



novaNAIT – an environment for innovation

The Northern Institute of Technology (NAIT) is one of western Canada's largest post-secondary institutes, with more than 3,000 employees and 27,000 students. In addition to NAIT's widely-recognized expertise in a variety of disciplines – including science, technology, IT, and business – it is also gaining recognition for the applied research and enterprise development work accomplished by its novaNAIT centre.

Although established only a few years ago, novaNAIT has already found considerable success guiding research toward industry-ready products and services through applied research, technology transfer, industry support, and business incubation.

Boreal reclamation applied research

Applied research uses new or existing knowledge to solve real-world challenges. It aligns with industry to find usable solutions to specific or targeted problem areas. Applied research at novaNAIT is supported internally by NAIT-sponsored linkages, and externally through industry partnerships.

The novaNAIT Boreal Research Institute (BRI) is an example of internal coordination with NAIT's applied research focus. Currently, the Institute is entering the second summer of the Boreal Reclamation Program, where applied research is taking place on six wellsites in northwest Alberta, at the Shell In-Situ Peace River Complex. Initial site preparation has been completed, and trials will be established this summer, testing native plant establishment, soil amendments and other re-vegetation techniques.

The Boreal Reclamation Program demonstrates novaNAIT's applied research mandate to solve real world challenges.

"Wellsites are scattered throughout the

boreal forest," says Hugh Seaton, manager of the novaNAIT Boreal Research Institute. "While these conventional, smaller well pads have a less intensive industrial impact than open pit mining, they have a cumulative effect – a fragmenting of the forest."

Technology Transfer and Industry Support

Technology transfer is the assessment, development and dissemination of commercially relevant products and services. Through its applied research and enterprise development activities, novaNAIT actively supports technology transfer activities which include intellectual property development and management, commercial assessment services, direction through regulatory pathways, and strategic planning and guidance. novaNAIT ensures that due diligence is provided for all projects, ensuring commercial applicability and a clear focus on the marketplace.

To ensure its applied research projects make a smooth transition into the marketplace, novaNAIT has a framework of industry and entrepreneurial supports. novaNAIT assists its clients by coordinating access to NAIT expertise and resources from more than 200 programs including the Prototype Development Program (PDP).

Business Incubation

novaNAIT provides a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies as they develop their commercial opportunities into sustainable



novaNAIT leverages power of innovative minds

business entities. Incubating businesses are offered office space, meeting rooms, a comprehensive range of business support services, advanced IT and communications services, and access to NAIT's expertise, facilities and resources.

novaNAIT
<http://www.nait.ca/52497.htm>