



Rook I Project Update and Community Engagement Activities

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NexGen Receives Final Federal Approval for the Rook I Project

It's go time! On 5 March 2026, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) approved NexGen's Environmental Assessment (EA) and issued a License to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project (the Project) following a two-part Commission Hearing process which concluded 12 February 2026.

In addition to receipt of Provincial EA approval in 2023, this decision marks the final step in the Federal regulatory process for the Project.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the public Commission Hearings for the Project which were held on 19 November 2025 in Gatineau QC, and 9 to 12 February 2026 in Saskatoon, SK. During Part 1, the Commission considered oral and written submissions from NexGen and CNSC staff. During Part 2, the Commission heard an unprecedented amount of positive interventions from Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, and other interested parties.

With approvals now in place, NexGen will begin construction of the Project in summer 2026, advancing long-term economic benefits, career training, skilled jobs, and sustainable growth for the region. This marks the first conventional underground uranium mine to be approved for construction in Saskatchewan in more than 20 years,



NexGen's Chief Executive Officer Leigh Curyer, Chief Commercial Officer Travis McPherson, and Project Liaison Manager Robert St. Pierre with MN-S NR2 Local 39 President Keith Shewchuk, MN-S NR2 Area Director Leonard Montgrand, and CRDN Chief Teddy Clark

and we are excited to move into this next chapter together.

As construction begins, we will work with the Local Priority Area (LPA) communities to create meaningful and sustainable long term opportunities for their members. As per the Project schedule, construction will take approximately four years from commencement, beginning with site preparation and shaft sinking activities.

We sincerely appreciate the time, effort, and thoughtful contributions made by all participants throughout the regulatory process, and extend our deepest gratitude to our Indigenous Nation partners, the CRDN, MN-S NR2, BRDN and BNDN, local communities, Premier Scott Moe and the Government of Saskatchewan, Government partners, CNSC staff, and all valued stakeholders who have contributed to the oversight and success of achieving this milestone over the 12 years.



Archived webcasts of the Commission Hearing are available at: <https://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/webcasts/archived/#dataset-filter1>



Supporting documentation related to the Commission Hearing is available at: <https://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/hearings-meetings/download-hearing-documents/>



NexGen and its partners who attended Part 1 of the Commission Hearing in Gatineau, QC



NexGen and its partners who participated in Part 2 of the Commission Hearing in Saskatoon, SK

NexGen Partners with Indigenous Communities on La Loche Hotel Project



NexGen with MN-S NR2 Local 39 President Keith Shewchuk and NexGen Board Member Karri Howlett

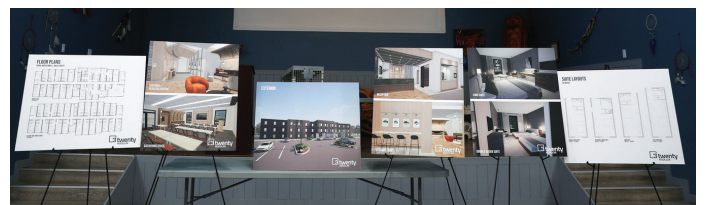
On 22 January 2026, NexGen announced a new partnership with the Clearwater River Dene Nation and Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Local 39 to construct a brand-new 59-room hotel in La Loche. The hotel will meet growing accommodation demand in northwestern Saskatchewan associated with construction and future operations of the Rook I Project (the Project), and simultaneously support the broader regional travel and business activity. Once operational, the hotel will create 36 full-time local jobs and include amenities such as a 50-seat restaurant, conference space, cultural heritage centre, and playground facilities. NexGen has appointed Saskatchewan company 3Twenty Modular (a community partnership company) as the builder, ensuring optimization of local community commerce and employment.

The partnership is structured to ensure long-term Indigenous ownership and economic participation, with NexGen leading the construction in partnership with the local Indigenous partners. Scheduled for completion in summer 2027, hotel management and training will commence prior to opening. This initiative builds on NexGen's industry leading established approach to collaborative, community-led economic development and reflects its commitment to creating meaningful benefits beyond mining.

On 28 February 2026, the land for the future hotel site was blessed, with local leadership and community members in attendance. We are excited about this partnership and local business opportunity and look forward to sharing updates as advancements of the hotel are completed.



Community members gathered with local leadership and NexGen for a land blessing at the future hotel site in La Loche on 28 February 2026



Conceptual drawings shown of the hotel can be viewed at our NexGen office in La Loche



Excitement at the land blessing of the La Loche hotel

NexGen's Youth Mentorship Program in Vancouver

NexGen's fourth annual Youth Mentorship Program, delivered in partnership with the Vancouver Canucks, took place from 7 to 10 December 2025 at Rogers Arena in Vancouver, BC. Sixteen inspiring youth and 5 chaperones from across the Local Priority Area (LPA) participated in this once-in-a-lifetime experience focused on leadership and the power of a positive mindset in achieving success.

Participants took part in a two-day program that included comprehensive behind-the-scenes mentorship and learning opportunities across all aspects of a professional sporting organization and included on-ice experiences with Canucks players, coaches and staff. It was capped off with special attendance at the Vancouver Canucks game against the Detroit Red Wings.

NexGen is proud to once again host this transformational mentorship program, which has welcomed more than 60 young community leaders since 2023, providing them with the opportunity to explore a range of vocations through meaningful interactions with a professional hockey organization, while reflecting on the importance of goal setting, resilience, and accountability in their own personal lives.

We were honoured to host students from Clearwater River Dene School, Birch Narrows Dene Community School, Buffalo River Dene School, Dene High School, and Twin Lakes Community School, and extend our sincere appreciation to the chaperones, school staff, and community leadership for their continued support.



Students after completing their on-ice skills session at Rogers Arena as part of the Youth Mentorship Program



Students were given a behind-the-scenes look at Rogers Arena

NexGen Hosts Canadian Hockey Legends for the Local Priority Area (LPA) Tour

Following another successful fourth annual Youth Mentorship Program in Vancouver with the Canucks, NexGen returned to the LPA on 14 January 2026 with hockey legends Chris Higgins, former Canuck and Stanley Cup finalist; Kirk McLean, 2-time Vezina Trophy finalist; Charline Labonté, 4-time Olympic gold medalist; and Canadian leader in youth hockey development Rod Braithwaite, to offer inspiring skills training and mentorship to LPA youth in the community of Buffalo Narrows.

More than 75 youth aged 5 to 17 participated in on-ice skill sessions. Thank you to the parents, teachers, and community members who joined us to support and cheer on the youth and celebrate the power of sport in building strong communities. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the local communities and arena staff for welcoming us all and making this event possible!



Youth meeting hockey legends for autographs



Participants skating in Buffalo Narrows on 14 January 2026

Education and Training Updates



Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Scholarship Program Recipients!

Learyn Sylvestre-Piche

Birch Narrows Dene Nation
Arts & Science at the University of Saskatchewan
Don Hovdebo Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Connor Clarke

Buffalo Narrows
Biomedical Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan

Tyra Lemaigre

La Loche
Primary Care Paramedic Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Ava Haynes

Clearwater River
Biology at the University of Saskatchewan

Emily Hanson

Buffalo Narrows
Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Avery Larson

Buffalo River Dene Nation
Social Work at the University of Regina

Bryson McKenzie-Haineault

Clearwater River Dene Nation
Science at the University of Saskatchewan

Sydney Bourassa

Buffalo Narrows
Radiation and Environmental Technician Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

NexGen is pleased to award eight scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year, making it the largest ever in the program's history and bringing the total scholarships awarded to 38. Among the awards was the Don Hovdebo Memorial Scholarship, which was awarded to Learyn Sylvestre-Piche in recognition of Learyn's exceptional commitment to community. The Scholarship Program supports students in pursuing post-secondary education, developing skills, and positively impacting their communities. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients and all the best to you in your studies!

Bear's Lair Dream Camps

NexGen was proud to support Bear's Lair Dream Camps delivered between November 2025 and April 2026 in Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN), Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN), Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), Buffalo Narrows, and La Loche.

These three-day entrepreneurial programs supported Indigenous youth aged 11 to 18 as they built confidence, developed practical skills such as marketing and budgeting, and worked alongside mentors to take on team challenges.



Students participating in the Bear's Lair Dream Camp held at Clearwater River Dene School

Completed Training Programs

- ✓ **Carpentry Applied Certificate Program** (La Loche – October 2022)
- ✓ **Carpentry Applied Certificate Program** (La Loche – October 2023)
- ✓ **Applied Electrical Certificate Program** (Buffalo Narrows – January 2024)
- ✓ **Carpentry Applied Certificate Program** (Birch Narrows Dene Nation – April 2024)
- ✓ **Radiation and Environmental Technician Program** (Buffalo Narrows – April 2024)
- ✓ **Pathways to Your Future** (Buffalo Narrows – October 2024)
- ✓ **Carpentry Applied Certificate Program** (Buffalo River Dene Nation – October 2024)
- ✓ **Pathways to Your Future** (CRDN – January 2025)
- ✓ **Industrial Mechanics (Millwright) Program** (La Loche – January 2025)
- ✓ **Safety Ticket Training: Transportation of Dangerous Goods, WHMIS, First Aid CPR-AED, Ground Disturbance, Hydrogen Sulfide Safety Training, Brush Saw Operator, Chainsaw Operator** (Various Locations and Dates)
- ✓ **Radiation and Environmental Technician Program** (Buffalo Narrows – January 2025)
- ✓ **Plumbing and Pipefitting Program** (Buffalo Narrows – February 2025)
- ✓ **Tiny Homes Project** (La Loche – March 2025)
- ✓ **Bear's Lair Dream Camps** (BNDN, CRDN and BRDN – Various Dates in 2025)
- ✓ **Residential Housing Maintenance Program** (La Loche – September 2025)
- ✓ **Line Cook Program** (Buffalo Narrows – October 2025)

- ✓ **Radiation Technician and Environmental Monitor Program** (Buffalo Narrows – September 2025)
- ✓ **Pathways to Your Future** (La Loche – October 2025)
- ✓ **Plumbing and Pipefitting Applied Certificate Program** (Buffalo Narrows – September 2025)
- ✓ **Steel Stud and Dry Wall Program** (La Loche – November 2025)
- ✓ **Pathways to Your Future Program** (BRDN – February 2026)
- ✓ **Bear's Lair Dream Camps** (La Loche and Buffalo Narrows – April 2026)

Current and Upcoming Programs

- **Pathways to Your Future Program** (Buffalo Narrows – May 2026)
- **Class 1 Water and Wastewater Treatment Course** (Buffalo Narrows – March 2026)



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE:

If you are interested in any future training programs please contact your local Implementation Coordinator, Band Office, or Training Committee representative, or visit the NexGen office in La Loche for assistance.



NexGen's Employee Spotlight: Emily Balaneski



NexGen employee Emily Balaneski shares her experiences with NexGen and creating a positive impact in the Local Priority Area (LPA).

Can you share a bit about your background and where you are from?

I am a Métis woman from La Loche (Local 39, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Northern Region 2). My background is rooted in community and culture. Being raised in a smaller northern community shaped my values, especially the importance of supporting others and honouring where I come from. I carry those teachings with me in all areas of my life and work.

When did you start with NexGen? What was your role then and what is it now?

I first started as a NexGen summer student in 2018 where I worked in various departments at the Rook I exploration site. In 2019, I returned as a summer student and worked as a geotechnician. Since 2024, I have been working in NexGen's Saskatoon office as an Exploration Administrator.

How has your previous experience influenced the way you now work and contribute to NexGen?

My previous roles gave me a solid understanding of NexGen's values, expectations, and the pace at which things move. I learned how to be adaptable, organized, proactive, and build strong relationships with my team. It also allowed me to step into this role with a clear sense of direction and a deeper commitment to doing quality work.



Have your views of the mining industry and NexGen changed from a student to an employee?

I have learned how much thought goes into doing things safely, sustainably, and with long-term impact in mind. I have a greater appreciation for the people behind the work because of how committed they are to building strong relationships with local and Indigenous communities. It has shown me that this industry isn't just about extraction; it's about responsibility, and building something that future generations can benefit from. That shift in perspective has made me prouder to be a part of this work.

In what ways can your work have a positive impact on the communities in the LPA?

I want to make a lasting, positive impact on the youth and Indigenous communities by helping them see what is possible, especially when it comes to education, employment, and building a positive future. Being Métis and from a northern community, I know how important it is to have support and opportunities close to home. I want to guide them toward those opportunities through mentorship, information-sharing, or encouraging them to believe in their potential.



What is your favourite part of your role?

My favourite part is booking flights for my team and ensuring that operations are running smoothly for the teams travelling to and from site.

What are your interests and hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy playing volleyball, going camping, photography and beading.

What advice would you give to youth who are interested in applying for a NexGen scholarship, the Summer Student Program, or pursuing this field of work?

My advice is 'go for it' – even if you feel unsure, or do not have all the answers yet. Opportunities like this can open doors you didn't even know existed!



"My goal is to help youth see that they belong here, and there is a place for them in this future."

—Emily Balaneski, Exploration Administrator with NexGen
Former Summer Student and Scholarship Recipient