



## **Yukon Mine Training Association**

### **Computer Simulator Training Builds Expert Workforce**

(February 10, Whitehorse)

The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) announced today that its next training program will begin Feb. 16, 2009. The Heavy Equipment Operator Simulator Training course uses a combination of video screens, a replica equipment cab, and computer modeling to teach the high-level skills needed by heavy equipment operators on Yukon work sites.

“This 20-day training program is designed to ensure that heavy equipment operators are able to navigate safely through challenging workplace situations,” said YMTA training coordinator Jennifer Russell. “The course will increase workplace safety, and give equipment operators an opportunity to test their skills, and add to the number of skilled workers in the Yukon.”

YMTA is offering two sessions of the course, each focusing on three types of heavy equipment. One session will focus on Cat Haul Trucks, Cat 992 Wheel Loaders, and Cat D10R Dozers. In the other session, the focus will be on Cat Haul Trucks, Cat Mass Excavator and Hydraulic Shovels.

“We are glad to be able to offer the training that will continue to ensure that trained and ready staff are available for mining and mining-related industries in the Territory,” said YMTA director Tracy Thomas. “This series of courses is designed to ensure that new operators gain experience, and that experienced operators can perfect the skills they have.”

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.

The Government of Canada has contributed funding to this initiative.

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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.

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

Simulator training allows individuals who would like to become heavy equipment operators driving and operating techniques for heavy equipment under controlled conditions. The simulator training will be taught by Nuna Training Technologies. The course will be offered twice. The first session will focus on Cat Haul Trucks, Cat 992 Wheel Loaders, and Cat D10R Dozers. In the second session, the focus will be on Cat Haul Trucks, Cat Mass Excavator and Hydraulic Shovels.