

# PROFILES

IN THE OILSANDS

by Candice G. Ball

## PERRY McKECHNIE

**AGE:** 39

**TITLE:** Operations Manager, Fort McMurray

**EMPLOYER:** Cidra Oilsands

**EDUCATION:** Completed Canadian Interprovincial Electrical Journeyman certificate at Saskatchewan Institute for Applied Science and Technology in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, 1993

**LENGTH IN POSITION:** Promoted about seven months ago after being with Cidra for almost three years

### **What are a few of the highlights that led to your recent promotion?**

I believe my recent promotion was largely based on a couple things: firstly, my drive to build a high-quality, motivated team, dedicated to working together to do what is in the best interest of our customers, our team, and Cidra. Secondly, my intense focus on responding to customers involved in surface mining operations by delivering solutions that increase plant and process predictability, reduce process variability, and improve resource sustainability certainly helped me achieve this next step.

### **What are your major responsibilities?**

As operations manager, I am responsible for managing all field service operations and related client interactions in the oilsands. I will also play a critical role in business and application development initiatives that will contribute to the continued expansion of Cidra Oilsands' flow assurance, slurry management, and pipeline reliability services.

Another major part of my role is to foster a service organization that delivers the highest standards of excellence in customer service as Cidra continues to expand.

### **What challenges do you face in your new role?**

One of my greatest challenges will be managing the rapid growth of the company while never sacrificing the service and support our customers receive now. The challenge is not the products and services—based on Cidra's Sonartrac and Smartring technologies—they speak for themselves. As our flow assurance, slurry management, and pipeline reliability services are expanding, my challenge will be to maintain the high standard that was set before me.

Transitioning from a product/service company to a service/product company poses its own challenges. The key, I believe, to meeting any challenge is never compromising the quality of people that I bring on to the team. A quality team is essential to our success.

### **What advice can you offer someone interested in career advancement?**

The two key words that come to mind would be focus and motivation. With the large-scale workforce in the oilsands, it's pretty easy to just fit in, but if you're an extremely focused and motivated individual, your attitude and performance will be noticed. Don't be afraid to take the bull by the horns and take on new challenges. I can attest that hard work and determination pays off in the end.



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