

SNAP LAKE MINE | NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Canada's first completely underground diamond mine

The Snap Lake Mine is De Beers' first mine outside of Africa, and is Canada's only completely underground diamond mine. It is wholly owned by De Beers Canada Inc.


Snap Lake Mine is unique. The kimberlite is a dyke that averages about 2.5 metres thick and slopes down beneath Snap Lake at an average of 12 degrees, making it challenging and complex to mine.

Located 220 km northeast of Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories, Snap Lake Mine officially opened 25 July 2008.

The company has Impact Benefit Agreements with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (2005), Tlicho Government (2006), North Slave Métis Alliance (2006) and Lutsel K'e and Kache Dene First Nation (2007).

De Beers Canada also agreed to Northern employment, training and procurement targets, and has made commitments to support social and cultural well being in a Socio-Economic Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories (2004). An Environmental Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada and First Nations is also in place.

In the NWT, our social investment is focused on education, literacy, and culture.

To advance literacy levels in the NWT, De Beers has provided close to 30,000 free books to students in Aboriginal communities over the past nine years through its annual *Books in Homes* Program.

De Beers acquires project	Permits approved	Start of construction
		
		

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

FAST FACTS

Capital cost	\$975M
Mine life	20+ years
Mine-site area	>500 ha
Recoverable grade (above 1mm)	1.2c/t
Annual processing capacity (tonnes)	1.1M
Actual processing in 2010 (tonnes)	855,000
Annual production capacity (carats)	1.4M
Actual production in 2010 (carats)	926,000
Production workforce	635 PY (2010)
Northern workforce	229 PY (2010)
Investment to date (July 2011)	\$1.5B
NWT spend to date (July 2011)	\$1.05B
Aboriginal spend to date (July 2011)	\$676M
Social investment in 2010	\$2.9M
Closest Community	Lutsel K'e (~130 km)

Updated: September 2011