



# NEWS

## #01 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### A NEW STAGE OF GROWTH

Marwest has taken its next step as B.C.'s leading Indigenous pipeline maintenance and utility services company.

### PUTTING RELATIONSHIPS FIRST

Building partnerships that last with First Nation and Métis communities.

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT WORK

Learn what it's like to work at Marwest or our sister company, Darlen Transport.

## HIRING SOON!

CONTACT US FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

**CURRENTLY TRAINING:**  
PILOT TRUCK DRIVERS  
LABOURERS

[info@marwestutility.com](mailto:info@marwestutility.com)





## Métis Heritage

When Rocky McLeod started work in the 1970s as a truck driver from the Métis community in Fort Nelson, good Indigenous relations was hardly on the business radar.

In many ways, it was the trucking industry that led the way.

Visiting other Indigenous communities helped Rocky create a community partnership business model. He struck deals to build shared value and create opportunities for Indigenous workers.

**And the "infinity" sign in the company logos?**

The symbol represents the joining of cultures, and the McLeod family's Cree, Dene, and Métis heritage.

# BUILDING RELATIONS

Marwest is a utility and pipeline maintenance company – with a community mission.

Photos L: Inis Gairdner, Grandfather R: Rocky McLeod, Company President



Connecting the mining, energy and transportation industries with great people and stronger communities has long been core to the Marwest and Darlen Transport identity.

Today, Marwest has formal partnerships with Indigenous communities including Upper Nicola, Whispering Pines, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc and Seabird Island, to name a few.

Working throughout Western and Northwestern Canada, Marwest is a primary service provider for FortisBC and works on a wide array of heavy construction, pipeline and civil projects for mines and linear infrastructure.

## Marwest has partnerships with Indigenous communities

Sister company Darlen Transport's fleet of trucks and professional drivers ensure heavy equipment makes it where it needs to be, on time and intact.

"As a 100% Indigenous-owned company, our true success lies in our relationships," says President Rocky McLeod. "Our Indigenous partnerships are a way for community members to be more involved and benefit from industrial projects going on in their backyard and in their Territories."

While many partnerships operate on a revenue share model with priority hiring/training for band members, Marwest is working to further deepen the existing relationships.

"Our mandate is to have long-term relationships with all partners," says McLeod. "We want to plant the seed and grow shared benefits including good, well-paying, family supporting jobs."

Rocky acknowledges that building up Marwest is not the end goal. "Some of our partners have gone on to create their own successful companies," notes McLeod.

"Mission accomplished."

**ROGA GROUP**



## NEW CAPACITY

We recently joined forces with Roga, the 100% Indigenous-owned group of companies.

Improving competitiveness, while retaining our core community focus: This was the number-one priority in joining forces with Roga Group.

Roga helps Marwest share expertise and reach more Indigenous communities across

British Columbia, and beyond.

Roga develops 50/50 joint equity partnerships with First Nations, and has facilities in five locations across B.C.

Learn more at [www.roga.ca](http://www.roga.ca).

# “PILOTING” INDUSTRY AT DARLEN TRANSPORT

**Kaitlyn Dixon (pictured right) is a Canim Lake Band (Tsq’escen’) member and a pilot truck driver with our sister company.**

*We caught up with Kaitlyn in Valemont as she worked helping safely transport valuable forestry equipment on low bed trucks. Over the past three years, Kaitlyn’s been across B.C. and into Alberta to places such as Prince George, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, and Jasper.*

## **What was it like starting with Darlen?**

I didn’t even know this type of work existed until I saw a job posting at my Band Office at Canim Lake! I was tired of being in the same place and was ready to make a change, so I sent in my resume and driver’s abstract. My sister did too, and we both were hired.

It really makes a big difference if you like the people you work with. It was admittedly hard to break the bubble and get into the team, but now I have both my “work family,” and my “family family.”

## **What should people know about Pilot Truck Driving?**

These days, driving a pilot truck isn’t just for older folks. It helps to be physically fit, so you can tie up your own lines or work as a swamper to help lift equipment around. It’s not an easy-peasy drive-around job, especially if you are working with low beds like I am now. We also tail pipe, which is better for folks who are maybe not so physical. Normally you’ll want to be able to lift 50 pounds, and also have a few years’ experience driving under your belt. Not just your “N.”

*The best advice I have is to come to work fit for duty and well-rested.*

Safety is also very important – It’s not a matter of *if* an incident will happen, it’s a matter of *when*. I recently saw someone slip into a ditch and I had a close call myself too (while I was off duty), but I acted quickly to evade the collision. The best advice I have is to come to work fit for duty and well-rested. Then, work on your instincts and always stay alert while behind the wheel.

## **What surprised you about the job?**

I like to visit all the towns and places this job has brought me to. While I miss my family at home, I enjoy this work because I really like to travel and explore. No two days are ever the same.

## **Advice for folks in your community considering this type of work?**

See if the employment office will help you with the tickets you need - prepare to succeed! There are often many different options available. For me, it was a big change just to leave the reserve. I never thought I could make money, but I can.

## **What do you do in your free time?**

I spend time with my family and collect Pit Viper shades. I also love to play hockey when I can.



∞  
**DARLEN**  
TRANSPORT (1986) LTD.



### COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARE 2021

**Total amount shared:** \$1.22 million.

**Partner communities:** Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, BC Métis Federation, Whispering Pines First Nation, and Upper Nicola Band.



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