



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **STUDENTS FROM TRAINING PROGRAM HIRED TO WORK AT SNAP LAKE MINE**

**Yellowknife (January 31, 2008)** – De Beers Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the hiring of seven Northwest Territories students from the Aurora College Mineral Processing Plant Operator Trainee (MPOT) program.

The MPOT program began last June and saw students from a variety of NWT communities attend twelve weeks of classes at Aurora College's Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith followed by practical work experience at the Snap Lake Mine process plant on a two-week in, two-week out rotation for three months.

The work placement experience for the students came at a time when De Beers was commissioning the new Snap Lake process plant. Addressing the students at their graduation celebration, Cathie Bolstad, Manager of Public & Corporate Affairs said, "Over the summer, trainees watched and worked with De Beers' employees, as they tested and commissioned new systems. Students worked with some of the best metallurgists whose expertise in diamond processing guided De Beers' employees and trainees, making the work experience a rich learning environment and providing the students with an opportunity to showcase their own capabilities."

De Beers worked with the Mine Training Society of the NWT, the North Slave Métis Alliance, Aurora College, Government of the Northwest Territories, and other industry partners to offer the Mineral Processing Operator Training (MPOT) Program.

Students who completed the six-month program are being honoured today during a ceremony in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

De Beers has set aside forty training positions at the Snap Lake Mine for apprenticeships, underground mining and other trades training. The company's goal is to have all forty positions staffed within three years of commencing production.

The Snap Lake Mine is currently in commissioning and is on target to reaching full commercial production by mid-2008.



DE BEERS CANADA INC.  
SUITE 300 – 5102 50<sup>th</sup> AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT CANADA X1A 3S8  
TEL: (867) 766 7300 FAX: (867) 766 7347



*\* Photos available upon request*

**For more information contact:**

Cathie Bolstad

Manager of Public & Corporate Affairs

Tel. (867) 766-7325

Cell (867) 444-9872

- 2 of 2 -