



## Media Release

**November 9, 2010** – Yellowknife, NT – **NWT ROCKS! ... FOR KIDS TOO!**

Students, teachers and school counselors will be experiencing Geoscience “hands on” at this year’s annual Yellowknife Geoscience Forum.

A pilot education program will offer two components: hands-on geoscience activities for three pre-registered classes, and career exploration for approximately 300 confirmed students. Students, teachers and school counselors will descend on the Forum on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-noon during the Trade Show’s public access hours at École Saint Patrick High School gymnasium (5010-44<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife).

The pilot is a partnership between the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the NWT Geoscience Office, GNWT Education Culture and Employment and the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association (NWTTA). Over the past few months the partners’ Geoscience Forum Education Committee has created a program to actively engage students, teachers and school counselors in learning more about geoscience and careers in the north’s non-renewable resource industries.

The Geoscience Forum Education Committee is grateful to many for contributing to the success of this pilot. Trade Show exhibitors have volunteered to help students answer pre-selected questions provided them in a Career Passport Booklet. Teachers and school counselors are urging their students to learn more about the resource industries. And, the NWT Geoscience Office has donated NWT ROCKS! T-shirts, just to add a little more excitement for the pre-registered participants!

“So much of our future will depend on non-renewable resources,” says Tom Hoefler, Executive Director of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines. “We are looking forward to this pilot bringing educators and industry together to help teach students and teachers alike about the wealth of career opportunities right here in the NWT.”

David Reid, President of the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association, sees value in this type of partnership, “Educators are life-long learners and this will provide them a great opportunity to learn more about the NWT’s non-renewable resource industry and its career potential for their students. For students, having a field trip to this large industry trade show where they become active participants in their own learning is the type of lesson that has long-reaching impact.”

Following this year’s pilot program, the Geoscience Forum Education Committee will survey teachers, students, and exhibitor participants about their experiences in an effort to gain a clear understanding of what worked, where improvements can be made and if there is interest for continuing this program next year.

*For more information about The Geoscience-Education Connection Event, please contact Cheryl Wourms, NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Email: [nwtmines@ssimicro.com](mailto:nwtmines@ssimicro.com); Phone: 867-873-5281 or Colleen Eckert, NWTTA PD Coordinator (Email: [pd@nwttta.nt.ca](mailto:pd@nwttta.nt.ca); Phone: 867-873-5759).*