

REBECCA ALTY

RESPONSE TO CHAMBER'S QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. What can Yellowknife do to actively support and pursue the opportunities that the six NWT mining projects that are in, or have cleared, the environmental approvals processes?

Yellowknife's ongoing work to make the city a destination of choice for new workers and a community with a high quality of life that encourages current residents to stay, both contribute to supporting mining projects within the NWT.

The City, along with Territorial and Chamber of Mines' leadership, should also meet with senior representatives of the companies to promote the benefits of having a workforce that resides in the NWT and discourage fly-in/fly-out plans that allow workers to live outside the NWT with no penalty.

Additionally, the City, in partnership with the NWT Association of Communities and the Chamber of Mines, should lobby the GNWT to share the property taxes they charge the mines. These revenues should be shared with communities where mine workers reside.

Finally, I would highly recommend that the Chamber of Mines arrange for regular meetings with the new Mayor and Council to develop a cooperative partnership to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for the community. Active engagement and constructive input from community organizations and agencies is the best means of seeing success.

2. Since Yellowknife's economy is intertwined with the Kitikmeot's, can Yellowknife partner with the Kitikmeot communities in supporting project success for mutual benefits?

This is an interesting suggestion that is worth at least initially pursuing early on in the term of the new Council. I propose that the new Mayor, following a meeting arranged by the Chamber of Mines, write an introductory letter to Kitikmeot community leaders to initiate a dialogue regarding possible mutual benefits. Having the Chamber of Mines act as a liaison between the communities and provide its thoughts on specific actions to achieve mutual benefits would be very helpful.

3. In the face of these opportunities, we also know our world class diamond mines won't last forever. Should the City take actions to help sustain those operations?

The operating diamond mines in the NWT are owned and run by very large, multi-national corporations. Decisions about their longer term operations are not made locally, and very likely not with the community or territorial interests at heart. Decisions about the economic viability of existing operations are driven by international markets with consideration of national economies. As such I do not believe the City could do a great deal to influence those decisions,

with the exception of, as mentioned in Response #1, continuing to make Yellowknife a community with a high quality of living that attracts and keeps residents.

And, as mentioned in other responses, initiating a cooperative partnership with the Chamber of Mines to regularly discuss and develop effective actions to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes would be favourable.

4. Should Yellowknife have its own plan Mineral Development Strategy, or will the benefits just naturally flow to Yellowknife? Could Yellowknife leaders proactively support projects for mutual success?

I don't believe it would be especially effective if the City spent resources to develop a Yellowknife-specific Mineral Development Strategy. Through the regular meetings Council has with Yellowknife MLAs, however, I feel that lobbying of the GNWT could be improved to ensure greater involvement when such Plans and Strategies are being developed for the Territory as a whole. I do believe the City needs to be more proactive in ensuring its voice is heard by the Territorial and Federal governments when long-term strategies are being developed.