



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Mining Week in the NWT Celebrates Importance of Industry

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, June 11, 2010.

The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines is proud to present Mining Week in the NWT, June 7-12. Events include the annual community BBQ on Saturday at the Yellowknife Community Arena parking lot, and the annual NWT & Nunavut Mine Rescue Competition. The competition starts Friday, June 11, at Giant Mine and concludes with a series of competitions along side the Saturday BBQ. All events are open to the public.

The Mine Rescue Competition, now in its 53<sup>rd</sup> year in Yellowknife, is a showcase of safety awareness and emergency response skills at the mines of the Territories. Competing this year are teams from three diamond mines, BHP's Ekati Diamond Mine, Rio Tinto's Diavik Diamond Mine and De Beers Canada's Snap Lake Mine. The competition includes both underground and surface events, including fire fighting, first aid, and mock underground obstacles events. The program is organized by the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) and is a symbol of the industry's commitments to safety.

*"The mine rescue competition brings together all trained professionals, not only to compete and test their skills, but to bridge bonds between teams, which in the event of an emergency would help each other out. This lets them share their collective experience with each other and fosters new learning,"* said John F. Kearney, President of the Chamber. *"This is a great opportunity for the public to see some of the North's finest emergency response teams testing their training."*

Mining Week is also a celebration of the importance of the mineral industry here in the NWT, where active mining operations account for nearly half of the NWT's economy. In 2009, the NWT produced minerals valued at \$1.5 billion and with the recovery of the global economy this value will increase in 2010.

Saturday's free community BBQ is sponsored by the three diamond mines. It starts at noon with fun and games for the whole family and finishes at 3:00 p.m.

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