



CIRCA 1953



1964



1977



## PRESS RELEASE

### CAODC Celebrates 60 Years

#### For Immediate Release

**Calgary, Alberta (June 18, 2009)** The Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC) marks its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary today. The Association's longevity serving the Canadian contract drilling and service rig industry distinguishes it as one of Canada's most enduring upstream associations.

In 1949, when the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin was a barely-explored resource, a drilling rig industry was gaining a foothold on western Canada's prairie. Six drilling contractors in that young industry saw an opportunity to ensure that as the Canadian drilling industry grew, it improved. They conceived of a meeting place where companies set aside their competitive spirit to work in cooperation on common issues.

The resulting Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors became a ready means of contact for government bodies and industry stakeholders to collaborate with the drilling and service rig communities. Don Herring, President of CAODC, says of the basic objectives of the organization: "We exist to improve the standards associated with our industry. Plus we try to focus on improving efficiencies."

Given the nature of the business – fast-paced activity, heavy equipment and sometimes harsh weather conditions – the Association mainly directs its efforts toward technical and safety benchmarks. Herring says, "The membership focuses on raising technical and health and safety initiatives, as well as training standards. We strive to place Canada as a leader in drilling and service rig work, with the most advanced rig technology and with the best trained and best equipped workforce."

One recent CAODC success highlighting the sector's effective cooperation has been the introduction of trades training for drilling rig occupations in 2004. Canada is the first country in the world to introduce formalized apprenticeship training for oil and gas drilling rig crews. As with any other apprenticeable vocation, the Rig Technician trade is a combination of documented on-the-job training and classroom technical training. The three-year program covers the three senior rig crew positions and is available throughout Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Over 4000 drilling rig employees are registered Rig Technician apprentices and approximately 3600 are certified journeymen.

60 years after inception, CAODC is the voice of 100% of Canada's drilling rig fleet and more than 98% of Canada's service rig fleet. It serves a membership of 50 drilling rig contractors (including 4 offshore drilling companies), 70 service rig contractors and 155 associate members.

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