



FORT McMURRAY BRANCH

2005/2006 BUSINESS PLAN

Submitted by:

**Vic Saari, P. Eng.
Chair, APEGGA Fort McMurray Branch**



Summary

The branch held our Annual Planning Session on May 16, 2005 at which the planning of events for the 2005/2006 term was carried out.

The purpose of this Business Plan is to present the Branch plans to APEGGA Head Office to show how these plans fall in line with the overall APEGGA goals for its branches.

Although the Fort McMurray Branch has the same goals and faces many of the same challenges as the other branches throughout the province this branch is unique in several ways. The Oilsands industry has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years and, as a result, many employers are faced with going outside the province and, in many instances, outside the country to recruit professionals. There is plenty of movement of professionals working in Fort McMurray – some live in other centres such as Calgary or Edmonton and commute to Fort McMurray. New graduates are joining the industry at an increasing rate as well. All these contribute to the challenges that we face as a branch in reaching and maintaining contact with members and in reaching newly arrived professionals to keep them informed as to what is happening within APEGGA generally and with the Branch in particular.

The specific goals of the Fort McMurray Branch are

- Improve the image of APEGGA and increase the involvement with our members
- Raise awareness and the profile of APEGGA within the public sphere
- Make contact with new arrivals in the community and inform them of their obligations as professionals working in Alberta.
- Provide information to MIT's under the direction of the Professional Development Department.
- Improve networking and professional development opportunities.
- Promote Science and Technology within the community particularly in the schools and with the youth of the province.

The level of planned activity in the branch will increase marginally since last year. The list of planned activities is detailed in the Activities section of this report.

The biggest challenge for this branch is to reach the members and to encourage them to participate in Branch activities. The lack of participation at events is attributable, first, to the heavy work load experienced by most workers in the region and second, to the 'transient' nature of many professionals which tends to discourage 'local' participation.

The Continuing Professional Development program has suffered in recent years from the lack of participation at planned events. In the past the branch has planned the main CPD Day as a 'break even' and, due to this, the event has had to be cancelled in recent years because the minimum number of participants was not reached. However, the registration inquiries at the last minute (after cancellation) has indicated that possibly this event could have been successful. The Branch Executive

has decided to ask for additional funding in the budget as a safety cushion for possible shortfalls and should the event prove successful the funding will remain in place for the next year.

The executive is facing a challenge in finding a topic or topics for CPD Day which would be of general interest to a broader audience within the membership. The major oil companies provide much of their own training in-house seminars which limits the range of topics available for our workshops and seminars.

The Branch Outreach Program is active and many events are planned for the term.

Many “social” events are also planned which hopefully will interest members to come out and meet and network with their fellow professionals.

The Branch Executive has a challenging year ahead but it will be met head on with the usual hard work and effort of our dedicated members.

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GOAL		
ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
1. Public <i>1.1. Promote Science & Technology in local school schools and industry.</i>		

Outreach Program

Promote, select, and recognize winners of the Teacher Awards Program.

Student Awards Program

Participate in Science and Technology Week from Oct. 6 to Oct. 16, 2005

Participate in National Engineering and Geoscience Week from Feb. 24 to March 5, 2006.

Member to travel to Fort Chipewyan to visit the school.

Participate in the Lego Challenge and the Science Olympics

Organize a Poster Contest in the schools to promote science and math.

The Oilsands Trade Show is scheduled for early September. We will have a booth display and a staff member from Head Office will assist.

Samir Rashid and Vic Saari

Mike Sneath

Samir Rashid

Samir Rashid

Wayne Kosik

Samir Rashid

Dylan Miles

John Huntley, Wayne Kosik, Joseph Amalraj

The Teacher Award has been presented and the participant, accompanied by her husband, the school principal and the outreach coordinator, was treated to dinner at a local restaurant

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GOAL		
ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
1. Public <i>1.2 Enhance image of profession in the community.</i>		
Oilsands Trade Show Booth	John Huntley assisted by Wayne Kosik and Joseph Amalraj	
Involve media and leaders of the community and industry in all branch events when applicable.	All executive	

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GOAL

2. Members

2.1 *Provide information and mentoring to MIT's (New) under the direction of the Professional Development Department.*

ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
APEGGA Information Night	Jacob Oommachan assisted by Samir Rashid and Mustafa Malik	The name has been changed from MIT Seminar to attract new arrivals from overseas or other provinces who may be discouraged from attending by the MIT title. This would cover topics such as registration requirements, professionalism and ethics.

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GOAL

2. Members

2.2 *Provide opportunities to network with members and the public to assist in career development, and understand the other professions in the Association.*

ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
Student Night	Dylan Miles	Held on May 17, 2005 as a joint event with CIM. Very successful event with over 60 students and approximately 110 total attendance
Joint APEGGA/CIM BBQ	Dylan Miles	Scheduled for July 2005
Wine and Cheese Night	Paul Hagar assisted by Mitch Azmier and Rattan Garcha	Scheduled for early fall
Trivia Quiz Night	Mitch Azmier and Paul Hagar	Scheduled for November 2005
Bowling Night	Vic Saari	Scheduled for February 2006
Ski Night	Dylan Miles and Jason Kachur	Scheduled for February or March 2006

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GOAL

2. Members

2.3 Provide local professional development as part of APEGGA's professional development program.

ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
Continuous Professional Development Day	Prakash Mullick assisted by Dylan Miles and Wayne Kosik	Scheduled for February 2006
Use the Teleconference Video Link for possible workshops	Vic Saari	This video teleconferencing is still in the test stages. It will be used if it proves workable.

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GOAL

2. Members

2.4 Provide a network through which information can be communicated between the membership and Council.

ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
Branch Orientation Session		New branch executive members will be encouraged to attend. Date to be announced by Head Office
APEGGA Council & Branch Chair Meetings.	Vic Saari	Vic Saari, the Branch Chair, attended recent council meetings, branch chairs' meetings and the AGM in Calgary on April 23, 2005. Every effort is made to ensure that the Chair, Vice-Chair or Past Chair is in attendance at these meetings.
Annual Branch Planning Session	Vic Saari	The 2005/2006 Branch Planning Session was held May 16, 2005. The activities identified in this session form the basis of this 2005/2006 Business Plan. The minutes of all Branch meetings are posted on the APEGGA website under the Fort McMurray Branch.
Monthly Branch Executive Meetings	Vic Saari	All Branch Executive Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room 131 of the Father Patrick Mercredi Community High School. The meetings are scheduled for July 22 (BBQ), Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 2005 and Jan. 11, Feb. 8 and Mar. 8, 2006.
President's Visit & Member Induction Ceremony	Prakash Mullick and Rattan Garcha assisted by Mustafa Malik.	This event is tentatively scheduled for January 25, 2006 upon approval from APEGGA Head Office and the President.

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GOAL

2. Members

2.4 Provide a network through which information can be communicated between the membership and Council.

ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
Annual General Meeting	Jason Kachur and Mike Sneath assisted by Christine Hernani	Scheduled for March 2006

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GOAL		
2. Members <i>2.6 Increase member involvement.</i>		
ACTIVITY	LEADER	PROGRESS
Newsletter	Vic Saari	A final decision on this item has not been made.

