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## **Press Release**

*Approved for Immediate Distribution*

### **Pilot Partnership Training Program for Geothermal Industry**

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA: Southern Comfort, a Niverville (MB) mechanical company that specializes in heating and cooling installations recognizes the progressive growth of the geothermal industry in the Province of Manitoba, and the need to have trained personnel available to ensure quality installation on behalf of the consumer.

Paul Neufeld on behalf of Southern Comfort, held discussions with Ed Lohrenz, President of Earth Energy Society of Canada and Vice-President of Marketing for Ice Kube Systems, to determine methods to meet future needs of qualified personnel in this evolving and growing technology.

Mr. Lohrenz is one of four of Canada's certified International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) instructors that will contribute his training to this innovative skill development training.

Those discussions resulted in Canada's first development and implementation of geothermal certification training that includes practical application under the direct supervision of an experienced installer. Manitoba Employment Services Branch agreed to cost share salary dollars for the trainee

Jeremy Paul from Selkirk, Manitoba is the first trainee under this program.

### **Background**

Geothermal technology moves heat into or out of the earth using water wells or a network of high-density polyethylene pipes buried in horizontal trenches or vertical boreholes. This technology has been developed for residential homes, commercial buildings and sports complexes to reduce emissions of green house gases and reduce high-energy costs to consumers for heating and cooling their homes and buildings.

Manitoba projects a double-digit growth in geothermal installations within the next few years. Savings to consumers that install geothermal is about 40 to 60% of traditional heating systems.

IGSHPA certified training is the recognized training in Canada for the installation of geothermal systems.

The trainee will acquire practical skills in the areas of heat pump selection; field analyses of soil samples; assessment of site suitability; heating and cooling distribution systems; earth loop systems; planning involved in installing a geothermal system and assessment of grouting procedures.

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