

October 2, 2012

NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Attn: Tom Hoefer
Executive Director
867-873-5281
email: executivedirector@miningnorth.com

Re: Yellowknife Election Candidates Challenge

Thank you for this opportunity to reach your membership with the vision and optimism that I will bring to Yellowknife City Council, should I be re-elected for a 7th term of office.

As an active member of the Yellowknife community for 32 years, where together with my wife Lynn, we have two daughters, eighteen foster daughters, and fourteen grandchildren/foster grandchildren (and counting); I have a vested interest in wanting to make sure the Capital City of Yellowknife prospers and grows to the benefit of our community and for the north.

As the Capital City; Yellowknife is not, nor should it ever be, an island unto itself. Yellowknife can lead by example and help to open the many doors that will help this city and the whole territory prosper. We can do this by working in cooperation with industry, business, all orders of government, and residents to look for and take advantage of opportunities that are presented to us. We just have to be willing to put ourselves out there and work with our partners to make it happen.

For mining in particular, I offer these answers to the four questions posed:

- 1. What can Yellowknife do to actively support and pursue the opportunities that the six NWT mining projects that are in, or have cleared, the environmental approvals processes?**

Response: *The City of Yellowknife has an Economic Development Division within its Administration; one which I helped to establish and one which I continue to want to bolster. This Division needs some attention from the new Council so that it may work with industry and business to create programs and find opportunities that we can partner on; opportunities we can lobby other orders of government for; opportunities to help provide the housing required to keep the workers in Yellowknife and the territory; and opportunities to help local business to be the suppliers for industry.*

2. **Since Yellowknife's economy is intertwined with the Kitikmeot's, can Yellowknife partner with the Kitikmeot communities in supporting project success for mutual benefits?**

Response: *Yes, the City of Yellowknife should be looking for ways to partner with ALL activities that will benefit its residents. The City already works with the NWT Association of Communities to that end, and I believe should also be working with the Nunavut Association of Communities toward the same end.*

3. **In the face of these opportunities, we also know our world class diamond mines won't last forever. Should the City take actions to help sustain those operations?**

Response: *When the diamond mines first opened in Yellowknife, the timing was such that it was a god-send for the City because the gold mines were just starting to wind down operations. While some of those diamond mines are now starting to reach maturity, exploration activities continue to offer promise for present and future opportunities. Yellowknife can continue to offer support to the diamond industry, as it should for all industry, by working in partnership with the many operations around the city and in partnership with other orders of government initiatives. The city can support all industry and business with initiatives that keep our cost of living sustainable, that opens up land for a variety of housing needs, by partnering with operations for employment needs, by working with industry for family needs.*

4. **Should Yellowknife have its own plan Mineral Development Strategy, or will the benefits just naturally flow to Yellowknife? Could Yellowknife leaders proactively support projects for mutual success?**

Response: *No, Yellowknife should not have its own Mineral Development Strategy. What it should have, is its own Development Strategy in general. Yellowknife is not large enough to section off its industries, especially since we really do not have a significant land quantum or the jurisdiction to go with it. A Development Strategy in general though, would help bring all the industries and business together to identify needs, programs and initiatives toward sustainability. All parties should be working collaboratively for mutual success.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to address your members. Should any of those members wish to speak to me personally about these responses or any other concerns, I can be reached at 867-920-4088 or at bobbrooks@theedge.ca.

Bob Brooks - Candidate for Yellowknife City Council