



NEWS RELEASE

Northern Minerals Industry Pleased with Prime Minister's Geoscience Funding Announcement

(Yellowknife, NT – August 22, 2013) The northern minerals industry is pleased with the Prime Minister's announcement today of significant investment to modernize northern geoscience understanding by extending the Geo-Mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM) program. The government will spend \$100 million under GEM over the next 7 years.

"Our Government is working to ensure that Northerners and all Canadians benefit from the tremendous natural resources in the Territories. Our investment in resource exploration will continue to unlock the full economic, mineral and energy potential of the region, while generating new government revenues, private sector investment and jobs," said Prime Minister Harper. "This critical knowledge will also help Northerners make informed decisions about land use and preserve our Northern environment."

Geoscience investment is recognized throughout the world as a powerful enabler of mining development. However, the two territories' large size and remote location present challenges in sustaining and growing the mining industry, which is the largest private sector contributor to local employment and business and to government revenues. "At one third the area of Canada, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are the two most under-mapped jurisdictions in the country," said Cathie Bolstad, President of the Chamber of Mines. "The Prime Minister's announcement to modernize geoscience information will really help our industry to efficiently focus exploration attention and dollars in areas more likely to host economic mineral deposits, thus increasing the probability of discovery. This will help us sustain the great benefits our industry is providing to the North."

Since its inception in 2008, the GEM program has provided new maps and reports to help fill in the blanks on northern maps and upgrade limited geoscience information. According to the Prime Minister, this next phase of GEM funding will further develop modern geological maps and data sets that will completely cover Canada's North by 2020. In addition to helping the mining industry, the data will be of value to land-use planners, government and community agencies to inform resource exploration and development.

The Prime Minister made the announcement in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, during his 8th tour of the north.

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.