



## **Yukon Mine Training Association**

### **YMTA and Northern Safety Network Yukon Bring New Training Program to Yukon.**

(May 27, 2010 Whitehorse) - A new program teaching Heavy Equipment Operating has found a home in the Yukon with the Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA).

YMTA has purchased a new curriculum for a Heavy Equipment Operator Program. The curriculum is recognized by the Alberta Government. Northern Safety Network Yukon (NSNY) will be the delivery agent for this course and the first offering will begin early summer 2010.

"The purchase of this curriculum means that training can be delivered in Yukon at any time, and that NSNY will be able to deliver this course as often as it is needed," said YMTA executive director Tracy Thomas. "The YMTA is delighted to have had the funding to be able to purchase this much needed program for Yukon and to potentially be available as a funding source to help cover the tuition of this training."

The 12-week course includes training on real equipment, classroom work, basic equipment care and maintenance and hands-on experience. It will provide students with the opportunity to operate backhoe loaders, wheel loaders, and other pieces of machinery in a safe environment and to master industry tasks such as sloping, cutting grade, and rigging.

"The course teaches the basic techniques needed for heavy equipment operation, and gives students a chance to try driving equipment that they might otherwise not have a chance to try until they are on a work site," said Northern Safety Network's Nick Tilgner. "The delivery of this course in the Yukon will increase skill levels in the territory, and also make work sites safer by ensuring that Yukon workers have the opportunity to learn new skills in a safe environment."

Funding for this program was provided by the Government of Canada

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#### **Background:**

**Yukon Mine Training Association:**

The Yukon Mine Training Association is a partnership between the Yukon's mining industry and First Nations. YMTA works to maximize employment opportunities emerging from the growth of the mining and related resource industries in the North.

#### **Northern Safety Network Yukon**

The Northern Safety Network Yukon (NSNY) is funded by the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and directed by an industry-led steering committee. The goal of the NSNY is to foster a commitment to occupational health and safety among Yukon workers and employers.

NSNY administers an occupational health and safety certification program for Yukon employers. Aimed at reducing workplace accidents and injuries, the Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program helps Yukon companies develop and maintain company-wide safety programs, introduces standardized training, and monitors the safety program through annual audits. NSNY also offers job-specific training in a number of areas.

#### **Heavy Equipment Operator Training:**

YMTA purchased the Heavy Equipment Operator Training course from High Velocity Equipment Training (HVET). Northern Safety Network Yukon (NSNY) will start to deliver the training in the summer of 2010. Each 12-week course will be open to 12-14 students, with enrollment dependent on space in each program and interest. Class and field time is scheduled in 7-hour shifts for five days a week for the duration of the course. The Heavy Equipment Operator Program develops the trainees' ability on the equipment, and further develops their eye-hand coordination to get them prepared to enter the workforce.

For more course information go to:

[http://www.yukonsafety.com/heo\\_course.htm](http://www.yukonsafety.com/heo_course.htm)