

# Northern Mining News

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## From the Editor ...

A shorter issue this month, with summer approaching and releases slowing. Despite that, we always have news.

Our lead story is the development emerging at Nechalacho, a stone's throw south of Yellowknife, with rare earths being produced here for the first time in Canada! The demonstration project is innovatively using sorter technology to produce a rare earth mineral concentrate and a dry waste, and is using an Indigenous mining company for the work. Work by several member companies is also advancing. And with COVID numbers easing as vaccinations increase, we hope to report even more work this summer.

Finally, check out the two reports: one by the Federal Standing Committee on establishing a Canadian supply chain for critical minerals, and the other on Indigenous participation in natural resource development.

Have a happy and safe summer!

Be safe, be healthy! ... Editor

***Our Mission:*** To provide leadership on, and advocate for, responsible and sustainable mineral exploration and development in the NWT and Nunavut.

## **Vital Metals Commences Rare Earth Production At Nechalacho**

### ***Highlights of June 2021 Site Update***

- Vital commenced rare earth production at Nechalacho with ore crushing commencing
- Ore sorter installation complete with commissioning underway
- Blasting and mining activities ramped up with first ore mined on 29 June 2021; ore stockpiled for crushing
- Vital will stockpile beneficiated material for transport to Saskatoon rare earth extraction plant later this year
- Vital becomes Canada's first rare earth producer and only second in North America highlighting strategic nature of its operations

Vital Metals Limited (ASX: VML) ("Vital Metals" or "the Company") is pleased to provide an update on activities at its Nechalacho rare earths project in Northwest Territories, Canada, where production commenced via ore sorting in June 2021.

Vital Metals is now the first rare earths producer in Canada and only the second in North America.



Overhead image of site with ore sorter in the foreground and pit in the background

Vital Metals' Managing Director Geoff Atkins said: "Our crews worked hard on site through June to accelerate mining activities, complete the installation of crushing and ore sorting equipment and commence commissioning.

"Mining activities are over 30% complete with waste material removed from the pit to enable the first blast of ore on 28 June and we are now stockpiling ore for the crusher.

“We will continue to ramp up crushing and ore sorting with full production rates expected to be achieved in July. Beneficiated material will be stockpiled for transport to our extraction plant in Saskatoon. We look forward to keeping the market updated through ut the ramp up process in what is a very significant milestone for the Company and North America.”

Click [here](#) to view the ASX announcement

### **NECHALACHO OPERATIONAL UPDATE – JUNE 2021**

Mining contractor Nahanni Construction Ltd completed first blast of ore at Nechalacho’s North T-Zone on 28 June 2021 and Vital commenced production with ore crushed at Nechalacho on 30 June 2021.

#### **June Mining Activities**

- Blasting activities accelerated after earlier delays due to rain
- First ore blasted and mined
- Commenced hauling material for placement on ore storage pad near crusher
- Waste material loaded out of North T pit
- Waste dumped in ROM to build pad for office relocation
- Underground dewatering in pit
- Monitoring water levels in decline
- Inspection of pit floor.

#### **June Sorter Activities**

- Installation of ore sorter completed
- Loaders and excavators assigned to construct the main feed belt and install A legs
- Lifting and setting A frame legs under primary feed belt
- Feeders placed under chutes, rubber skirting installed on all feeder chutes
- Installed all fire X and mounts on sorter and belts
- Inspection and location of material for ore sorter
- Grounding plates installed
- Commissioning of ore sorter commenced



## **Mountain Province Diamonds Announces Sales Results, Upside Share of Profits**

TORONTO and NEW YORK, June 10, 2021 /CNW/ - Mountain Province Diamonds Inc. ("Mountain Province", the "Company") (TSX: MPVD) (OTCQX: MPVD) today announces the results of its second quarter diamond sales and the Company's upside share of profits from the Diamond Sales Agreement with Dunebridge dated June 11, 2020. All figures are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted

The Company is pleased to report the completion of its sales for the quarter, with 718,549 carats sold for total proceeds of \$64.5 million (US\$52.6 million), resulting in an average value of \$90 per carat (US\$73 per carat). This Q2/21 sales result represents a 3% increase in US\$ terms relative to the 603,000 carats sold for C\$ 54.2 million (US\$42.7 million) in Q1/21 at (US\$71 per carat). The mix of diamonds sold varied across the quarters and on a direct comparison basis, second quarter market prices are approximately 18% higher than those achieved in the first quarter.

Demand in the rough diamond market is robust, supported by polished diamond price increases and buoyant jewelry retail sales in the US and China. At our most recent sale held over the past two weeks in Antwerp, Belgium, the Company saw high demand and increased customer interest across all rough diamond categories.

In addition to the Company's sales, in Q2/21 Dunebridge also completed the sale of all diamonds purchased from the Company in 2020 (see news release dated June 11, 2020 for details on the agreement). After fees and expenses the Company received C\$10.4 million (C\$7/carats) this week being its total share of the value uplift. The Company believes this further confirms the growing demand and pricing trends in the natural rough diamond market.

The improved cash in-flow from Dunebridge has resulted in the Company reducing the planned US\$10M draw on the final tranche of the Dunebridge term facility (see news release dated May 12, 2021), down to US\$8M. The lower draw on the second tranche will result in lower fees as well as a lower interest expense.

Mountain Province President and CEO Stuart Brown commented: "This is an excellent result for the Company. Producers are reporting strong demand and higher diamond prices at their sales which we have also seen with our latest offering. This is additionally supported by the results from the Dunebridge sales. We remain optimistic that as the global economy continues to recover that the current positive pricing and demand momentum throughout the diamond industry will continue and translate into improved margins for the Company."



*91.40 carat diamond from Gahcho Kué mine, NWT.*



## **Agnico Eagle Provides an Update on Exploration Results for H1 2021**

TORONTO, July 8, 2021 /CNW/ - **Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (NYSE: AEM) (TSX: AEM)** ("Agnico Eagle" or the "Company") is pleased to provide an update on exploration activities at several projects and select mine sites. The Company's exploration focus remains on pipeline projects, near-mine opportunities and mineral reserve and mineral resource replacement and growth. Key exploration highlights during the first half of 2021 include:

- **Meliadine** – Exploration and conversion drilling is ramping up close to existing deposits and in the surrounding region. Recent drilling at depth in the Pump deposit demonstrates the excellent potential to increase mineral resources with intercepts such as 22.6 g/t gold over 4.2 metres at 508 metres depth, approximately 250 metres below the current mineral resource envelope. Regional exploration has resumed between the Tiriganiaq and Discovery deposits, encountering interesting results on the Aquarius occurrence such as 21.7 g/t gold over 3.5 metres at 93 metres depth
- **Hope Bay** – Activity is ramping up with a total of seven drill rigs now operating on the Doris and Madrid deposits. Recent results at Doris confirm the potential to expand the BTD Extension Zone (currently being mined), with results including: 10.9 g/t gold over 2.5 metres at 309 metres depth, potentially expanding the zone 100 metres north of the current mineral reserve limits; and 12.0 g/t gold over 7.1 metres at 282 metres depth in the West Valley Zone, potentially extending the zone along plunge by 75 metres from the current mineral reserve outline. The results confirm the potential to expand zones currently being mined at Doris while drilling is ramping up at Madrid

"Last year, the Company generated strong exploration results at several of its key projects. As a result, in 2021, we embarked on the most ambitious exploration program in Agnico Eagle's 64-year history to investigate the full potential of existing operations and key projects in the Company's pipeline," said Sean Boyd, Agnico Eagle's Chief Executive Officer. "At mid-year, we are continuing to see positive results from this initiative, with drilling encountering a new parallel gold zone at East Gouldie, significant high-grade mineralization that further expands the Footwall Zone at Upper Beaver, and results confirming the potential to expand the Doris Deposit at Hope Bay. In addition, we continue to generate significant exploration results at key production assets such as Kittila and Meliadine," added Mr. Boyd.

**Record exploration spending in 2021** – Based on significant exploration results observed in 2020 at several operating mines and pipeline projects, the Company initiated a review of the full potential of its portfolio of assets and increased its exploration budget in 2021 to approximately \$163 million (from \$113 million in 2020), making it the largest exploration budget in the Company's history (see the Company's news release dated February 11, 2021 for a breakdown of the exploration budget). An update on selected exploration programs and budgets are set out in the sections below.

The release contains significant more detail on exploration at Agnico's Nunavut and other operations. For more details , [Download the full Press Release](#)

## **Territorial Economic Outlooks by Conference Board of Canada**

The Conference Board of Canada has released their annual 20-Year Territorial Economic Outlook, which provides the economic and fiscal outlook for the three territories, including output by industry, labour markets, and demographics. It is available for subscribers and considerable cost. The following highlights for the three territories are free.

### ***NWT: Diamonds' Shine is Dulled, but Bright Spots in Store***

- After falling in 2020, the Northwest Territories' real GDP is projected to bounce back, growing by 14.2 per cent in 2021. [Ed note: that's a net 2% increase over 2 years]
- However, GDP growth will average just 0.8 per cent annually over the long term.
- Declining diamond production will dampen growth. Yet some of this loss will be offset by the addition of up to three new mines, expected for the middle of the current decade.
- The outlook for the construction industry is bright over the next few years. But it fades further ahead as mine-related construction projects reach completion.
- The region's aging population will increase the demand for health care services, which will fuel employment growth in the non-commercial services sector.

### ***Nunavut: Busy Mines to Pave the Way***

- Currently, Nunavut's economy is performing well, although this momentum may dissipate over the long term.
- A high unemployment rate will remain a key challenge for the territory over the forecast period.
- COVID-19 has compounded the pre-existing trend of falling exploration expenditures in Nunavut. This poses a risk to future mine openings and, by extension, economic growth.
- However, a combination of pent-up desire for exploration, high mineral prices, and the vast mineral potential of the territory may well drive increased expenditures in the coming years.
- A high fertility rate will support Nunavut's population growth despite high levels of migration out of the territory.

### ***Yukon: New Projects, Bright Prospects***

- The pandemic hurt Yukon's tourism and hospitality industry in 2020 by pushing up unemployment and will weigh on this sector again this year.
- However, a loosening of self-isolation requirements among other measures signals that the situation is improving.
- The labour market is expected to bounce back in 2021 supported by job gains in the construction industry. As the economy moves along the path to being fully reopened, employment in several service industries is expected to increase.
- Multiple mine openings will support employment and GDP growth over the next decade.
- Given Yukon's aging population, international migration will help to support population growth over the forecast period.

## Exploration & development news briefs

### ***Blue Star Gold Announces Closing of First Tranche of Non-Brokered Private Placement and Completion of Share Consolidation***

On June 18, Blue Star Gold Corp. (TSXV: BAU) (FSE: 5WP) announced that, further to its news release of June 1, 2021 and subject to the final approval of the TSX Venture Exchange, it has closed the first tranche of its non-brokered private placement issuing 1,462,253 flow-through shares and 2,451,500 common shares at a price of \$0.70 per FT Share and Share raising total gross proceeds of \$2,739,627. The Company paid finder's fees of \$46,500 to GloRes Securities and Red Cloud Financial Services Inc. The Shares and FT Shares will be subject to a four-month hold period pursuant to securities laws in Canada and, where applicable, the Exchange. The FT Shares and Shares were issued on a post-consolidated basis. The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the Private Placement for exploration and development of the Company's projects in Nunavut and for general working capital.

#### ***Ulu and Hood River Exploration Program***

Blue Star has now mobilized its 2021 exploration program and plans to test numerous priority targets on its Ulu and Hood River properties. Several of the targets are located within ~1,000 metres of the Flood Zone deposit, where a significant high-grade gold resource has been outlined. Blue Star's CEO, Grant Ewing, commented, "The current financing and restructuring is anticipated to be complete within the next 30 days, and following this Blue Star will be in the best shape in the Company's history. We will have an attractive capital structure, a clean balance sheet, and be fully funded for our 2021 exploration program where multiple priority targets will be tested over our highly prospective properties. The current exploration program will benefit from the extensive review and compilation of the historic Ulu dataset that was conducted over the last several months and will be the first program led by the Company's new technical

team that has a long history of success in Nunavut."

#### ***Consolidation***

The Company also announces that it has completed a share consolidation (the "Consolidation") on the basis of one (1) new Share for every ten (10) Shares held which will result in the Company having approximately 29,603,172 Shares issued and outstanding prior to the closing of the first tranche of the Private Placement.

### ***Fury Announces Results of Annual General and Special Meeting of Shareholders***

On June 25, Fury Gold Mines Limited announce the voting results from its Annual General & Special Meeting of Shareholders held on June 24, 2021. Fury is pleased to confirm that each director nominee listed in the Company's management information circular dated May 21, 2021 in connection with the Meeting and as filed on SEDAR on May 28, 2021, were elected as directors of the Company to serve until the next annual general meeting, or until their successors are otherwise elected or appointed.

Fury Gold Mines owns a 100% interest in the Committee Bay gold project located in Nunavut, Canada.

### ***Gold Terra Drilling Confirms Gold Mineralization at South Con Mine Extension***

News Release: June 14, 2021, Vancouver, B.C. – Gold Terra Resource Corp. (TSX-V: YGT; Frankfurt: TX0; OTC QX: YGTFF) is pleased to announce assay results for the last two drill holes from the Phase 1 drilling program at the Company's optioned property from Newmont Ventures Limited and Miramar Northern Mining Limited (the "Newmont Option") adjacent to its Yellowknife City Gold Project ("YCG"), NWT. The Company has completed 13 holes totalling 7,242 metres and is scheduled to start the Phase 2 Drilling Program in July.

President and CEO David Suda stated, "Phase 1 drilling with a 200-metre spacing has been a

success confirming the Campbell Shear gold-bearing structure. The continuity of mineralization, low-grade and high-grade, is identified by several gold-bearing zones that require follow-up drilling as they have the same signature as gold-bearing zones in the Con Mine. Phase 2 follow-up drilling will begin this July focusing on closer-spaced drill targets on our best Phase 1 drill results and will comprise a 10,000-metre drilling program. The 2-kilometre stretch remains open at depth and along strike."

Read the full [release](#) for details.

### ***Nighthawk Announces Closing of \$27 Million Bought Deal Financing***

On July 7, Nighthawk Gold Corp. announced that it has completed its previously announced public offering of 8,265,250 units and 11,589,500 flow-through units on a bought deal basis for aggregate proceeds of approximately \$27 million. The Offering reflects the exercise in full of the over-allotment option. The Offering was led by Sprott Capital Partners LP and included PI Financial Corp., BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., CIBC World Markets Inc., Haywood Securities Inc., Scotia Capital Inc. and Laurentian Bank Securities Inc.

Keyvan Salehi, President and CEO commented, "We are very pleased to have completed a successfully upsized financing, bringing our current cash balance to approximately \$33 million. This will allow Nighthawk to complete this year's drilling program in addition to providing a healthy balance to kick-off the 2022 drilling season."

"The Phase I drill program for this year is expected to be completed towards the end of July, where we then transition to Phase II, which will follow up on the success from Phase I. Year to date we have only released results for 4,048 metres from our Grizzly Bear target within the Colomac Centre. Additional drilling results are expected in short order, and we look forward to providing an update in the near-term."

The Units were sold at a price of \$1.15 per Unit and the FT Units were sold at a price of \$1.51 per FT Unit.

The net proceeds from the sale of the Units will be used for general and administrative expenses and the gross proceeds from the sale of the FT Units will be used for exploration expenditures on Nighthawk's Indin Lake Gold Property, located in Canada's Northwest Territories. The Company's drill program is focused on mineral resource expansion opportunities and testing greenfield targets to identify new, near-surface mineralization proximal to the main Colomac Deposit.

### ***North Arrow Updates Loki and CSI Diamond Projects***

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada, June 18th, 2021. North Arrow Minerals Inc. (TSXV-NAR) is providing an exploration update on its 100% owned Loki and CSI Diamond Projects. North Arrow reports that kimberlite was not discovered during an exploration drill program at the Loki Project located in the Lac de Gras region of the Northwest Territories. Six holes were completed during the program which tested several gravity anomalies that were explained by significant, locally >5m, ice lenses within glacial overburden ranging from 25 to over 30m in thickness. The prominent kimberlite indicator mineral train that terminates in the Loki area remains unexplained. Overburden samples collected during the program will be processed for indicator minerals to help with ongoing interpretation.

North Arrow is pleased to report it has commenced a short till sampling program on its newly staked CSI Project, Nunavut. The property is located immediately west of the diamondiferous Muskox and Jericho kimberlites, covering an area that could potentially host a bedrock source for regionally anomalous kimberlite indicator mineral samples reported by earlier workers. North Arrow's till sampling is intended to test new interpretations



of surficial geology in the area which could help identify a kimberlite source within the property.

***North Arrow Starts Bulk Sampling Program at Naujaat Diamond Project, Nunavut***

North Arrow Minerals Inc. (TSXV-NAR) (“North Arrow”) is pleased to announce the start of a \$5.6 million bulk sampling program at its Naujaat Diamond Project, Nunavut.

Field crews have arrived on site and preparations are underway for the start of sample collection during the first week of July. The program, scheduled to run through the end of August, will involve collection of up to 2,000 tonnes from the Q1-4 kimberlite. The sample will be shipped south in September, with processing and diamond recovery expected to start in the fourth quarter of calendar 2021. Diamonds recovered from the sample are intended to confirm the size distribution and character of an important population of potentially high-value, fancy yellow to orange yellow diamonds found in the Q1-4 deposit.

The program is funded by partner Burgundy Diamond Mines (ASX-BDM), as part of a June 1, 2020 option agreement under which Burgundy may earn a 40% interest in the Naujaat Project by funding the current bulk sample program.

***About the Naujaat Project***

The Naujaat Project is located near the community of Naujaat, Nunavut. A total of eight kimberlite pipes have been identified within the Project as well as several laterally extensive kimberlite dyke systems. The Q1-4 kimberlite, located just 7 km from the Company’s laydown near the community, is the largest and most diamondiferous of the kimberlites discovered to date and hosts an important, potentially high-value, population of Type IaA - Ib fancy coloured, yellow to orange yellow, diamonds. At 12.5 ha in surface area, Q1-4 hosts an estimated inferred mineral resource of 26.1 million carats total diamond content in 48.8 million tonnes of kimberlite with average +1 DTC total diamond content of 53.6 carats per hundred tonnes (cpht) extending from surface

to a depth of 205m. Delineation drilling of Q1-4 suggests significant potential to expand the resource at depth with the deepest drill hole terminating in kimberlite at a depth of 376m.

***Sixty North Gold Announces Mobilization of Crew to the Mon Mine Site***

News Release: Vancouver, British Columbia--(Newsfile Corp. – June 14, 2021) – Sixty North Gold Mining Ltd. (CSE: SXTY; FKT: 2F4; OTC-Pink: SXNTF)

Sixty North Gold is pleased to report that crews have commenced mobilizing to the Mon Property, Yellowknife Belt, NWT. The Company plans to reopen the existing North Ramp and extend the decline a further approximately 200 m, to access between 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes of vein material 20 m beneath the historic stopes. The Company plans to extract a bulk sample of 4,000 to 6,000 tonnes to confirm the previous mined grades from the mine. Initially crews will be setting up all of the equipment and materials that had been trucked in this past winter and underground work will commence once all preparation is complete.

Dr. Dave Webb, President & CEO, states, “Sixty North Gold continues to execute on its stated plans in preparation for extracting a bulk sample this year. We have a management team skilled in underground mining in the Yellowknife Gold belt and at the Mon Mine in particular. We are excited to have within reach our goal of bringing the permitted Mon Gold Mine back into production.”

***Sixty North Gold Announces Unit Offering***

Vancouver, British Columbia--(Newsfile Corp. – July 5, 2021) Sixty North Gold proposes to complete a non-brokered private placement of up to 23,076,923 units at an offering price of \$0.065 per Unit, to raise gross proceeds of up to \$1.5 million. Each Unit will consist of one (1) common share of the Company and one (1) non-transferable share purchase warrant (the “Warrants”). Each Warrant will be exercisable to acquire one additional common share at an exercise price of \$0.10 per share for a period of two (2) years from the date of closing of the

Offering. The terms of the Offering are subject to satisfactory notice to the Canadian Securities Exchange.

The net proceeds of the offering will be used to advance exploration activities at the Company's Mon Gold Property, as well as for general working capital. Finders' fees may be paid on the offering pursuant to the policies of the Canadian Securities Exchange.

### About the Company

The Mon Mine produced 15,000 ounces of gold from 15,000 tonnes of ore between 1989 and 1997, operating on a seasonal basis to a depth of 15 m below surface, with gold prices generally averaging between US\$350 and US\$400 per ounce. Permits to mine and mill at 100 tpd are in place, making the Mon Mine the only gold project permitted for production in the NWT. Crews are currently on site and mining will commence once the infrastructure is in place and operating properly. The Company plans to drive a ramp to depth below the old stopes, and to extract a bulk sample confirming grade and continuity. Management believes

the similarity to the Discovery Mine, located to the north of the Mon Property where 1 million ounces were mined from 1 million tons of ore, indicates the potential for the Mon Mine.

Other targets on the property include recently discovered silver- and gold-rich volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) targets, as well as shear zone-hosted gold mineralization. The shear zones are similar in nature to, and hosted in the same rocks as, the world-class deposits at the Con and Giant Mines in Yellowknife which produced 14 million oz. gold.

The Company also has an option agreement to acquire a 100% interest in the highly prospective and contiguous 2,394 hectare Hangstone Property adjoining the Mon Property to the East and South from an independent prospector. The Mon Property shear zone and VMS targets can be projected onto the Hangstone Property. Geochemical samples have been collected and are being shipped for analysis.



*On July 4, the first few tonnes of the planned 2,000 kimberlite samples started moving from kimberlite Q1-4 to North Arrow's laydown area 1 km from downtown Nauyasat in Nunavut. The sample should bring a more complete understanding of the coarseness of the coloured diamond population.*

## Standing Committee Report: Developing Canadian Critical Minerals Value Chains

The Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee issued a report last week: “[From Mineral Exploration to Advanced Manufacturing: Developing Value Chains for Critical Minerals in Canada](#).” that emphasizes the need for Canada to secure a domestic rare earth metals supply chain.

From the report’s **Summary**:

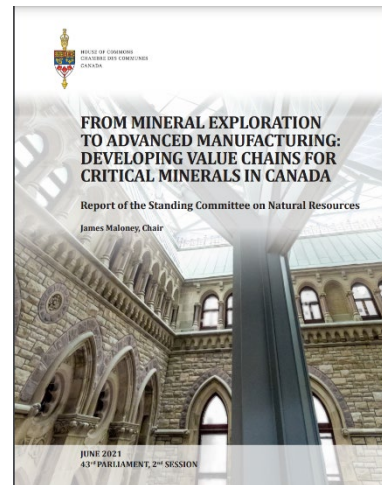
*Critical minerals are essential components of many new technologies, from low-greenhouse gas energy sources to electric vehicles to advances in cutting-edge sectors such as medicine, electronics, aerospace and defence. Canada possesses vast reserves of critical minerals. Some of these minerals, such as aluminum, cobalt, copper, graphite, nickel and uranium, are mined or produced in Canada today. Others, such as rare earth elements, lithium and vanadium, are currently being explored or projects are under development.*

*Considering that the demand for critical minerals is growing strongly around the world, developing this mineral potential is an economic opportunity for Canada’s mining industry.*

*Securing a supply of critical minerals is especially important because access to these resources is not entirely stable and production is concentrated in a few countries, notably China. To reduce this dependence on foreign markets and to position itself on global markets, the Canadian mining industry can leverage its high environmental, social and governance standards and significant involvement of Indigenous communities. Canada could also pursue a “continental” approach to guarantee a supply of critical minerals in cooperation with the provinces and territories, as well as the United States. While some challenges remain, including the exploration and evaluation of Canada’s critical mineral potential, infrastructure in remote and Northern regions and investment-related risks, Canada has the ability to sustainably and responsibly develop the critical minerals sector and take advantage of opportunities to reuse and recycle these resources.*

*In addition to developing its domestic critical minerals production capacity and supply chains, Canada could also process critical minerals to turn them into value-added products and thus create its own value chains, in sectors such as renewable and low-greenhouse gas energy, batteries and computer chips for electric vehicles and batteries for energy storage. This report presents ways the federal government could support the development of the critical minerals industry and its associated value chains and identifies potential solutions. These solutions include developing a value-added critical minerals strategy for Canada; supporting the development of intermediate processing capacity; focusing on industries that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and building expertise and training a skilled workforce.*

The report is available [here](#).





## **Report: Natural Resource Development and First Nations**

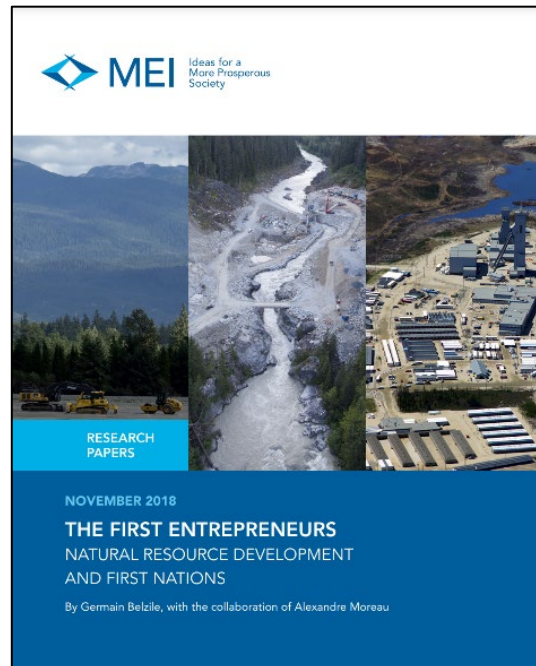
This report recently came to our attention, and we thought we'd share it with readers.

Published by the Montreal Economic Institute in late 2018, *The First Entrepreneurs: Natural Resource Development and First Nations* focuses on cases where First Nations decided to become involved in the development of resources on their territory, and on the benefits they derived from this involvement.

Some excerpts include:

- Government assistance is not a sustainable way to get out of poverty. Access to high-quality jobs is what needs to be encouraged so that First Nations can play a greater role in the economy of their communities and of the country as a whole.
- There are indeed many examples of indigenous communities that have made a significant shift in favour of economic development, with everything that comes along with it: jobs, income, lower economic dependence, and much more. The distance of many First Nations from major urban centres, the often low educational level of many of their members, and the abundant resources on their territories have led many of them to regard resource exploitation as an engine for their development.
- The impression one gets from this research is far from the pessimistic, even despondent, vision often associated with First Nations communities. It features indigenous leaders who are attached to their traditions but also turned resolutely to the future, people who are determined to preserve their environment but also intent to not depend on government largesse any longer, and who want to put food on the family table and to see their children benefit from better opportunities.

Have a read of this excellent publication that speaks well to Stephen Buffalo's quote that: "We have to use the resources that surround us." Download it [here](#).



## Welcome New Members

Please join us in welcoming the newest Chamber of Mines member!

- Cornish Metals maintains a 100% interest in the 7,642 hectares Nickel King property, located in the Northwest Territories, approximately 145 kilometers northeast of Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan. Learn more about the company and project here:  
<https://www.cornishmetals.com/projects/north-america-1/nickel-king/>

## Recent Member news releases

- 8 July 2021; [Agnico Eagle Provides an Update on Exploration Results for H1 2021](#)
- 7 July 2021; [Nighthawk Announces Closing of \\$27 Million Bought Deal Financing](#)
- 5 July 2021; [Vital Metals Commences Rare Earth Production At Nechalacho](#)
- 5 July 2021; [Sixty North Gold Announces Unit Offering](#)
- 30 June 2021; [Cornish Metals Announces Amendments To Its By-Laws and AGM](#)
- 30 June 2021; [Kaizen Discovery announces additional US\\$1.2 million short-term loan](#)
- 25 June 2021; [Fury Announces Results of Annual General and Special Meeting of Shareholders](#)
- 24 June 2021; [Rover Announces Closing of \\$0.10 Unit Financing](#)
- 23 June 2021; [Blue Star Gold Commences High Resolution Geophysics for Drill Testing Targets](#)
- 22 June 2021; [Vital's Metallurgical Testwork at Tardiff Returns Positive Results for Stage 2 Ops](#)
- 21 June 2021; [North Arrow Starts Bulk Sampling Program At Naujaat Diamond Project, Nunavut](#)
- 18 June 2021; [North Arrow Updates Loki and CSI Diamond Projects](#)
- 18 June 2021; [Blue Star Gold Announces Closing of First Tranche and Share Consolidation](#)
- 14 June 2021; [Gold Terra Drilling Confirms Gold Mineralization at South Con Mine Extension](#)
- 14 June 2021; [Sixty North Gold Announces Mobilization of Crew to the Mon Mine Site](#)
- 10 June 2021; [Mountain Province Diamonds Announces Sales Results, Upside Share of Profits](#)

## Chamber of Mines' social media

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#4-5120 49 Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1P8  
Email: [info@miningnorth.com](mailto:info@miningnorth.com)  
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## Mines and promising Northwest Territories projects

The following table describes leading mineral development projects in the NWT.

Project Name	Owner(s)	Commodity	Description	Status
<a href="#">Ekati Mine</a>	<a href="#">Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.</a> , and Dr. Stewart Blusson	Diamonds	Canada's first and largest diamond mine, 310 km. NE of Yellowknife. Open pit and underground. Mine life potentially to 2034. Workforce in 2019, 1,186. The Ekati mine consists of two joint ventures, the core zone joint venture and the buffer zone joint venture, in which the company has interests of 88.9% and 72.0%, respectively. Reserves at 31 January 2017 were 68.9 million tonnes at 1.5 carats per tonne for 105.4 million carats. Inferred mineral resources were 20.6 million tonnes at 1.0 carats per tonne for 19.8 million carats. Additionally, Fox Deep indicated and inferred resources of 51.0 million tonnes at 0.4 carats per tonne for 18.7 million carats.	Media release 3 February 2021 Dominion Diamond Mines sells Ekati mine to Arctic Canadian Diamond Company
<a href="#">Diavik Mine</a>	<a href="#">Rio Tinto</a> (operator) & Dominion Diamond Mines ULC (DDM managed by FTI Consulting)	Diamonds	Canada's largest producer of diamonds, 300 km NE of Yellowknife. Mine life to 2025. Became all underground mine in 2012. Workforce in 2019, 1,124. New A21 open pit development budgeted at US\$350m over 4 years. A21 grand opening celebrated August 2018. Reserves at Dec 31, 2019 were 10.5 million tonnes at 2.4 carats/tonne.	Media release 9 July 2020 Rio Tinto supports COVID-19 isolation shelter in Yellowknife
<a href="#">Gahcho Kué Mine</a>	<a href="#">De Beers Canada Inc</a> (51% and operator) and <a href="#">Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.</a> (49%)	Diamonds	Located 280 km NE of Yellowknife, NWT. Workforce in 2019, 574. Located at Kennady Lake, approximately 280 km northeast of Yellowknife and 80 km southeast of De Beers' Snap Lake Mine in the Northwest Territories, the Gahcho Kué Mine is a joint venture between De Beers Canada Inc. (51%) and Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.(49%).The mine began the ramp up of production in early August 2016 and was officially opened on September 20, 2016. The mine commenced commercial production in March 2017. Gahcho Kué is an open pit operation, mining three kimberlite pipes in sequence: 5034, Hearne and Tuzo. Mine life of approximately 12 years.	Media Release, June 10, 2021: Mountain Province Diamonds Announces Sales Results, and Upside Share of Profits from the Diamond Sales Agreement with Dunebridge Worldwide Ltd  Media Release June 9, 2021: Mountain Province Diamonds Announces US\$33.0 million Term Loan  Media release May 12, 2021: Mountain Province Diamonds announces Q1 financial results and 2021 guidance
<a href="#">Nechalacho</a>	<a href="#">Vital Metals</a> (Cheetah Resources)	Rare earth element concentrate	Nechalacho, the NWT's newest mine!  Vital Metals' Nechalacho rare earths mine in Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT) hosts a world-class resource of 94.7Mt at 1.46% REO (measured, indicated and inferred). Nechalacho is about 100km southeast of Yellowknife.	Media release June 3, 2021: Vital Metals' Nechalacho May 2021 Site Update Funding Agreement For Ore Sorter Signed With Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  Media Release May 31, 2021: Vital Achieves Formal Acceptance of Rare Earth Product from REEtec

			<p>The North T Zone at Nechalacho hosts a high-grade resource of 101,000 tonnes at 9.01% LREO (2.2% NdPr), making it one of the highest grade rare earths deposits in the world.</p> <p>In March 2021, Cheetah/Vital announced the start of mining of mixed rare earth element concentrate at Nechalacho. Initial employment is 30 and demonstration mine life 3 years.</p>	<p>Media Release May 25, 2021: Vital intersects broad high grade REO in near surface drilling at Tardiff Zone</p> <p>Media Release May 21, 2021: Vital Signs Lease for Saskatoon Rare Earth Extraction Plant Site</p>
Prairie Creek	NorZinc Ltd.	Zinc-lead-silver	<p>Proposed underground mine 120 km west of Fort Simpson. Estimated mine jobs: 220</p> <p>All permits now in place to construct and operate the mine. Feasibility Study completed in 2017 supports 15-year mine life. Subject to completion of financing, and 2.5-year construction phase, production proposed for mid-2020.</p> <p>In 2017, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board recommended approval of the proposed all season road.</p> <p>Over the past eight years Canadian Zinc has successfully completed numerous environmental assessments related to exploration and development of the Prairie Creek Mine. Canadian Zinc has obtained all the significant regulatory permits and social licences required to complete construction and development and undertake mining and milling at Prairie Creek, including construction and use of a winter access road to the mine site.</p>	<p>Media release May 13, 2021: NorZinc provides results for first quarter 2021</p> <p>Media Release, May 28, 2021: Norzinc Closes \$1 Million Private Placement and Provides Update On Surface Drill Program</p>
NICO	Fortune Minerals Limited.	Cobalt-gold-bismuth-copper	<p>Proposed open pit and underground mine located 50 km NE of Whati. Estimated mine jobs: 150. Mine life, 20 years. In March 2018, The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has recommended that the Tlicho all-season road be approved. The approval is subject to measures designed to mitigate potential environmental, social, and cultural impacts. The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Transportation and Tlicho Government received this conditional approval on March 29, 2018, enabling construction of the 97-kilometre Tlicho Road to connect the community of Whati to the territorial highway system.</p>	<p>Media release 17 March 2021 Fortune Minerals announces five high priority drill targets east of NICO deposit from modelling geophysics</p>
Kennady North	Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.	Diamonds	<p>Kennady North project comprises 13 leases and claims immediately to north and west of 4 leases controlled by the Gahcho Kué Joint Venture (see above). Project aims to identify a resource along the Kelvin – Faraday kimberlite corridor of between 12</p>	<p>Media release 13 July 2020 Mountain Province Diamonds obtains waiver under revolving credit facility</p>

			and 15 million tonnes at a grade of between 2 and 2.5 carats per tonne and to identify new kimberlites outside of the corridor. The Kelvin – Faraday corridor is a target for further exploration. Potential quantity is conceptual as there has been insufficient drilling to define a mineral resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in target being delineated as a mineral resource.	
Indin Lake	Nighthawk Gold Corp	Gold	Nighthawk controls over 90% of the prospective Indin Lake Greenstone Belt in this historic gold camp with a total ground position now comprising 930 sq km, approximately 220 km north of Yellowknife, NT. The Indin Lake Greenstone Belt is one of Canada's most underexplored gold camps. The property contains 14 known gold deposits and showings, 3 are historic mines (eg Colomac)	Media release June 9, 2021: Nighthawk Increases Bought Deal Financing to \$23.5 Million  Media release June 7, 2021: Nighthawk Reports Initial Drill Results From its Phase I 2021 Exploration Program at Grizzly Bear
Pine Point	Osisko Metals Incorporated	Lead-zinc	Proposed open pit mine east of Hay River, NT. 10-year LOM plan will consist of mining open pit and underground deposits. The overall strategy is to achieve an average LOM production rate of 11,250 tonnes per day. The open pit mineral resource inventory used in the LOM plan is contained in 47 open pits. Indicated Mineral Resource: 12.9Mt grading 6.29% ZnEq (4.56% Zn and 1.73% Pb) representing approximately 25.5% of the declared tonnage in the updated 2020 MRE. Inferred Mineral Resource: 37.6Mt grading 6.80% ZnEq (4.89% Zn and 1.91% Pb). The realized project would have a significant impact NWT, with the potential of generating over C\$529M in combined federal and territorial tax revenue and contributing approximately 258 jobs during production phase and ~395 jobs during the construction period.	Media release June 2, 2021: Osisko Metals Provides Initial Findings on Pine Point Hydrogeological Program  Media release, May 18, 2021: Osisko Metals Announces Final Results From Winter Drill Campaign
Courageous Lake	Seabridge Gold Inc.	Gold	Proposed open pit mine 240 km NE of Yellowknife. 6.5 M oz proven and probable reserves in 91.0 million tonnes at 2 g/t (2016 Annual Report). Positive PFS July 2012. The FAT deposit is one of Canada's largest undeveloped gold projects. Seabridge is currently focusing on their KSM mine and other BC projects.	Media release 29 April 2021 Seabridge sells residual Red Mountain interest for US\$18 million
Selwyn Project (Howard's Pass Project)	Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.	Zinc, lead	Proposed base metal mine in Yukon on NWT border and access is through NWT. Agreements signed with NWT (Sahtu) Indigenous land corporations. The project will process multiple open pit mines over an approximate 10+ year mine life and includes a mineral processing plant, tailing management facility and the required onsite infrastructure.	Selwyn Chihong Mining's proposed upgrade of a road to its lead-zinc mining project in Yukon's Selwyn Mountains will undergo an environmental assessment. Parks Canada Chas referred the 79km Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) to Environmental Assessment under the MVEIRB, which accepted the referral in July 2015. The HPAR was developed in the 1970s and runs from the Nahanni Range Road to the

			<p>The mine is being designed to process 38,500 tonnes per day (tpd) of ore which, after processing, is expected to result in 2,500 tpd of zinc and 600 tpd of lead concentrate, which would be trucked to the Port of Stewart for export. Selwyn Chihong estimates the proposed mine will create approximately 1500 jobs during construction and approximately 750 during operation.</p>	<p>NWT-Yukon border. Passing through 2 national parks.</p> <p>Yukon media reported in Feb 2016 that Selwyn Chihong has decided to slow their project down due to the current low zinc prices and will not to take the project to the permitting stage this year. According to External Affairs VP Maurice Albert, SC has opted for a traditional drilling program and hopefully add another 10 years to the mine life.</p>
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*Nighthawk drill rig on their Colomac property. Exploration continues apace on this excellent gold property and former producer.*

## Mines and promising Nunavut projects

The following table describes leading mineral development projects in Nunavut.

Project	Owner(s)	Commodity	Description	Status
<a href="#">Meadowbank Gold Mine</a>	<a href="#">Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.</a>	Gold	In operation since 2010. Produced its three millionth ounce gold in 2018. Open pit mine located in the Kivalliq Region, 300 km west of Hudson Bay and 70 km north of Baker Lake. The Meadowbank Complex refers to the mining, processing and infrastructure at the Meadowbank mine site combined with the mining and infrastructure at the nearby Amaruq site. Meadowbank achieved commercial production in March 2010 and produced its three millionth ounce of gold in 2018 and 2019 was the final year of production at the Meadowbank mine. The company declared commercial production at the Whale Tail pit at Amaruq mining operation on September 30, 2019. The life of mine plan for the Whale Tail pit calls for the production of approximately 2.5 million ounces of gold between 2019 and 2026.	Blog 3 May 2021 Agnico Eagle Wins 2021 Towards Sustainable Mining® community engagement award  Media release, July 8, 2021: Agnico Eagle Provides an Update on Exploration Results for H1 2021 (including Meadowbank mine)
<a href="#">Meliadine Gold Mine</a> (commercial production May 14, 2019)	<a href="#">Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.</a>	Gold	Meliadine mine declared commercial production on May 14, 2019. 25 km NE of Rankin Inlet. 526 employees. IIBA signed June 2015. Total capital cost ~\$830m, below \$900m forecast; mine life ~15 years. On February 15, 2017: Agnico Eagle approved Meliadine and Amaruq projects for development with production beginning in 2019. The high-grade Meliadine gold project has (by Dec 2019 figures) 4.07M ounces of gold in proven and probable reserves (20.7 million tonnes@6.10 g/t).	Media release, July 8, 2021: Agnico Eagle Provides an Update on Exploration Results for H1 2021 (including Meliadine mine)
<a href="#">Hope Bay</a> (Mine began commercial production May 15, 2017)	<a href="#">Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.</a>	Gold	Gold mine 130 km south of Cambridge Bay. The property covers the majority of the Hope Bay Greenstone Belt. On January 5, 2021 Agnico Eagle <a href="#">announced</a> it would be acquiring TMAC Resources Inc., the operator of the Hope Bay property located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, Canada. The property and operations are remote but not isolated, serviced by both a port and airstrip. Hope Bay is an 80 km by 20 km Archean greenstone belt that has been explored by BHP, Miramar, Newmont and TMAC over a period spanning more than 30 years. TMAC began producing gold in early 2017 from Doris, its first mine at Hope Bay, and processed gold at the Doris	Media release Feb 2, 2021: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited completes acquisition of TMAC Resources Inc.  Media release, July 8, 2021: Agnico Eagle Provides an Update on Exploration Results for H1 2021 (including Hope Bay mine)



			processing plant which originally had nameplate capacity of 1,000 tpd, expanded to 2,000 tpd midway through 2018. TMAC acquisition was officially completed February 2, 2021.	
<a href="#">Mary River Iron Mine</a>	<a href="#">Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation</a>	Iron	Open pit mine 936 km north of Iqaluit. 2019 marks 5 full years of Mary River operations. Baffinland continues its phased development of the mine. As of 2019, highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Over \$65 million in wages to Inuit</li> <li>•Over \$1.2 billion in contracts signed and awarded to Inuit firms</li> <li>•~\$800,000 in sponsorship and donations since 2016</li> <li>•435 graduates of pre-employment training programs</li> <li>•~100,000 hrs of training provided directly to Inuit Project employees</li> </ul>	Media release 5 May 2021 Baffinland temporarily suspends operations due to COVID-19 outbreak  Media release 2 May 2021 Baffinland confirms COVID-19 at Mary River
<a href="#">Back River</a>	<a href="#">Sabina Gold &amp; Silver Corp.</a>	Gold	Approximately 60km from Hackett River; adjacent to the Wishbone Greenstone belt. Consists of George and Goose Lake deposits and holds significant gold resources. Estimated construction jobs: 1,600 Estimated mine jobs: 900 Sabina's Feasibility Study on its 100% owned Back River Gold Project presents a project designed on a fit-for purpose basis, with the potential to produce ~200,000 ounces a year for ~11 years with a rapid payback of 2.9 years (at a US\$1,150 gold price and a 0.80 exchange rate). Initial CAPEX of \$415 million. EA complete	Media release 20 April 2021 Sabina Gold & Silver updates site development and exploration activities at the Back River gold project  Media release May 17, 2021: Sabina Gold & Silver Announces Interim Financial Results For The Quarter Ended March 31, 2021and Provides Update On Site Activities
<a href="#">Chidliak</a>	<a href="#">De Beers Group</a>	Diamonds	Located 120kms NE of Iqaluit, Nunavut, and 180 km S of Pangnirtung. 74 kimberlites discovered with 8 potentially economic on 317,213-hectare site. Positive Phase One PEA, updated May 2018 highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•After-tax payback of 2.2 years</li> <li>•Life of mine 13 years</li> <li>•Resource at CH-6 and CH-7 exceeds 22 million carats</li> <li>•Pre-production capital requirement ~\$455m, incl \$95m for access road from Iqaluit, \$55m in contingency</li> <li>•Pre-tax NPV(7.5) of \$1069 million and a pre-tax IRR of 38.6%</li> <li>•After-tax NPV(7.5) of \$679 million and an after-tax IRR of 31.1%</li> </ul>	Media release 9 July 2020 De Beers Group: Inuit firm successfully completes critical Chidliak maintenance
<a href="#">Naujaat Diamond Project</a>	<a href="#">North Arrow Minerals</a> partnered with <a href="#">EHR Resources</a>	Diamonds	7 km from tidewater; 9 km from Repulse Bay, Melville Peninsula; 7,143 hectares of contiguous mineral claims. Largest kimberlite in Nunavut.	Media release June 21, 2021: North Arrow Starts Bulk Sampling Program At Naujaat Diamond Project, Nunavut
<a href="#">Committee Bay Gold Project</a>	<a href="#">Fury Gold Mines</a> formerly Auryr Resources	Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High grade gold endowment</li> <li>• Existing exploration infrastructure</li> <li>• Over 270,000 hectares with district scale discovery opportunities</li> </ul>	Media release 17 February 2021 Fury announces 2021 exploration plans for Committee Bay

## Project maps

