



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Prime Minister's Announcement of Training Funds Welcome News to the Northern Mining Industry**

(Yellowknife, NT – August 20, 2013) The delivery of \$5.8 million in new federal government funding for the NWT Mine Training Society's "Mining the Future" initiative is welcome news to the Chamber of Mines. Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement today during a visit to Hay River, NWT as part of his eighth annual northern tour.

"Mining The Future" is a program designed by the Mine Training Society to help the Northwest Territories' Aboriginal population take advantage of new opportunities in the mining industry. "Mining The Future" is supported by the funding announced today through the Federal Skills Partnership Fund, as well as equally generous in-kind and cash contributions from the Mine Training Society's industry, local government and educational partners.

"Federal training dollars, in partnership with our industry's significant investment in training northern residents, have been a critical ingredient to our success in making mining the largest private sector Aboriginal employer in the North," said Cathie Bolstad, Chamber President. "As a result, our mines are setting new standards for northern Aboriginal employment. In the NWT, just over half of our northern workforce is Aboriginal, and at Nunavut's gold mine, about 30% of its workers are Inuit."

Ten mining projects are currently advancing through the NWT and Nunavut environmental assessment and regulatory approvals processes. "These projects will require thousands of jobs over the next 10 years, and such government investments in training as the Prime Minister announced today recognizes the needs of our minerals industry and will continue to be critically important."

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).