INDIGENOUS IRON
CONSTRUCTION



IN THIS ISSUE

01 History

02 The Hydrovac Business & the

03 Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre Breakthrough

04 Working the Land & Partnerships

05 Legacy & The Next Five Years



INDIGENOUS IRON CONSTRUCTION



Founded in 2021 by Tsleil-Waututh Nation member Cody La Rock, Indigenous Iron Construction has grown from a single hydrovac truck into a multi-service contractor working on some of British Columbia's most significant energy infrastructure, and into proof of what Indigenous ownership in heavy construction looks like when it competes and wins on merit.





Cody La Rock did not arrive at ownership through a shortcut. He started in construction as a labourer in habitat restoration and environmental remediation, and spent the following years working his way up through the field into management, eventually serving as general manager of the company that had first hired him. By then he understood every layer of the work, from the shovel to the contract, and he understood something else: the ceiling above him was not going to move.

In 2021, he founded Indigenous Iron Construction. The company is 100 percent Indigenous-owned, and its office sits on səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) land in North Vancouver, a deliberate choice that reflects how closely the company's work is tied to the community it comes from. La Rock is a proud member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and the company's identity is inseparable from that fact, starting with its name.

A GAP IN THE HYDROVAC SECTOR

The business began with a single observation. Working on a large construction project, La Rock noticed that the hydrovac sector, the non-destructive excavation method that uses high-pressure water and vacuum to safely expose buried utilities, was dominated by large corporations with little understanding of Indigenous culture, Indigenous territory, or Indigenous ways of doing business.

Projects were being executed on First Nations land across the Lower Mainland by companies with no connection to the communities beneath their equipment.
Indigenous Iron was built as the alternative: a transparent, Indigenous-owned contractor that could deliver the same technical scope at the same standard, while bringing genuine cultural understanding to work on traditional territories. From the outset, La Rock set the bar deliberately high.

That meant an uncompromising safety program, a modern fleet, and a refusal to be positioned as a token participant. The company would compete for work the same way anyone else did, and it would win it the same way.

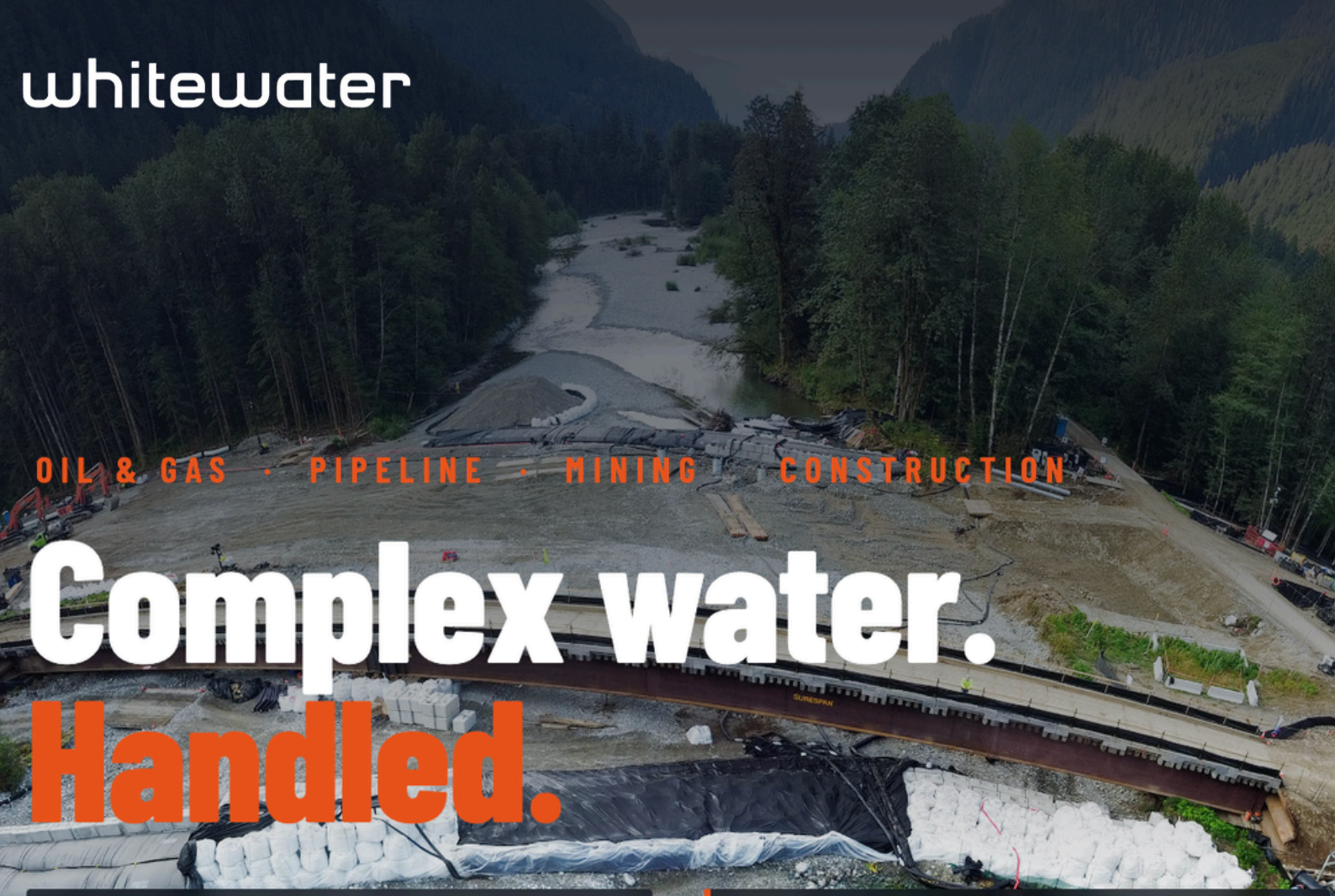


THE BREAKTHROUGH: EAGLE MOUNTAIN-WOODFIBRE

Indigenous Iron's defining opportunity came on FortisBC's Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre Gas Pipeline project, the pipeline expansion connecting Coquitlam to the Woodfibre LNG site near Squamish. The company earned its hydrovac contract through competitive bidding, a distinction La Rock considers central to the story: the work was won on capability and price, not awarded as a gesture.

On the project, Indigenous Iron's crews perform daylighting and utility exposure work that is critical to safe pipeline construction, operating alongside FortisBC and the Surerus Murphy Joint Venture. The relationship has grown into what both sides describe as a genuine partnership, one that has given the company a track record on major energy infrastructure that few contractors its age can claim. The company's fleet has also worked on the Trans Mountain pipeline corridor and on projects across the traditional territories of the Kwikwetlem and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

whitewater



OIL & GAS · PIPELINE · MINING · CONSTRUCTION

Complex water. Handled.

CAPABILITIES

Dewatering
Site, trench, and excavation

Water Transfer
High-capacity, long-run

Filtration
Discharge to permit spec

River + Creek Diversion
Fish-safe, permit-ready

Mine Water Management
Tailings, pit, pond

Pump Sales + Rentals
Fleet-scale inventory

Delivering full turn-key water management solutions across the Oil & Gas, Pipeline, Mining, and Construction industries. Whitewater provides the expertise, equipment, and field execution required for complex water challenges, from design and mobilization through operation and project completion.

Reliable. Safe. Efficient.

PHONE
1-877-386-7293

WEB
whitewatermanagement.ca

OFFICE
Suite 2610, 605 – 5th Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3H5

WORKING IN THE INDIAN RIVER VALLEY

Some of the company's most meaningful work has taken place in the Indian River Valley, in the heart of Tsleil-Waututh territory. It is an environment that demands a different posture from a contractor: the valley's ecosystem has seen the return of salmon runs, and with them wolves and grizzly bears, and construction activity there is planned around fisheries windows and wildlife timing rather than in spite of them.

For Indigenous Iron, that is not a constraint imposed from outside. It is the company operating the way it believes all contractors should operate on sensitive land, combining Indigenous ecological knowledge with modern construction practice. La Rock's background in habitat restoration and environmental remediation, the field where his career began, runs directly through how his crews are trained to work.

BEYOND HYDROVAC

Hydrovac remains the core of the business, with a modern truck fleet delivering daylighting, debris removal, pipeline tie-ins, and utility exposure. But the company's scope has widened considerably since 2021. Indigenous Iron now operates across civil construction, marine services, environmental remediation, and spill response, along with a cultural training arm that helps industry partners engage meaningfully with the territories they work on.

The fleet has grown in step, with acquisitions tied to contracts rather than speculation: hydrovac units, a Komatsu PC138 excavator, and street sweepers among them. Each addition has followed the work, a discipline that has kept the company's growth grounded while its capabilities have compounded.



HARKEN TOWING

Harken Towing is a Canadian owned and operated Tow Boat company, providing professional-grade marine towing service in the Pacific Northwest for over 75 years.







Founded in **1948** Harken Towing continues to thrive and has expanded into one of the most prominent marine towing service companies in the Pacific Northwest.

OUR SERVICES

- Ramp, Aggregate & General Barge Towing
- Construction support
- Special Projects
- Log Boom Towing & Storage
- Ship Docking
- Fuel Service
- Barge Moorage
- Dockside Vessel Repair Services

Harken Towing Co. Ltd.
PO Box 7, 2000 Argue St.
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 3V5

604 942 8511 (24 hr Dispatch)
info@harkentowing.com | www.harkentowing.com

PARTNERSHIPS BUILT ON DELIVERY

Indigenous Iron's partner network reads like a cross-section of serious industrial players in British Columbia: the Surerus Murphy Joint Venture and FortisBC on the pipeline side, and collaborators including Surespan, White Water Management, Harken Towing, GFL, and Nucor Environmental Solutions across marine, environmental, and civil scopes.

La Rock credits those relationships with elevating every project the company touches, and the respect runs both ways: they are partnerships earned through reliability on difficult industrial work, not through procurement mandates.

MORE THAN AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The company's cultural training service occupies a space few contractors even attempt. Industry partners increasingly open meetings with territorial acknowledgments; Indigenous Iron's training exists to make sure the substance behind those words is real. The programs teach partners and workers about protocols, community expectations, and what respectful operation on traditional territory actually requires, converting what is often a compliance formality into working knowledge.

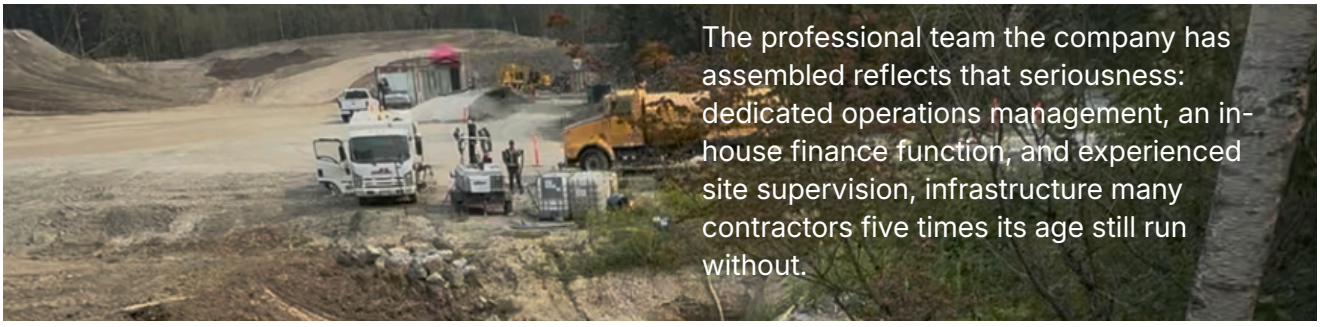
It reflects the larger position the company has staked out: that Indigenous participation in construction should not be a checkbox on a bid form, and that the companies best placed to lead that shift are Indigenous-owned ones performing at the top of their field.



BUILDING INDIGENOUS CAREERS

A core part of Indigenous Iron's mandate is creating meaningful employment and advancement for Indigenous workers, not entry-level positions that lead nowhere, but genuine career pathways with mentorship behind them. La Rock's own trajectory, from labourer to general manager to founder, is the template, and the company is deliberate about giving its people the same runway he had to fight for.

> *"We're showing that Indigenous leadership isn't just possible. It's essential."*



The professional team the company has assembled reflects that seriousness: dedicated operations management, an in-house finance function, and experienced site supervision, infrastructure many contractors five times its age still run without.



A LEGACY IN THE NAME

The values underneath the company have a lineage. La Rock's father is Claude “Rocky” La Rock, a world-renowned Sts'ailes First Nation artist known for blending contemporary themes with traditional hand-carving techniques, and his artistry taught his son the weight of traditional values, attention to detail, and pride in one's work.

La Rock's mother spent more than two decades designing healthcare programs for Indigenous communities, a career of service that shaped his conviction that business must answer to something larger than itself.

Both threads, craft and service, are visible in how Indigenous Iron presents itself and how it operates: respect for the land, respect for the people on it, and an obligation to the generations that follow.



THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Indigenous Iron's trajectory points toward larger scopes and greater self-direction: growth into prime contractor roles, expanded marine capability, and continued fleet investment matched to the work in front of it.

The Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre track record has opened doors that were closed to the company in 2021, and the infrastructure pipeline across British Columbia, increasingly structured around genuine Indigenous participation, is moving in the company's direction.

But the measure La Rock returns to is not revenue or fleet count. It is what the company proves is possible. For Indigenous youth watching from communities across the province, Indigenous Iron is a demonstration in real time that ownership, leadership, and excellence in heavy construction are not exceptions to be celebrated once a generation. They are a standard, and it is being raised.

INDIGENOUS IRON CONSTRUCTION

WEBSITE	PHONE	LOCATION
indigenousiron.ca	778-928-4414	British Columbia

whitewater

HARKEN TOWING