



## ADVANCING INDUSTRY TOGETHER

IMPACT REPORT, DECEMBER 2017



# MOVING INDUSTRY FORWARD



Our partnership began in 1991 when the Leducor Group created a scholarship for Construction Engineering Technology students. Now, close to three decades later, there have been some significant economic and social changes.

Together, we faced these changes by finding solutions that will have an incredible impact on industry and our communities for generations to come. Together, we're spurring innovation to make industry more efficient and productive while reducing our environmental footprint. We're producing students with the skills and the talent to become drivers to propel the workforce forward in business, construction, applied sciences and technology.

Leducor and NAIT have a shared vision of the future—and your support ensures we have the technology, tools, talent and knowledge to get us there.

# GIVING, BY THE NUMBERS



**2,087,200**

TOTAL GIVING SINCE 1991

**\$1,500,000**

to establish the Leducor Applied Research Chair in Oil Sands Sustainability

**\$344,130** to scholarships and bursaries

**\$210,000**

to campus development projects including the HP Centre for Information and Communications Technology and the Spartan Centre for Instrumentation Technology

**\$32,100** sponsorships and program initiatives

\*All donations received up to June 30, 2017. Cumulative amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.



**JANUARY 1991**

The Leducor Group makes first cash gift to the Partners in Tomorrow Campaign, establishing first scholarship to NAIT.

**FEBRUARY 2002**

Leducor donates \$120,000 to the HP Centre for Informations and Communications Technology during the Opening Doors Campaign.

# THE LEDCOR APPLIED RESEARCH CHAIR

*"I have been able to use my industry knowledge and expertise to aid in developing new technologies in oil sands applications. The Chair position ensures the Centre's connectivity with industry partners and continued leadership in Health and Safety initiatives. Sustainability is at the fore-front of what we do and the Centre is helping to drive continued improvement and innovation in the oil sands."*

**Andrea Sedgwick, Leducor Applied Research Chair**

Andrea Sedgwick has led applied research at NAIT's Centre for Oil Sands Sustainability since 2015. Under Sedgwick's leadership, the centre, located in the heart of Edmonton's Research Park, has doubled in size to 12,733 square feet.

The centre carries out applied research, pilot testing and technology development to meet the needs of Alberta's oil sands industry. It receives additional funding from key industry partners like Suncor as well as the federal and provincial governments.

The centre's growth is only possible because of the Leducor Group's \$1.5 million endowment to establish the applied research chair—the first ever at NAIT—to reduce oil sands tailings and minimize the impact of industry on the environment.



## GROWTH OF THE CENTRE FOR OIL SANDS SUSTAINABILITY

**\$1.5 MILLION** FROM LEDCOR IN 2009, MATCHED BY NAIT TO CREATE A **\$3M** ENDOWMENT

**12,733** square feet of lab space - more than a 900% increase since 2009

**17** industry experts, including NAIT Chemical Technology graduates

**6** Management Advisory Board members  
**2** advisors

**50** collaborative projects with \$4.8M in federal government funding.

Collaboration with organizations across the globe - in locations from Canada, the US, UK, Netherlands and Australia.

*"NAIT is uniquely positioned to provide expertise and facilities for the evaluation and advancement of promising technologies in oilsands sustainability [with] key service to technology providers through direct links to technical representatives of industry and team members with a clear understanding of the needs of industry in advancing environmental and sustainable solutions."*

**Sean Wells**  
Sr. Engineering Adviser, Suncor



**MARCH 2007**

Leducor donates \$80K to The Spartan Centre for Instrumentation Technology.

**MARCH 2008**

Colleagues, friends and family establish the Trevor Korol Memorial Awards Endowment in memory of the NAIT graduate and Leducor employee.

**JULY 2008**

Leducor makes its largest donation to NAIT with \$1.75 million endowment; recruitment of the applied research chair begins.



## REDUCING OIL SANDS TAILINGS

NAIT has worked with Leducor to advance testing and knowledge on the pilot of their filter press technology. As a result of the study and reports NAIT produced, Leducor has made significant progress in proving effectiveness of the technology by working with COSIA—Canada’s Oil Sands Innovation Alliance—and industry partners on two projects dedicated to using the filter press to squeeze water from mature fine tailings in the oil sands open-pit mining process.

Advancing the use of filter press technology will have a long-term environmental impact by reducing the size of tailing ponds. After removed, the tailings are dense enough to be relocated to an area slated for reclamation. The water is then returned and recycled, thereby, reducing the amount of clean water required for the mining process.

Using this innovative technology created by Leducor means that oil companies are able to reclaim mining areas more quickly and reduce their environmental impact of oil sands operations.

*“If we are to truly make practices in the oil sands sustainable, we need to make changes now. However, these changes need to be based on a reasoned approach and sound science and be conducted in a collaborative manner making use of all research being conducted in this area.”*

**DON BREEN**  
FORMER PRESIDENT, LEDCOR

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

**\$344,130** TOTAL SUPPORT SINCE 2005 TO 55 STUDENTS

## 5 SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED

### DISBURSEMENTS OF \$1,000 - 2,500

**Leducor Construction Limited Award of Excellence**  
awarded to 5 students - last disbursed in 2008

**Leducor Innovation Scholarships**  
awarded to 26 students since 2009

**Leducor Group Telecommunications Innovation Scholarship**  
awarded to 4 students - last disbursed in 2011

**Leducor Group Occupational Health & Safety (OH & S) Innovation Scholarship**  
awarded to 10 students since 2012

**Leducor Group Business Administration Innovation Scholarship**  
awarded to 10 students since 2012



**Trevor Korol Memorial Fund:** a \$411,053 endowment supported by Leducor and the friends and family of Trevor Korol; 192 gifts have been made to the fund (56 students have received scholarships since 2010)

#### OCTOBER 2009

Leducor holds the first Investor Day, presenting to 109 students.

#### NOVEMBER 2009

Leducor holds the first scholarships and bursaries event to celebrate student recipients.

#### MARCH 2010

NAIT and Leducor recruit and publicly announce the Leducor Applied Research Chair in Oil Sands Sustainability, Dr. Haneef Mian.

#### OCTOBER 2010

Leducor holds an Investor Day, presenting to 60 students.

## REWARDING INSPIRATIONAL STUDENTS

Over the years, NAIT has provided a hands-on education to the talented and inspirational students who are passionate and highly driven to succeed in their careers. Many of them today, in fact, are putting their skills to work for Ledcor. Many others aspire to create real social and environmental change within their industries.



## KEEPING INDUSTRY SAFE

**Alexandra Reid**

Occupational Health and Safety '16  
HSE Coordinator, Ledcor

Alexandra Reid discovered her true calling while working as a labourer during the summer of 2013. On the job site, she met two summer students from NAIT's Occupational Health and Safety (OH & S) program. Speaking with them, Reid became interested in the program, so she did some research and discovered the high rate of success of graduates finding employment in their field. She applied and then enrolled the following year.

While at NAIT, Reid received the Ledcor Group OH & S Innovation Scholarship. "Receiving the scholarship not only helped me financially, it encouraged me to keep going," she says. "When companies like Ledcor support students through scholarships, it shows their commitment to industry and to education."

Six months later, she was hired at Ledcor where she says she enjoys interacting with fellow employees to identify potential hazards and prevent incidents.

"There are a lot of precursors to incidents," Reid points out, noting that putting the right policies and procedures in place is critical and the most rewarding part of the job. "Recognizing when something is wrong, being able to stop an incident from happening and knowing that you saved someone from getting hurt - it's a big reason why I chose this field."

## DREAMING OF GREENER BUILDING

**Kyle Schmitke**

NAIT Construction Engineering Technology student  
Trevor Korol Memorial Scholarship recipient

Kyle Schmitke was forced to make a career change after rupturing a disk in his lower back in August 2014. At 18 years old, he owned a paint contracting company that was just beginning to take off, but he simply could not continue the labour-intensive work.

Passionate about the industry, he enrolled in the Construction Engineering Technology program with the goal in mind to someday run his own business.

He'd like to see solar energy and sustainable building become more widespread in residential construction, he says. "It's another way to help make the world greener."

Today, he is looking forward to getting experience in managing large-scale contracts. When he was a contractor, delivering on his contracts on time and to his clients' satisfaction was the most rewarding part of the business.

For months leading up to his first day of classes, he underwent numerous surgeries that prevented him from working to pay his tuition and living expenses. Thankfully, he received scholarship support.

"It was an amazing weight off my shoulders," he says, reflecting back when he received the Trevor Korol Memorial Scholarship. "I truly appreciate the support I've received, and



I'm personally inspired to establish a scholarship one day to pay it forward and help other students."

You might say that the physical challenges he's had to endure was a blessing in disguise - it's not only pushed him to pursue a new career, it has also compelled him to help other people who are struggling. As soon as he was able, he started volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters Edmonton. "It's a constant source of joy for me to give back."

### SEPTEMBER 2011

Ledcor Applied Research Advisory Council holds its first meeting.

### OCTOBER 2011

Ledcor holds an Investor Day, presenting to 125 students from 21 programs.

### APRIL 2012

Ledcor sponsors the NAIT Golf Tournament for the first time.

### OCTOBER 2012

Ledcor holds an Investor Day, presenting to 104 students from 19 programs.

### DECEMBER 2015

Dr. Andrea Sedgwick is named the Ledcor Applied Research Chair in Oil Sands Sustainability.

# LEDCOR ON CAMPUS

Over the past decade, NAIT has worked closely with Ledcor to offer opportunities to meet our students and work with our programs.

More than **1,114** NAIT graduates hired. 302 currently and 812 previously employed at Ledcor; 201 in the Edmonton region (Source: NAIT LinkedIn)

**16** information sessions with more than 535 students in business and applied science and technology programs

**4** investor day sessions were held for 403 students from 21 programs from 2009 - 2012

**4** Program Advisory Committees: Civil Engineering Technology from 2006-10; Program Advisory Committee since 2001; Occupational Health & Safety 2015-16; Business Administration, Human Resources since 2011; Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management since 2016

**6** industry nights sponsored by The Ledcor Group - two OH&S and four Construction Engineering Technology

**8** annual Career Fair events

**19** student recruitment interviews or industry events from 12 programs in business and applied science and technology

\*All numbers reported are current up to June 30, 2017

## APRIL 2016

NAIT and Ledcor celebrate 5 years of partnership and the impact it has had on the growth of applied research on the polytechnic.

## BUILDING BRIDGES WITH STUDENTS

Every fall for over 43 years, NAIT students, alumni, industry and University of Alberta students compete to construct a rope suspension bridge across Whitemud Creek. Competitors are challenged to cross the creek and return before the bridges are dismantled. The team with the fastest time wins.

As a sponsor, Ledcor has generously provided participants with breakfast and amenities.

“We consider NAIT as part of Ledcor’s extended family,” says Les Kozma, project director. “Sponsoring this event provides exposure to the company and builds fellowship with students, instructors and others in industry.”

The event engages students in a friendly competition to work as a team and give back to the community. Each team brings in 50 pounds of food items to donate to the Edmonton Food Bank.



## OCTOBER 2016

Ledcor sponsors the annual Bridge Building Competition.

## ENHANCING INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

Over the years, the Ledcor Group has had a significant impact on our polytechnic. You have played an integral role in the accomplishments of many of our students and our continued pursuits in oil sands research. For this, we are truly grateful.

As NAIT grows, we remain committed to providing the support to help our students succeed. Through Ledcor’s support, we continue to provide scholarships for students who are seeking careers in a variety of industries, including business, construction, health and safety. These scholarships provide incredible support for the talented, skilled workers who will have an immediate impact within the workforce.

Impressively, the Ledcor Applied Research Chair in Oil Sands Sustainability is one of the first donor-funded research chairs at NAIT. We are proud that Ledcor recognized the unique value of making an investment in applied research driven by industry’s needs. Through your support, the centre has grown and is working on applied research projects that significantly contribute to the sustainability of oil sands resources—this work has a long-lasting impact on the future of our province.

Since then, applied research at NAIT has grown immensely – we now have four centres dedicated to advancements in practices and technology for Canada’s evolving economy. As we look ahead, NAIT is excited to open the Productivity and Innovation Centre, our new ‘front door’ to industry. Having the support of a respected, industry leader like Ledcor, has truly laid the foundation for our future growth.

On behalf of the entire NAIT family, it is my distinct honour to express our appreciation. We look forward to continuing this remarkable partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenn Feltham,  
PhD, BA, BS, MBA, LLB, FCPA, FCMA  
President and CEO

**Department of Advancement**

214, 10611 Kingsway Avenue,  
Edmonton, AB T5G 3C8

P: 780.471.8800      TF: 800.289.7609

F: 780.471.8414      E: [giving@nait.ca](mailto:giving@nait.ca)

Charitable Registration Number:  
10778 1205 RR0001

[nait.ca/giving](http://nait.ca/giving)