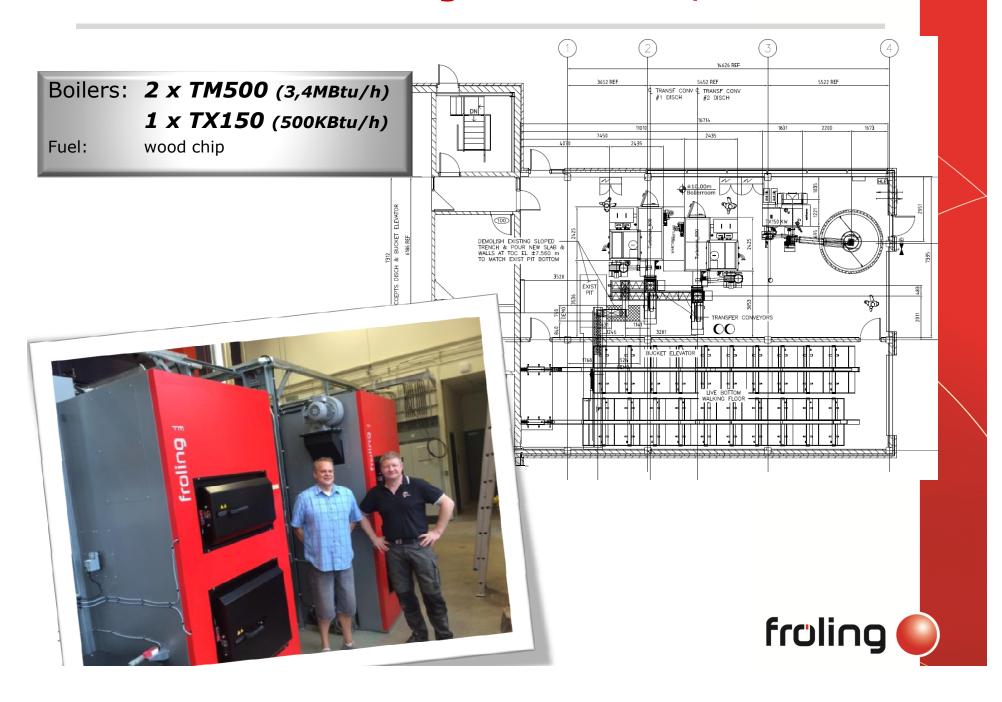
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Confederation College Celebrates the Grand Opening of the OPG BioEnergy Learning and Research Centre



(September, 8 2014) - **September 8, 2014, THUNDER BAY, ON –** Confederation College officially opened the Ontario Power Generation BioEnergy Learning and Research Centre (OPG-BLRC) today as part of BioEconomy Week. Partners, supporters and community members were on hand for the opening and had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the centre

The OPG-BLRC offers opportunities for demonstration, training and applied research related to biomass energy, including fuel quality, emission and combustion efficiency.

Biomass energy systems use clean forest and agricultural sources to produce heat and electricity with less impact on the environment than fossil fuels. Through the centre, Confederation College is committed to developing a market for biomass in northwestern Ontario and other farther reaching markets.

Featuring state-of-the-art Fröling biomass boilers, fuel handling and heating systems, the OPG-BLRC is estimated to also provide 80 per cent of the total heat load for the Shuniah/REACH Building at Confederation College this fall/winter.

Adopted and adapted from existing European technology, the OPG-BLRC is the first facility of its kind in Ontario. The team supporting the facility is currently working with regulators in Ontario to modernise guidelines governing the use of biomass. In addition.





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Confederation College President Jim Madder and other dignitaries participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Grand Opening of the Ontario Power Generation BioEnergy Learning and Research Centre

"With the launch of this centre, Thunder Bay is furthering its reputation as a destination for scientific research and technological innovation in Northwestern Ontario. This state-of-the-art centre will certainly be at the forefront of biomass research in our region and I'd like to congratulate Confederation College and all its partners for bringing it to life."

- Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North

"I am excited that this innovative learning and research centre will be opening in Thunder Bay at Confederation College. It is a further step forward in the development of a biomass industry in Northwestern Ontario. Our government is proud to support the expansion and development of our bio economy which already includes the conversion of the two coal generating facilities in my riding of Thunder Bay-Atikokan."

- Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan

"The new Bio-Energy Learning and Research Centre will provide hands-on training for students in this emerging bioenergy field and will be integral to the success of many upcoming small to mid-size biomass projects here in Northern Ontario."

- Lorne Morrow, C.E.O., CRIBE (Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy)



