



## Media Release

### De Beers Canada diamonds make history in Ontario

*TORONTO, ON, March 24, 2009* – Two diamonds from the De Beers Canada Victor Mine - Ontario's first diamond mine - have been installed in the Legislative Mace presented to parliament today in a special ceremony in the Ontario Legislature. One diamond was cut and polished, while the other remained in its natural rough form.

The Mace was scheduled to undergo re-plating and repair when the House rose for winter recess in December 2008. The setting was designed by resident Canadian and De Beers jewelry award winner, Reena Ahluwalia.

De Beers Canada President & CEO Jim Gowans said the company is honoured to be a part of Canadian history. "The De Beers Canada Victor Mine is extremely proud of the superior quality diamonds we produce and equally proud to be able to share them with the people of Ontario in this historic way", said Gowans. "As Ontario's first diamond mine, we will continue to set high goals for our team to ensure we maximize the benefits of this world class operation for our employees, our community partners and the people of Ontario".

The De Beers Canada Victor Mine began operations in January 2008 and is located in the James Bay Lowlands on the traditional lands of Attawapiskat First Nation. Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Hall attended the ceremony at the Ontario Legislature on behalf of her community.

"The people of Attawapiskat First Nation have played a significant role in the development and operation of the De Beers Canada Victor Mine", said Chief Hall. "We will continue to work together in partnership with De Beers to further develop employment, training and business opportunities that result from the mine".

In addition to the two diamonds installed in the Mace, another cut and polished diamond from the De Beers Canada Victor Mine was donated for a display that will be set up later this year in the building's east gallery, showcasing the diamonds journey from Mine to Mace.

The three diamonds are the first certified diamonds in the province of Ontario, selected from the first commercial production of the De Beers Canada Victor Mine. The two cut and polished stones were actually cut at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario earlier this month.

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact:**

Tom Ormsby  
Manager, Public and Corporate Affairs – Victor Mine  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
T : +1 (705) 268 0988, ext 227  
C : +1 (705) 266 5830  
F : +1 (705) 268-0179  
[tom.ormsby@ca.debeersgroup.com](mailto:tom.ormsby@ca.debeersgroup.com)



## Background notes for editors:

### Mine to Mace project facts:

- Process began in April 2008
- De Beers Canada gifted three diamonds to the province
- The diamonds were selected from Victor's first run of mine by Ontario's Chief Gemologist, Ron Gashinski
- Two diamonds cut and polished in the legislative building, 1 remains rough
- One rough and one cut and polished stone have been set into the Mace
- The Mace was already scheduled for repairs to the gold plating beginning in December 2008
- All materials and services for the Mace update were donated by different companies and individuals, there was no cost to the taxpayers.
- Crossworks provided the skill and workmanship to cut and polish the stones and picked up the cost of transporting the necessary equipment to do it in the legislative building
- 3 oz of platinum for the setting was provided by Vale Inco
- Corona Jewellers repaired the Mace, set the diamonds and installed the setting
- The Mace was presented to the Legislative Assembly on March 24, 2009

### Mace Facts:

- 3rd Mace to be used in the legislature
- 1st Mace dates to 1792. It was captured by the Americans in the War of 1812 – it was later returned in 1934
- 2nd Mace was lost to fire in 1916 after being sent to Ottawa in 1867
- Current Mace was created in 1867
- The current Mace was last refurbished over 100 years ago to recognize the ascension of King Edward VII to the throne when Queen Victoria died in 1901. The modification saw the royal monogram on the cup changed from VR to ER.

### De Beers Canada Victor Mine overview:

- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine is the first diamond mine in Ontario and the second De Beers mine outside of Africa
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine is a fly-in / fly-out remote mine located approximately 90 kilometres west of the First Nation community of Attawapiskat in the James Bay Lowlands of northeastern Ontario
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine is an open-pit mine and is one of 18 kimberlite pipes discovered on the property in 1987-88, 16 of which are diamondiferous
- De Beers Canada invested \$1.022 billion in the construction of the Victor Mine
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine opened ten months ahead of schedule and under budget.
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine began operations in January 2008, reaching full production in July 2008
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine has signed five agreements with local First Nation communities, including two Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) that have been ratified by Attawapiskat and Moose Cree First Nations, as well as two IBAs in principle with Kashechewan and Fort Albany First Nations.
- 42% of the current workforce at the De Beers Canada Victor Mine are First Nation members.
- The De Beers Canada Victor Mine is expected to create \$6.7 billion in GDP growth for Ontario, \$4.2 billion of that GDP impact will be in northern Ontario.
- To date, the De Beers Canada Victor Mine has generated approximately \$200 million in Joint Venture partnerships with local First Nation communities.
- There are approximately 400 permanent employees working at the De Beers Canada Victor Mine
- Advanced exploration work is now taking place on previously-identified kimberlite pipes in the De Beers Canada Victor Mine lease area to determine their economic viability.

### De Beers Canada Victor Mine Area:

- Victor kimberlite has a surface area of 15 hectares
- Daily tonnes process capacity: 7,100 tonnes per day
- Average annual tonnes processed: 2.7 million tonnes
- Average annual carats produced: 600,000 carats

