



SPRING 2026 - ISSUE 18

HIGHLIGHTS

Gunnar Remediation Project Update

Following the close of the 2025 construction season, work at the former Gunnar Mine and Mill Site transitioned into a winter phase focused on reporting, regulatory engagement, and planning for long-term monitoring post-remediation.

Throughout the winter, SRC completed and submitted all reporting for the 2025 season. This included compiling and analyzing data from surface water and groundwater sampling, radon monitoring, wildlife observations, and other environmental protection measures carried out during the construction season. These results were submitted to provincial and federal regulators through SRC's annual report cycle.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) received interventions from the public regarding the Gunnar licence renewal. The hearing is scheduled for spring 2026.

Although the 2025 remediation season ended earlier than planned due to an external matter outside of SRC's control, SRC is pleased to confirm that remediation work will resume in spring 2026.

Remaining work still to be completed on site includes completion of the Langley Bay Tailings cover, seeding all remaining covers, decommissioning the camp, finalizing miscellaneous tasks, and demobilization of the contractor's equipment and infrastructure. The upcoming construction season represents a major milestone as the project moves toward completing active remediation and transitioning the site to long-term monitoring.

SRC remains committed to ensuring the Gunnar Site is safe and stable for people and the environment for generations to come.

Please remember that a no-fishing advisory remains in effect for Zeemel Bay and Langley Bay, and that the site is closed to the public during remediation.



Photo 1: Drone footage of Langley Bay Tailings in 2025.

Community Meetings

SRC is currently in discussions with community leaders about holding meetings in June 2026. More information will be provided shortly.

Watch our latest project update videos:

src.nu/cleans25

If you have any questions about the project, please email us at cleans@src.sk.ca.

Aramark

If you are interested in camp employment opportunities for the Gunnar Site Remediation Project, please contact Shelagh Wager.

Email: wager-shelagh@aramark.ca

QMPoints

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Site Remediation Project, please contact QMPoints.

Email: apply@pointsathabasca.ca

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If you would like to receive this newsletter as an email, please send your contact information to cleans@src.sk.ca to be added to our email list.

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Follow SRC on social media! We post photos, RFP notices, project updates, videos and more.

Search for Saskatchewan Research Council.



Satellite Sites

Since fall 2025, the Satellite Sites team has reported on remediation completed at the Reed Bay mine site and other 2025 field season activities, which ended in October 2025. This included remediation reports for eight sites, annual reporting to provincial regulators, and planning for the 2026 field season.

SRC plans to initiate remediation at the former Nicholson Mine Site on the north shore of Lake Athabasca, between Uranium City and Fond-du-Lac. Planned 2026 work includes mobilizing heavy equipment, clearing vegetation, assessing mine openings and underground workings, addressing areas with elevated gamma radiation, and assessing legacy mine debris and historical structures in preparation for collection and disposal.

The team is also planning to continue remediation at the Murmac and Reed Bay Mine Sites during the 2026 field season. At Murmac, stainless steel closures will be installed on select mine openings in addition to the perimeter fence installed in 2023 to prevent reopening following repeated subsidence of backfill materials placed in 2023 and 2024 into the underground workings. At Reed Bay, assessment and remediation of contaminated soil and post-remediation gamma surveys will be completed.

Other remediation activities to take place at select sites during the 2026 field season include hydrological monitoring and sampling, transitional monitoring, post-remediation gamma surveys, wildlife surveys, regulatory inspections, community tours, and any maintenance requirements as needed. SRC anticipates the completion of the third year of transitional monitoring in 2026 for Don Henry, New Mylamaque, Pitch Ore – Augier Lake, and Tena Claim Mine Sites.

To date, remediation has been completed at 29 sites. The remaining six sites require varying levels of assessment. Of the 29 completed sites, 7 have received the Ministry of Environment's approval for release from decommissioning and reclamation and 4 have been transferred to the provincial Institutional Control Program.



Photo 1: Nicholson - historical building to be inspected and demolished.



Photo 2: Murmac - mine opening to be covered with stainless steel closure.

Former Lorado Mill Site

Remediation of the Former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. Since that time, SRC has carried out annual monitoring and maintenance activities to track the site's recovery and ensure its ongoing stability. Monitoring results to date indicate that the site remains stable and is re-vegetating as expected.

In 2026, geotechnical monitoring will continue at the Land bridge to ensure and affirm long-term stability of the site features. Hydrological monitoring and sampling efforts will continue this season to confirm project objectives are continuing to be met, supporting the eventual transfer of the remediated site to the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program.



Photo 1: Land bridge in 2025



SRC and the Communities

Community engagement planning for 2026 has already begun. SRC is planning activities, including community visits across the Athabasca region, starting in Wollaston Lake/Hatchet Lake and continuing to Stony Rapids, Black Lake, Fond-du-Lac, Uranium City, and engagement with members from Camsell Portage.

A leadership tour is planned for August 2026 with representatives from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Resources, CNSC, SRC, QMP, and Athabasca region community leadership in attendance. Northern Environmental Quality Committee meetings will continue, along with participation in regional fish derbies as key engagement opportunities. SRC also plans to meet with Métis federations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to discuss Project CLEANS.

Ongoing engagement includes support for traditional monitoring and water sampling programs, discussions with La Ronge communities regarding the Lorado Mine and Mill Institutional Control Program process and Project CLEANS sites, and a planned visit in July to Fort Chipewyan to discuss environmental impacts and community priorities.



Photo 1: Participants of the 2025 Leadership Tour



Photo 2: SRC employees host a pancake breakfast at the 2025 Uranium City Fishing Derby

Meet the Team Michael Bendzsak



Michael Bendzsak is a Forester and Research Scientist with SRC, supporting Project CLEANS through revegetation planning, field operations, and monitoring.

His background in silviculture was a natural fit for Project CLEANS. Michael applies his ecological and operational expertise to help guide revegetation work from planning through long-term performance.

Originally from Toronto, Michael has called Prince Albert home since 2004, where he raised his family and developed a strong connection to northern Saskatchewan. He values balancing fieldwork, project management, and community engagement while contributing to effective, science-based landscape restoration.

