



NEWS RELEASE

Chamber of Mines and Akaitcho First Nations Formalize Commitment to Work Together

Lutsel K'e, NT – July 8, 2011

The NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Akaitcho Dene First Nations today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help promote and enhance responsible mineral exploration and development in the Akaitcho Territory.

Under the MOU, "Collaboration Towards Mutually Beneficial Mineral Exploration and Development in the Akaitcho Territory", which was signed at the Akaitcho Annual Assembly held in the Akaitcho community of Lutsel K'e, the two groups will create an Akaitcho – Chamber Relationship Committee responsible for establishing in broad terms the form and content of an Akaitcho – Chamber Relationship Strategy.

The Committee will prepare a two-year Action Plan to help promote and enhance responsible mineral exploration and development in the Akaitcho Territory through initiatives that include:

- developing and implementing an engagement protocol between the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and Chamber members, including an exploration agreement template; and
- enhancing meaningful training, employment, and business opportunities between the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and Chamber members.

Once the work contemplated in the MOU is completed and implementation begins, it is hoped that mineral exploration and development activities in the Akaitcho Territory will proceed in a manner that is of increased mutual benefit to the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and Chamber members.

Signing the MOU on behalf of the Akaitcho were the two Chiefs representing the Yellowknives Dene First Nation communities of Dettah and N'dilo, the Chief of Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and the Chief of the Ft. Resolution Dene First Nation.

Signing on behalf of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines were the Chamber of Mines Executive and its Executive Director.

For more information on the Akaitcho – Industry MOU, please contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director of the Chamber of Mines at Tel: 867-873-5281 or email: chamberminesed@ssimicro.com or Stephen Ellis of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations at Tel: 867-370-3217 or email: scellis@eastarm.com. A copy of the MOU can be downloaded from the Chamber of Mines website at: www.miningnorth.com or the Akaitcho site at: <http://www.akaitcho.info/>.