



Northern Mining News

VOLUME 3, NO. 1

JANUARY 2010

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MINING STATS NWT/NU :

Three diamond and one tungsten mine in operation

Value of mineral production (2008)
\$2,163,067,000

Value of mineral exploration (2008)
\$580,300,000

A Strategy for the Northern Mining Industry

The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines held a strategic planning session in Yellowknife on November 20, 2009. This plan will direct our organization's efforts over the next three to five years.

The goals outlined in the strategic plan are:

- 1. Regulatory and Land Access:** The Chamber of Mines will apply continued pressure on regulatory issues and push for implementation of regulatory reform.
- 2. Aboriginal Affairs and Engagement:** Improve the relationship between the mining industry and

Aboriginal communities and develop a standard process for engaging communities.

- 3. Infrastructure:** Promote development of roads, ports, hydro, and other infrastructure projects which will support a future mineral economy in the north.
- 4. Public Relations:** Increase public and government support for the mineral industry.
- 5. Chamber Membership:** Establish a reasonable Nunavut presence for the Chamber of Mines and increase membership from the mining and exploration sector.

Through the planning process, it became evident that strong, active, and effective communications with membership, stakeholders, and the public are needed to achieve the Chamber's strategy. With financial support from one of our member's, De Beers Canada, a 'Communications Plan' is also being developed.

NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines Vision Statement:

A vibrant and sustainable exploration and mining industry in the NWT and Nunavut which has the support of the people of the north.

Baffin Iron Business Deals

The Qikiqtaaluk Corp. and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association reported good financial results in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, thanks largely to funds received by land lease payments and business deals from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project.

Qikiqtaaluk's subsidiary, Qikiqtaaluk Logistics, was a

primary contractor during 2008 bulk sampling developments, work which earned \$11 million. The financial prospects of the corporation look so good that its directors are considering investing in the construction of a new hotel complex in Iqaluit.

Qikiqtaaluk Corp. also provides recruitment services to Baffinland. Its

database contains over 800 names, many of whom have been trained.

A memorandum of understanding, between Baffinland and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, has been signed concerning provisions for a future Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement, a document that will outline conditions of employment, training, and business opportunities.

A Fortune in Minerals

The NICO Deposit Will Be A Boon For Tlicho Economy



Cobalt

High strength steel alloys and cutting tools

Magnets

Rechargeable Batteries

Vitamin B12



Bismuth

Cosmetics

Medicines (Pepto-Bismol)

Non-toxic replacement for lead in soldering

Flame retardants

The NICO mineral deposit is a virtual treasure house of important metals. You may be familiar with copper, nickel, and gold, metals that make up part of the deposit. Northerners might be less familiar with the other important metals at NICO, particularly cobalt and bismuth.

Fortune Minerals Ltd. has been exploring the NICO and nearby Sue-Dianne deposits since the mid 1990s. These are IOCG (iron-oxide, copper, gold) deposits, a type of hydrothermal orebody. The number of deposits classified into the IOCG category has increased dramatically in the past 15 years as has the understanding of the genesis of this enigmatic deposit type.

These deposits are significant in terms of economic potential and the margins of the Great Bear Geological Province have proven to be world-class hosts of IOCG. Fortune has spent more than \$75 million on exploration, engineering, and feasibility studies for NICO. This includes the purchase and dismantling of an old gold mine in Ontario.

In addition to gold and copper, Fortune will be a major cobalt producer (3%), and the largest bismuth producer (13%) in the world. Cobalt is used in high-strength steel alloys, magnets, and rechargeable batteries for hybrid cars. Bismuth, is also used in a variety of metal and chemical applications, including cosmetics and personal care products, where bismuth oxychloride is used in the formulation of make up, nail products, and in digestive aids such as Pepto-Bismol.

This will be an important project for Tlicho communities. Northern hiring (150 direct employees), plus business contracts from established Tlicho businesses will be an important feature of operations. A 18-year mine life is projected. Ore reserves are 31

million tonnes in the NICO deposit, containing 82 million pounds of cobalt, 109 million pounds of bismuth, 27 million pounds of copper, and 907,000 ounces of gold. There is incredible potential for additional resources to extend the mine life. It will be an open pit and underground operation producing 4,650 tonnes of ore per day with conventional methods of processing.

The project involves three important components: the mine itself, an all-weather access road, and a hydro-metallurgical plant (to be built in southern Canada). Permitting for the mine began in 2008 and the project was referred to environmental assessment through the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in 2009.

Meanwhile, negotiations between Fortune, the GNWT, and the Tlicho Government are underway to build the all-weather road, a necessary part of the NICO project as the bulk concentrate needs to be shipped out year-round. A general road corridor has been outlined. This road will be important for the Tlicho region because it will also connect to isolated communities and the Snare hydro .

Fortune Minerals hopes to be in production by 2012. It will be good news for a territory now dependant entirely on diamond mining.



Scooptram moving ore during bulk sampling work, 2006.

Uranium: Setting the Record Straight

Press Release - Dec. 22, 2009

The **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission** (CNSC) would like to reassure members of the public that uranium mining and milling industry is strictly regulated by the federal government to ensure the health, safety and security of Canadians and the environment.

Contrary to the misinformation that has been circulated in the Sept-Îles community of Québec, several scientific studies demonstrate that present-day uranium workers, and the public living near a uranium mine or mill, are as healthy as the general Canadian population.

Surface exploration for uranium is exempt from CNSC regulation because it poses no risk to public health and environment. Uranium exploration methods (such as drilling small core samples) do not modify the natural environment significantly. Each province or territory is responsible for

regulating and monitoring exploration activities within its jurisdiction and informing the public about those activities.

Some of the misinformation circulating is out-of-date, sometimes going back to studies on mining activities in the 1940's. For instance, health concerns have been raised about radon, a radioactive gas present in the air we breathe and may be present in our homes. Since uranium was first mined on a commercial basis over 50 years ago, considerable knowledge on radon has been gained and used to strengthen federal regulatory requirements to protect workers, the public and environment. Furthermore, it has been shown that uranium mining activities do not increase radon levels above background levels in the environment away from the mine site.

There have been several scientific studies on the environment that

studied the impacts of uranium mining on the air, water, plants, fish and animals near mining facilities. These studies have shown that levels of radio-nuclides were no different around operating mine sites compared to nearby or remote reference sites.

Management of waste rock and tailings from uranium mining activities are two aspects of the industry that have considerably evolved to minimize risks to the environment. Additionally, by law, uranium mining sites must be decommissioned and restored at the end of their life. The CNSC mandates that each licensee must have adequate financial provisions to conduct this work in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

The CNSC is responsible for regulating and licensing all existing and future uranium mines and milling operations in Canada and would not license such a facility unless it was operating safely.

Tools to Promote Aboriginals in Mining

The Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) has developed two tools to increase Aboriginal inclusion in the mining industry.

The *Mining Industry HR Guide for Aboriginal Communities* informs community career practitioners of the variety of jobs and how to prepare communities for jobs at each phase of the mining cycle.

The second tool, *Mastering Aboriginal Inclusion in Mining* speaks to employers and how they can become employers-of-choice for

Aboriginal talent. Responsible mineral development with the inclusion of aboriginal communities is the focus of the Council.

Its tools provide guidance for industry on how to develop engagement strategies, and for communities on how to benefit economically from mineral activity.

There is information on the industry cycle (exploration, mining, remediation) and access to resources for those looking to learn more. Other helpful advice provided by these tools involve skills training

resources, and an outline of potential industry-community agreements (IBAs, MOUs).

A career planning section provides brief descriptions of different types of mineral exploration, mining, and mine-site remediation jobs, and where to go in Canada to obtain the necessary training and education.

The content is available in paper-based format and online at:

www.aboriginalmining.ca.



Published by the NWT & Nunavut
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NWT Mine Training Society Successes

Mine training in the Northwest Territories is organized by the *NWT Mine Training Society*, a unique partnership of aboriginal, GNWT, and industry representatives. The role of the Training Society is to support aboriginal people in finding long term employment in the NWT mineral industry. It screens, selects, trains, and places northerners in mining and mineral exploration jobs. It draws on the resources of the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment and Aurora College with occupational requirements identified by mining companies and the leadership of NWT communities.

The organization receives funding from government and industry. It relies primarily on funds received from the Federal Department of Human Resources and

Skills Development through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership program. From 2004-2012, ASEP has committed \$23 million for training programs. Other funding is matched by the industry, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the GNWT. In August 2008, INAC announced that due to the Mine Training Society's success it would be rewarded with funding to 2012.

Since its inception in September 2004, to March 31st 2008, the Mine Training Society and its partners received 900 applications for training, successfully trained 658 individuals, found employment for over 500 individuals in the mine and mine services sector, and invested over \$14.8 million in cash and in-kind contributions in the training of aboriginal people.

Upcoming Mineral Industry Events

Mark your calendars now for these important industry events and functions:

- **Mineral Exploration Roundup BC ... January 18-21, 2010 ... Vancouver, BC**
- **Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada Show ... March 7-10, 2010 ... Toronto, ON**
- **Nunavut Mining Symposium ... April 13-15, 2010 ... Iqaluit, NU**

