



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### First Nations, JNE Welding Combine Strength to Grow Saskatchewan

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN – A ground breaking partnership between English River First Nation, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and JNE Welding was announced today that will grow Saskatchewan’s economy and foster long-term Aboriginal economic development.

The economic development corporations of English River and Peter Ballantyne have each acquired a 30% ownership interest in JNE Welding with JNE’s current owners retaining the remaining shares. JNE’s President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Nowakowski and its management team continue to be owners and will operate the business.

The scope and economic impact of the partnership will make a significant contribution to the province’s growing economy. The consolidated top line revenue of the three companies is \$296M. Together, they account for over 1,013 of jobs with a combined payroll of \$54M.

The combined strength of the three companies solidifies JNE’s standing as a preferred supplier to industry in full service steel fabrication.

In Saskatchewan, resource development companies are actively seeking First Nations suppliers to meet their needs and commitments to support Aboriginal business development. Across western provinces, the New West Partnership Trade Agreement has opened borders and markets to large-volume customers outside Saskatchewan, creating unprecedented access for First Nations-owned businesses like JNE.

For English River and Peter Ballantyne, the acquisition of JNE is an opportunity to diversify their holdings, create jobs and reinvest earnings in ongoing community and economic development.

First Nations, business and political leaders from across the province attended the announcement, expressing support for the new partnership and highlighting the importance of First Nations and non-First Nations businesses working together to grow Saskatchewan’s economy.

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## QUOTES

**Honourable Jennifer Campeau, Minister of Central Services, Government of Saskatchewan:** *First Nations and Metis businesses are continuing to increase their impact on the economy in Saskatchewan. This partnership will provide the opportunity to further that impact by expanding business relationships and building on the strengths of all involved, fostering First Nations economic development.*

**Chief Peter A. Beatty, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation:** *We are extremely proud and excited to join forces with these two great Saskatchewan companies. Our involvement in the industrial fabrication sector provides us with additional opportunities to diversify our holdings and continue to grow and add value to the economy of Saskatchewan.*

**Chief Lawrence McIntyre, English River First Nation:** *English River First Nation and Des Nedhe Development are proud to partner with the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and JNE Welding to make our group of companies, communities and Saskatchewan stronger. Our combined strength is our greatest asset.*

**Jim Nowakowski, President and CEO of JNE Welding:** *Along with our new Aboriginal partners, I'm excited for us to lead the way in creating a strategic business model – one where our separate paths previously traveled, merge to create a win-win where all involved will benefit well into the future.*

**His Worship Mayor Donald Atchison, City of Saskatoon:** *Building solid partnerships is key to success. This combination of First Nations and non-First Nations businesses demonstrates the kind of forward-thinking cooperation that will lead us into the next generation of economic development in Saskatoon.*

## BACKGROUND

**JNE Welding** is one of Saskatchewan's largest full-service fabricators, serving mining, construction, petrochemical, and power-generation clients across Canada and the United States. Closer to home, JNE is a valued partner to the potash and uranium industries, providing pipe spooling, pressure vessels and other custom fabrications. The company employs 140 people who represent some of the most skilled trades people and professionals in Saskatchewan.

**English River First Nation** is located about 500 km north of Saskatoon in Treaty 10, with a main settlement at Patuanak, alongside the Churchill River. The community's economic development corporation is Des Nedhe Development LP, which has invested in established companies from construction and mining to communications and expanded its portfolio to include retail and real estate development.

**Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation** spans a large territory north-east of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, comprised of eight communities with a population of over 10,000. Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies is the for-profit, economic development arm of the PBCN with a portfolio that includes real estate and retail developments, management, forestry, hospitality, insurance, trucking and manufacturing.

## CONTACT

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