



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DE BEERS CANADA SNAP LAKE MINE WELCOMES FIRST APPRENTICES

Yellowknife (Nov. 28, 2007) – De Beers Canada Inc. is pleased to announce that the first nine Northwest Territories (NWT) apprentices have started work at the Snap Lake Mine. It is expected that the number of apprentices at Snap Lake will be a dozen by the end of 2007.

The new apprentices are training as Millwrights and Electricians; the others are placed with Sandvik Mining and Construction at Snap Lake and are training as Heavy Duty Mechanics. All apprentices have successfully passed their pre-trades entrance exams and are from the Northwest Territories, coming from Yellowknife, Behchoko, Fort Smith and Hay River.

One of the new apprentice Millwrights has a special connection to De Beers. This past June, Adrian Gherghe won the De Beers Kimberlite Award as the top student at Yellowknife Catholic Schools' Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre (KCTC). The award is presented annually to a student who shows pride in their work and has a positive, constructive attitude, among other criteria. Gherghe was one of the De Beers employees on hand to meet the Honourable Chuck Strahl, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada, during Mr. Strahl's visit to the Snap Lake Mine in early November.

"We are delivering on our commitment to invest in the development of a skilled NWT workforce," said Kelly Arychuk, Manager of Human Resources for De Beers. "We received many applications for these training positions, and we have been able to select all Aboriginal apprentices from within the NWT. Our apprenticeship program is designed to ensure trainees can focus on one thing – achieving journeyman status with our full support."

De Beers is also currently supporting a Mineral Processing Operator Trainee Program with the Mine Training Society, Aurora College and the North Slave Métis Alliance. In December, the company will select up to eight graduates of the program for full-time employment at the Snap Lake Mine.

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.



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Photo available



Filename: Snap Lake Apprentice.jpg

Caption:

photo courtesy of De Beers Canada

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada, left, chats with Adrian Gherghe, right, during a visit to De Beers Canada's Snap Lake Mine in early November. In the background is Chantal Lavoie, vice president, NWT Projects. Gherghe is one of the first nine apprentices hired to work at the Mine.