



## NEWS RELEASE

### Mining Industry Welcomes Northern Jobs and Growth Act

(Yellowknife, NT – November 6, 2012) The Chamber of Mines welcomes Bill C-47, the *Northern Jobs and Growth Act* as a welcome development for the North and its minerals industry.

1. In Nunavut, Bill C-47 creates Nunavut's first environmental assessment act, the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, fulfilling obligations under the Nunavut Land Claim of 1993. This will finally provide Nunavut with its own environmental management act as the NWT received with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in 1998 and the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* in 2003.
2. In the Northwest Territories, it creates the NWT Surface Rights Board Act, a long standing and unfulfilled Federal obligation promised under the Gwich'in and Sahtu land claims negotiated 20 years ago, and under the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative announced in 2010. A surface rights board will provide an incentive for proponents and land owners to resolve access disputes through negotiation.

"The North's significant mineral potential and the power of our industry to harness those resources can create much needed opportunities for northerners, and their governments through the generation of jobs, business opportunities and taxes," said Pamela Strand, President of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

Both the NWT and Nunavut governments are working expectantly to have the Federal Government devolve non-renewable resources and land management to them, the final outstanding responsibilities to their assuming province like responsibilities. The *Northern Jobs and Growth Act* will help strengthen the regulatory framework and will provide certainty to the investment climate in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Bill C-47 will help fill the outstanding gaps in legislation prior to devolution of non-renewable resources to the northern governments.

The Chamber of Mines believes more changes are still needed. Pamela Strand: "We now look forward expectantly to the Federal Government's modernization of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the oldest of the northern resource management acts. Adding such things as timelines, for example, will add process certainty and significantly help the NWT's investment climate. These Federal initiatives to modernize and complete the northern environmental framework will help Northerners to compete on the world stage in attracting investment, and in so doing put their resources to work."

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).