

## NEWS RELEASE

# Optimistic Opening for Yellowknife Geoscience Forum



Yellowknife, NT – November 16, 2010

The North's largest conference, the annual Geoscience Forum, opened today in Yellowknife with prayer and drum songs from the Yellowknives Dene, followed by opening remarks from the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment for the GNWT. Minister McLeod said: *"The 2010 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum is an outstanding venue for industry and stakeholders to get the most up-to-date information on the Northwest Territories mining and oil and gas resources. Geoscience knowledge is a vital tool that will assist us in unlocking the mining potential of the NWT. With this knowledge, new discoveries are made and new mines and pipelines can be built, creating a sustainable economic future for northern communities."*

Tom Hoefer Executive Director of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines also welcomed participants: *"Thirty-eight years of Geoscience Forum is a real testament to how important our work is to the North and to the people that live here. We want to thank investors for their continued interest in the North, communities for their increased participation and support, and all those in government and the geoscience industry who help make this such a great industry."*

Participation is strong again this year with 779 attendees registered by 3pm on opening day. Exploration and mining booths are the highest registered in the past 8 years, and technical presentations have also increased. The Forum provides an intimate setting for the exchange of information on mineral and petroleum exploration, mining activities, geothermal studies, regulatory updates, and government and academia geoscience research in Canada's North. Technical presentations are given at the Capitol Theatre and the session schedule is available at [www.nwtgeoscience.ca/forum/](http://www.nwtgeoscience.ca/forum/). Trade show exhibits are hosted at the combined Weledeh and St. Patrick's High School gymnasiums.

The public is invited to two free events. On the evening of November 16, the annual Charles Camsell Talk will be held at 7 pm in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Auditorium and features Dr. Brian Cousens, a geologist speaking on this year's volcanic eruptions in Iceland. The trade show will be open to the public on November 18 from 10 am to noon.

Yellowknife students and teachers will also be experiencing geosciences "hands on" at this year's event, and over 300 students are expected to descend on the event to learn more about career opportunities in the minerals and petroleum sectors. This pilot project is a joint-venture between the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the NWT Geoscience Office, the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the Yellowknife School District, and the NWT Teachers' Association.

For a complete schedule of events and registration information, please visit the Geoscience Forum website at [www.miningnorth.com/geoscienceforum](http://www.miningnorth.com/geoscienceforum). For further information, please contact Cheryl Wourms, Geoscience Forum Coordinator at the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Tel: 867-444-4955 or email [nwtmines@ssimicro.com](mailto:nwtmines@ssimicro.com)). For information on this news release or the northern minerals industry, please contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director (Tel: 867-873-5281).