



NEWS RELEASE

NUNAVUT AND NWT IMPROVE IN INDUSTRY INVESTMENT SURVEY RANKINGS

(Yellowknife, NT – March 14, 2013) The Northwest Territories had the greatest improvement in score and rank amongst Canadian jurisdictions in the annual Fraser Institute Survey of mining companies.

Of the various measures used in this year's survey of 96 jurisdictions, the Policy Potential Index (PPI) provides the overall measure of investment attractiveness and can serve as a report card to governments on the attractiveness of their policies from the point of view of an exploration manager.

From a Canadian perspective:

- Canada's average PPI score improved slightly, although a Canadian jurisdiction did not rank first in the survey for the first time since 2006/2007.
- Both Quebec and Saskatchewan dropped out of the top 10 in the rankings, to 11th and 13th respectively.
- The Canadian territories (Yukon, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories) all improved their PPI scores. ***In fact, the Northwest Territories had the greatest improvement in score and rank amongst Canadian jurisdictions.*** While no reason was provided, this NWT improvement may well be due to announcements of regulatory improvements, the launch of an NWT Mineral Development Strategy, and devolution of non-renewable resources to the NWT.
- Comments from miners suggest that while Canadian jurisdictions remain competitive globally, uncertainties with Aboriginal consultation and disputed land claims are growing concerns for some.

With regards to prices, miners continue to be pessimistic about short-term commodity prices. More than half of the survey's respondents expected small increases or reduced prices for diamonds, coal, nickel, zinc, copper, potash, platinum, and silver over the next two years. Only gold was expected to increase in value by more than 20% over the next two years by a majority of respondents. Miners were somewhat more optimistic about long-term commodity prices, and most respondents expected stable or moderate increases (up to 15%) in inflation-adjusted commodity prices over the next 10 years.

Regarding the challenges of raising funds compared with two years ago, over 90% of respondents somewhat or fully agreed that it was currently more difficult to raise funds, with a majority believing that the reason for this difficulty was investors being worried about the state of the world economy or being risk averse and seeing mining as risky.

Click [here](#) to download a summary of the report, and [here](#) for the full report.

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the website at www.miningnorth.com or contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director at Tel: 867-873-5281 or email: executivedirector@miningnorth.com.