



## NEWS RELEASE

### Government of Canada and Nunavut Government partner with Chamber of Mines

IQALUIT, NU: August 24, 2011. During a visit to the Meadowbank Mine, near Baker Lake, Nunavut, the **Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper** announced Federal Government support for the Chamber of Mines.

Through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), the Government of Canada is partnering with the Nunavut Territorial Government on a three-year pilot project that will increase the capacity of the Chamber of Mines to both represent mining interests in Nunavut, and to work with governments and communities to help create benefits for Nunavummiut and Canadians.

To help support and promote Nunavut's sizable mining investment, the Chamber of Mines has established a new office in Nunavut and has appointed a full time General Manager – Nunavut, to administer its affairs in the Territory.

Today's announcement by the Prime Minister of Canada signals important support for the Chamber and Nunavut's mining industry.

President of the Chamber of Mines, John Kearney said: *"We are very excited to have opened the first ever mining association office in Nunavut. Establishing the office demonstrates the commitment of our Chamber members to the future of the minerals industry in Nunavut."*

*"We wish to acknowledge the support that this initiative has received from the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency under the leadership of Minister Leona Aglukkaq, and from the Government of Nunavut through Minister Peter Taptuna, Deputy Premier and Minister of Economic Development and Transportation," added Mr. Kearney.*

It is intended that at the end of the three year pilot project the Chamber of Mines office in Nunavut will have become self-sustaining.

## **Minerals Industry Active in Nunavut**

Nunavut is undergoing a very significant rebound in mining investment. Natural Resources Canada is projecting expenditures to exceed \$320 million in 2011. Since the opening in early 2010 of Agnico-Eagle's, Meadowbank Gold Mine, Nunavut's first new mine development since the creation of the Territory, a number of potential mining projects are being advanced for gold, iron, base metals, uranium and diamonds.

Since division of the two territories in 1999, the Chamber of Mines has worked on behalf of Nunavut interests from its Yellowknife office. A growing number of members with operations in Nunavut, increased mining investment in the region, and positive Nunavummiut support for mining, gives good reason for opening an industry office in Nunavut.

The timing is right for Nunavut. The Territory is experiencing Canada's only baby boom and population growth is the largest in the country. This is adding to already high unemployment in the communities. Nunavummiut need and deserve the significant opportunities that exploration and mining can bring.

## **About the Chamber of Mines**

The Chamber of Mines is the leading advocate for responsible and sustainable mineral exploration and development in Nunavut. The Chamber offers a one window approach for government to seek input and advice on policy and legislation. This includes a variety of initiatives that can strengthen industry's contributions to Nunavut through training, employment and business with Nunavummiut; with supplying infrastructure; and with providing critical and significant revenues to government and the Inuit Land Claim group, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

The Chamber of Mines has appointed Elizabeth Kingston as the first General Manager – Nunavut, based in Iqaluit. Elizabeth's primary goals are to inform Nunavummiut about the mining industry, work with member companies, and monitor and support regulatory changes that maintain Nunavut as an attractive investment climate for mineral development.

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