



## NEWS RELEASE

### Celebrate NWT Mining Week June 10-15!

Yellowknife, NT (June 10, 2013) June 10 to 15 celebrates NWT Mining Week, a reminder of the importance of our minerals industry to our everyday lives, and to the Northwest Territories and its communities. It celebrates the hard work of our many workers to create wealth for our territory in exploring for, and responsibly and safely mining resources from the land.

Since mining began here about 80 years ago, over \$60 billion in a variety of minerals has been mined. Winning those minerals from the ground has translated into a variety of benefits from training, to jobs to significant business development. Our northern mines have also made significant infrastructure investments, which continue to benefit the north. These include our only railway, all three of our hydropower generating facilities, and several of our roads. Even our capital city of Yellowknife owes much to its roots in mining and exploration.

According to Chamber President Cathie Bolstad, "Our mines continue to generate significant benefits today, and now those benefits reach further into our northern and Aboriginal communities." The latest reports show that our diamond mines are exceeding expectations, with over 1,500 northern residents working in the industry. Of these, just over half are Aboriginal workers. Total expenditures to northern companies have passed \$9.3 billion of which over \$4 billion is with Aboriginal firms. And resource royalties are being shared, with over \$34 million to date shared by government with settled land claim groups in the NWT.

NWT Mining Week is being celebrated in conjunction with the Territorial Mine Rescue Championship. In that two day event – this year on June 14-15 – mine rescue teams from across the north show off their well-honed skills to rescue workers from mock disasters. "Our industry has an award winning and enviable safety record, and it's in no small part due to the attention that our mines pay to accident prevention. Our mining rescue teams work hard to prepare for every eventuality, and they will get to show off those skills to the public this weekend."

Mining Week culminates with the Miners' Picnic which will be held in the Yellowknife Community Arena parking lot on Saturday, June 15, noon to 3:00 PM. Come enjoy free food, and bring the family for the many children's events. Everyone is welcome, and you can watch the final day of the Mine Rescue Competition, held at the same location.

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the Chamber's website at [www.miningnorth.com](http://www.miningnorth.com) or contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director at Tel: 867-873-5281 or email: [executivedirector@miningnorth.com](mailto:executivedirector@miningnorth.com).