



Media Release

De Beers Canada signs on to the NWT Mining Workforce Initiative

Yellowknife, November 27, 2008 - De Beers Canada, in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and the two other diamond producers in the NWT have today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together toward building a cooperative and focused plan, called the “**NWT Mining Workforce Initiative**”.

The initiative focuses on increased collaboration between industry and the Government of the NWT for northern skills development, and for recruitment and retention of NWT residents to the diamond industry workforce.

“This is a cooperative agreement between government and the diamond industry,” said Chantal Lavoie, Senior Vice President for De Beers Canada. “It establishes a new way of working together collectively and it builds on the individual commitments and successes we have already achieved. This will add support to strengthen and grow the participation of NWT residents in the success of our projects here.”

The MOU builds on the commitments made by the diamond mines individually in their respective Socio-Economic Agreements (SEA) with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

De Beers Canada entered into a SEA with the GNWT in May 2004 for the Snap Lake Mine. The SEA outlines how De Beers Canada, First Nation partners and the territorial government will collaborate to ensure benefits from mining projects flow to NWT residents.

“For De Beers Canada, this MOU is one more mechanism, including Impact Benefit Agreements, training commitments, and Environmental Agreements, that illustrate our commitment to ensuring that the communities where we operate benefit from our investment.” Lavoie stated.

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