



## NEWS RELEASE

### Chamber of Mines Presentation – Annual PDAC International Conference

On March 3, Tom Hoefer, Executive Director of the Chamber of Mines gave a presentation at the largest exploration conference in the world, *PDAC 2013*, hosted in Toronto by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. The presentation was delivered under the Cross Canada reporting session and spoke to opportunities to invest in the NWT and Nunavut. It provided information on the great mineral potential of Nunavut and the NWT, and also reinforced how the policy, regulatory and land claims environment can support mining in the two territories. The Abstract is found below, and for a copy of the presentation, click [here](#).

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#### Abstract

Northern Canada is a land of challenges with its huge size and remote, Arctic location. At one third the area of Canada, its infrastructure is under-developed, its geoscience data is the poorest in Canada. With its cold Arctic ruggedness, it is also the most underexplored region of Canada. But its mineral potential is world class, and that is where the opportunities lie.

Celebrating 80 years of mining history, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have a number of mining achievements to be proud of. It began with mining radium at Great Bear Lake in 1933, one of the few locations in the world to host the rare element. That same mine's uranium deposits helped usher in the nuclear age. In 1938, gold mining began in Yellowknife starting a 60 year successful run. With added production from the ice road accessible Lupin mine, we became one of the top gold producers in Canada. Similarly, the combined production of zinc from base metal mines at Pine Point, Nanisivik and Polaris, saw the territories become one of Canada's top zinc producers.

We continue to maintain rankings today. Our tungsten mine is the Western world's largest source of tungsten concentrate. The remarkable discovery of diamonds in 1991 led to the construction of world class diamond mines that have catapulted the Northwest Territories to third place globally by value of diamonds produced.

Our future looks bright too, and in a wide spread of commodities. Nunavut reached record investment in 2011 as multiple mining projects advanced through feasibility studies and environmental reviews. The \$4 billion Mary River iron mine with its planned high-Arctic railway and year-round shipping is the largest, but there are also significant other projects proposing to mine gold, uranium, zinc, silver and iron. Nunavut's government and Inuit land owners provide strong support for mining, and want to see it provide for a mushrooming population boom.

In the Northwest Territories, several projects are also advancing through the regulatory processes, and offer to produce a range of products including rare earth metals, diamonds, gold, silver and base metals. Regulatory complexity is on the mend, the NWT Government is advancing a Minerals Strategy, and Aboriginal groups are becoming stronger proponents for mining given the significant stake they now have in diamond mining.

The mining industry is no stranger to challenges, and the proof of what is possible can be found in our northern territories. Come on up!

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For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the 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).