



NEWS RELEASE

Exploration investment still strong in Nunavut and Yukon, growing in NWT

(Yellowknife, NT – November 27, 2012) Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) survey of mineral exploration companies forecasts 2012 northern exploration expenditures dropping in Nunavut and Yukon and rising in the Northwest Territories.

NRCan's latest semi-annual report *Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures, by Province and Territory* finalizes 2011 expenditures at the following (note record highs in Nunavut and Yukon):

- \$93.8 million in the NWT;
- \$535.7 million in Nunavut; and
- \$331.7 million in Yukon.

The survey also provides companies' spending intentions for 2012 at:

- \$135.5 million in the NWT, an increase of \$41.7 million (44%) from 2011;
- \$426.5 million in Nunavut, a decrease of \$109.2 million (20%) from the previous year; and
- \$291.7 million in Yukon, a decrease of \$40 million (12%).

In the overall Canadian context, total spending intentions for 2012 have been revised downwards to \$4.1 billion, a slight decrease of \$116 million (2%) from 2011. Nunavut continues to hold 4th place and the NWT 8th place in Canadian spending; the Yukon remains in 6th place.

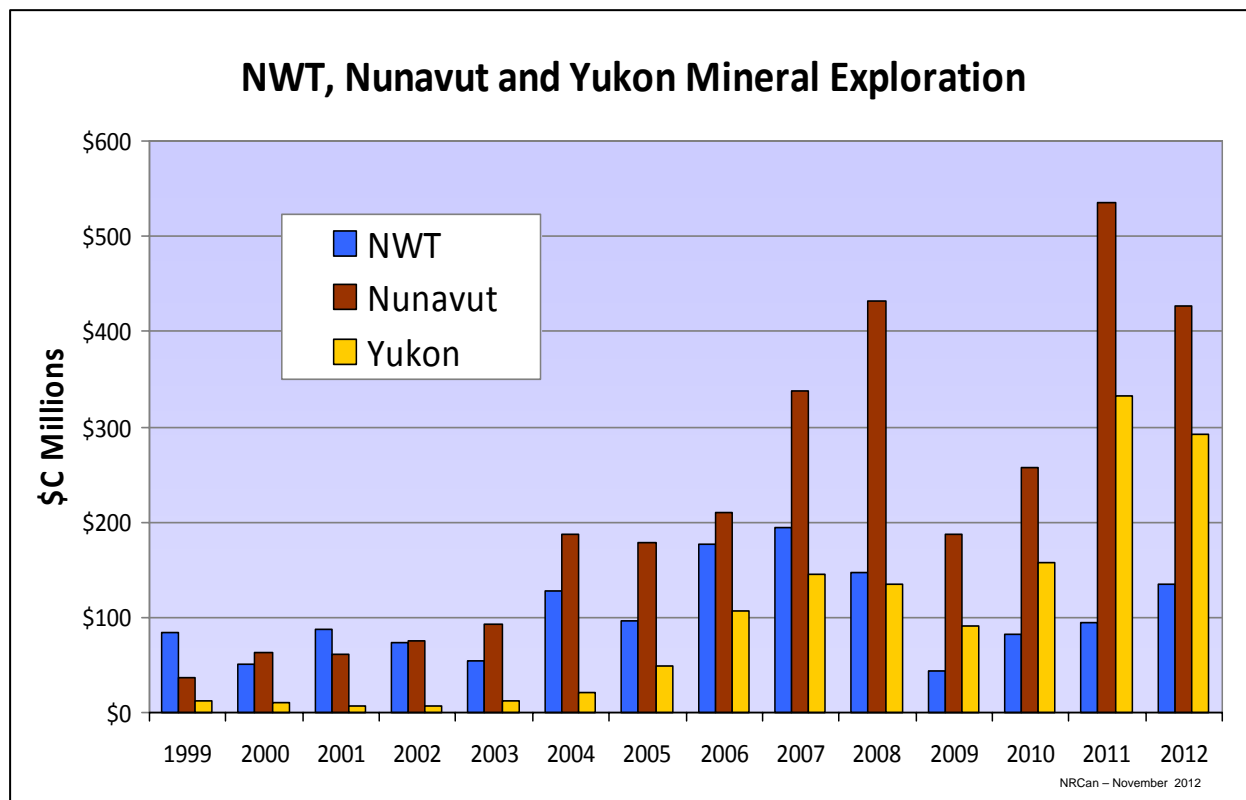
"While NRCan provides no details to explain their survey results, we can say that the good news is that mining projects in both the NWT and Nunavut continue to advance through the approvals processes," said Cathie Bolstad, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines. "Nunavut reached record investment levels last year due to its many large advanced projects and investment is still very robust. In fact, additional new projects have now entered the approvals stage."

Regarding the NWT, "We are pleasantly surprised to see that the NWT is bucking the northern trend with a projected increase of 44% over last year," said Ms. Bolstad. "We are cautiously optimistic that this reflects the good work being done by so many parties to improve the NWT's investment climate: the Federal government with regulatory improvement and its Northern Projects Management Office, the Territorial government to create a NWT Mineral Strategy, and our own Chamber's work with the Akaitcho to strengthen that Aboriginal community's support for mineral development."

NRCan's data includes on-mine-site and off-mine-site activities, field work, overhead costs, engineering, economic and pre- or production feasibility studies, environment, and land access costs. A chart for northern Canada's historical performance is attached as a Backgrounder to this release.

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director at Tel: 867-873-5281 or email: executivedirector@miningnorth.com. Visit our website at: www.miningnorth.com.

BACKGROUNDER



Notes:

- Expenditures reported include on-mine-site and off-mine-site activities, field work, overhead costs, engineering, economic and pre- or production feasibility studies, environment, and land access costs.
- 2011 figures are final
- 2012 figures are revised spending intentions as of September 2012