

## **YUKON MINE TRAINING ASSOCIATION**

### **FOR RELEASE**

Thursday, September 6, 2007

### **YUKON MINE TRAINING ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES FUNDING AGREEMENTS**

**WHITEHORSE:** The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) is pleased to announce funding agreements are now in place to develop standards for occupations and training and to assist with training that leads to employment in the mining and related resource sectors.

#### **Northern Strategy Funding**

YMTA has formally reached a \$1,000,000 funding arrangement, with Yukon's Department of Economic Development under the Northern Strategy Trust, to provide training that leads to employment in the mining industry. The decision to allocate was a unanimous decision made by the Yukon Forum, a meeting of all Yukon First Nation Chiefs and the Yukon Government, in December 2006.

The Northern Strategy Trust was established by Canada as a contribution toward the implementation of the Northern Strategy; a strategic plan for the development of Canada's north. The trust comprised \$120 million, with \$40 million each allotted to Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Each Territory was given broad discretion for determining how its share of the trust would be used to advance the objectives of the Northern Strategy.

#### **Yukon Workers' Compensation Funding**

YMTA has also been approved for \$853,000 over a multi-year funding agreement under the Yukon Workers' Compensation and Health Safety Board's Prevention Fund.

The YWCHSB has a \$5 million temporary Prevention Fund to support the start-up of initiatives that benefit Yukon workers and employers by building a strong safety culture and preventing work-related injuries and illnesses.

## **Yukon Mine Training and Exploration Funding**

The YMTA has also assumed the remaining \$185,000 of the Yukon Mining & Exploration Training Trust Fund (YMETTF) from the Yukon Chamber of Mines, delivered under the Advanced Education unit of Yukon's Department of Education.

The YMETTF was established by the Department of Education in 1997 to support the development and implementation of a mine training plan and training.

"We are very appreciative of the assistance of Advanced Education, the Yukon Workers' Compensation Board and the Department of Economic Development for all their support," said YMTA Chair Bill Dunn. "This type of initiative takes a huge effort to start and implement and we appreciate all of their efforts to help us succeed."

The Yukon Mine Training Association is continuing its efforts to access other funding programs to enhance training and employment opportunities while it implements its new operations.

The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) is a partnership between the Yukon's mining industry and First Nations. We are committed to working together to maximize employment opportunities emerging from the growth of the mining sector in the North for First Nations and other Yukoners. The YMTA is managing the Mine Training Fund presenting a multi-level program designed to increase the profile of employment and opportunities in the mining sector, assist in attraction and retention in the work force and facilitate the delivery of targeted skills and training programs in the mining industry in the midst of an expanding sector in the Yukon. The YMTA also ensures that safety training is developed and delivered, meeting industry standards.

### **For more information contact:**

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