring accuracy to within millionths of an inch. Such instruments will be available for industry use in the new NAIT Shell Manufacturing Centre.

Canada is facing a shortage of skilled employees.  
The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology has solutions.

Timely. Innovative. Essential.

THE NAIT CAMPAIGN  
**BUILDING  
ON DEMAND**

[www.nait.ca/buildingondemand](http://www.nait.ca/buildingondemand)

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