

Memski Projects Inc. and East Coast Metal Fabrications Sign Joint Venture for Training and Employment

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 4th, 2013. – Today, Chief Terrance Paul of Membertou and Chief Leroy Denny of Eskasoni signed a joint venture agreement with East Coast Metal Fabrication to create meaningful training and employment for community members.

The joint venture agreement will see eight students from Membertou and Eskasoni employed by East Coast Metal Fabrication through a customized metal fabrication apprenticeship program at Nova Scotia Community College.

“The joint venture agreement signed by Memski Projects Inc. and East Coast Metal Fabrication demonstrates the importance of local partnerships in the success of our communities and creating opportunities for our skilled workforce,” said Membertou Chief Terrance Paul.

“The great strides that our communities have made proves that we are committed to the growth and sustainability of both Membertou and Eskasoni and dedicated to creating stronger relationships with industry,” said Eskasoni Chief Leroy Denny.

The joint venture agreement is a strategic response to the need for East Coast Metal Fabrication to attract skilled workers to the metal fabrication trade, as well as the training of aboriginal workers. Currently there are six students from Eskasoni and two students from Membertou enrolled in the program.

“One of the immediate benefits of signing this joint venture is gaining access to local trades people,” said Joe Hines, Chief Operating Officer of East Coast Metal Fabrication. “So many of Cape Breton’s skilled trades people leave for jobs in western Canada. We feel this is the start of a long-term employment strategy for our company and the local workforce.”

The joint venture allows the two companies to pursue work together, including contracts on projects like Maritime Link and Irving Ship Building.

About Memski Projects: Memski Projects Inc. is a partnership between Membertou and Eskasoni that provides exclusive access to the collective skills, labour and expertise of the two communities with real experience on major projects. Memski Project Inc. actively pursues and meets the demands of future industry - acting as the gateway to a vast and highly capable aboriginal workforce.

About East Coast Metal Fabrication: East Coast Metal Fabrication was established in 2012 by four Cape Breton businessmen; Jim Kehoe, Donald Sives, Sean Burke and

Andre Cote. The partners purchased the assets of the former Laurentian Steel Fabricators. East Coast Metal Fabrication employs 30 local workers.

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