

Training and employment open houses offer glimpse of ‘opportunities for the future’

In February 2009 Aurora returned to communities throughout Nunatsiavut and the Upper Lake Melville region for further consultations with residents.

“Community members and Inuit Community Governments have told us that employment and training opportunities for the construction and operations phases of the Michelin Project are very important to them,” said Aurora’s Director of Human Resources, Ed Williams. “Based on their feedback, we held community consultation sessions to give an overview of these topics.”

Held in an open house format, these consultations gave residents an opportunity to discuss Aurora’s training strategy and potential career paths one-on-one with company representatives.

School-aged attendees in particular were eager to hear that they have ample time to prepare for many of the professions involved in operating a mine and mill. In speaking with elders at the sessions, the Aurora team

learned many were pleased that local youth would have the opportunity to obtain gainful employment and still be close to their home communities.

“During these sessions we also wanted to give community members an idea of how we approach our operations,” said Ches Andersen, Aurora’s Vice President, Labrador Affairs. “Anyone interested in working with us needs to understand that employment equity, care for worker health and safety and environmental responsibility are at the core of everything we do.”



The open houses gave some of Aurora’s team, such as the company’s new Director of Engineering, Steve Cole (right), the chance to meet North Coast community members for the first time, including these youths in Hopedale. At left is Ed Williams, Aurora’s Director of Human Resources.



The Aurora team held two open house sessions in each community - one in the afternoon and one in the evening - in an effort to include as many residents as possible. In each community, an average of 30 residents turned out to ask Aurora’s representatives a range of questions about potential career opportunities available over the course of the Michelin Project.

Upcoming consultations on Aurora’s tailings management plan

This spring, Aurora will hold consultations in North Coast communities on our tailings management plan.

We have contracted SENES Consultants, Golder Associates and Sikumiut Environmental Consultants Ltd. to conduct engineering and environmental studies on a variety of tailings management options and sites. Called "Design for Acceptance", this process is generating numerous options for consideration.

Times and dates of these information sessions will be advertised and posted in your community. Please join us and give us your input.

Tailings options study focus of second panel meeting

In February, the Michelin Project Community Panel held its second meeting. Panel members came together with engineering and environmental experts from Aurora's staff and contractors to discuss our ongoing tailings options study. Topics included: radiation and radioactivity, techniques for tailings management, other tailings sites in Canada, methods of tailings disposal (in the open pit, in the underground mine, in-lake, etc.), potential sites for tailings disposal in the project area, and the evaluation criteria Aurora has used in the tailings plan.

"We know communities have a high interest in tailings management for the Michelin Project," said Ches Andersen, the Panel Chair and Aurora's Vice President, Labrador Affairs. "With this meeting, we wanted the Panel to see first-hand the effort and expertise Aurora is putting into the development of the tailings options study. We also wanted to get feedback on the information we have gathered."

In April the Panel members will have another opportunity to sit with Aurora's team and discuss the tailings options study in Makkovik.



Aurora's Director of Engineering, Steve Cole, sits with Panel members Charlotte Wolfrey and Josh Pamak during the Panel's February meeting in North West River. The Panel's first meeting was held in Happy Valley – Goose Bay in November 2008 and involved giving Panel members an overview of mining and the Michelin Project.

What are Tailings?

Tailings are the finely ground material left over after the uranium has been removed from the ore and must be safely stored. The four criteria that must be met by any tailings management option Aurora selects are:

- Tailings must not contaminate water in the area;
- They must not blow in the wind;
- Long-term in-place containment must be possible; and
- Tailings must be isolated from people and wildlife.

Community feedback leads to school donation

In speaking with a member of the Makkovik Language Committee at February's 'opportunities for the future' open house, Aurora's team learned that Inuktitut/English dictionaries used in Inuktitut classes in Makkovik's school were in short supply. Recognizing that retention of the Inuktitut language is important to many residents of North Coast communities and in keeping with Aurora's 'good neighbour' approach, we donated two additional copies of the dictionary to J. C. Erhardt Memorial School. A matching donation was made to B.L. Morrison School in Postville.

"This is exactly the type of project that we look to participate in. Education in North Coast communities is a key focus of our donation policy," said Ches Andersen, Aurora's Vice President of Labrador Affairs. "It's another benefit of our community consultations – not only do we get feedback from residents on our plans



Teacher Christen Nochasak from J. C. Erhardt Memorial School accepts two Inuktitut/English dictionaries from April Martin, Aurora's Community Relations Coordinator in Makkovik.

and activities, but by meeting and speaking with the people who attend, we also gain insight into the best ways to develop meaningful relationships with our community neighbours."

Aurora's commitment to Michelin Project continues in 2009

Aurora's 2009 program is now underway.

"Our focus is on continuing to build community support and advancing environmental and engineering studies, while conserving our strong cash position with a reduced budget of \$5.9 million, compared with \$35 million in 2008," said Bruce Dumville, Aurora's President and CEO.

The 2009 program involves completing a tailings management options study and continuing environmental baseline studies in the areas of water flow, water quality sampling, meteorology, air quality, and background radiation. Continuing metallurgical studies and progressing the mill process design are also part of this year's program.

At the same time, Aurora is implementing a comprehensive community engagement plan.

Consultations with both community members along the North Coast and Inuit Community Governments have identified tailings management for the Michelin Project as a key area of interest. In recognition of this, and to advance engineering and environmental aspects of the Project, we are undertaking a tailings management options study to review all aspects of successful tailings design.

This process will consider a variety of options. In the spring, Aurora will hold information sessions in Labrador to consult with communities on the potential options, while incorporating input from engineering and scientific experts.



Throughout the year, the Michelin Project Community Panel will meet regularly to provide us with guidance on various initiatives. Panel members Ernie Mclean, Charlotte Wolfrey, Lloyd Mugford, and Daniel Ashini (L to R) are pictured here, along with John Roberts, Aurora's Vice President, Environment.

Other community engagement activities, including presentations to Inuit Community Governments, Innu Nation and other community meetings, will continue throughout the year.

We will carry out a small-scale exploration program in Labrador in 2009. "The details of this program are still being developed, but it will include some detailed airborne geophysics, prospecting, and geological mapping and sampling in prospective areas which we have not yet thoroughly explored," said Paul McNeill, Aurora's Vice President, Exploration.



Aurora's 2009 community engagement plan kicked off in February with a series of open houses on future employment and training opportunities associated with the Michelin Project. Seen here are Aurora's Director of Human Resources, Ed Williams (left) and our Director of Engineering, Steve Cole (centre) speaking with a resident of Rigolet.

Aurora and Fronteer - Committed to Labrador

On March 2, 2009, an offer by Fronteer Development Group to acquire Aurora was accepted by a majority of Aurora shareholders. Fronteer has now increased its ownership of Aurora from about 42.2% to about 92.1%. In April, Fronteer plans to hold a special meeting of Aurora shareholders to acquire the company's remaining shares and complete the acquisition process. Aurora will then become a subsidiary of Fronteer.

Fronteer has long had a strong interest in Aurora and is committed to advancing the Michelin Project and to the work being done in Labrador. They believe in Aurora, our team and the Project. Completion of the 2009 work program remains at the top of the priority list, including carrying out the tailings management options study and environmental studies, completing the training plan, and continuing to work closely with communities and government.

