



PRESS RELEASE

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Whitehorse

New Board Appointments to Yukon Mine Training Association Board of Directors

Whitehorse: The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) is pleased to announce today that Paul Birckel, Dave Keenan and Greg Charlie have been appointed to the Board of Directors.

“I look forward to the challenge of getting our First Nations people and all Yukoners ready to benefit from existing and upcoming demand for resource development jobs,” says Mr. Birckel.

Mr. Birckel has served as Chief of the Champagne-Aishihik First Nation and was instrumental in the delivery of his nation’s self-government agreement. Mr. Birckel has been the recipient of the Commissioner's Award for Public Service and was previously named Yukon Chamber Business Person of the Year. He serves on the Yukon Energy Board of Directors and the Alsek Renewable Resource Council.

“I applaud YMTA for thinking ahead and submitting an application to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program (ASEP). This money will be critical to prepare a Yukon-based workforce with skills suitable to mining and related resource development industries,” explains Mr. Keenan.

Mr. Keenan has served as Vice Chief and Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations and has also served as Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, also instrumental in the delivery of his nation’s self-government agreement. He is currently a member of the Yukon Territory Water Board and the Yukon Environment and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB). He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Yukon Territory and served as Minister of Community and Transportation Services and Minister of Tourism.

“I would like to bring my knowledge of the Yukon’s north to YMTA,” explains Mr. Charlie. “When approached to join the board I could immediately see the benefits training Yukoners will bring not only to mining but also the oil and gas sector. It’s definitely time to prepare.”

Greg Charlie is a Vice President of Air North “Yukon’s Airline” and has served as Chair of Yukon Indian Development Corporation. He is a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and is presently employed by Northern Cross, a small energy company engaged in exploring and developing remote energy resources to serve the local and regional markets in the Yukon.

“We look forward to having these new board members and welcome the leadership experience and knowledge they bring to YMTA,” explains Bill Dunn, YMTA Chair.

The new board members now join the following people representing YMTA:

Bill Dunn, Sherwood Copper Ltd.

Al Doherty, Aurum Geological Consultants

Mike McDougall, Klondike Placer Miners Association

Harlan Meade, Yukon Zinc Corporation

Robert Rodger, Tagish Lake Gold

Pat Van Bibber, Selkirk First Nation/Sherwood Copper Ltd.

Justin Himmelright, Selwyn Resources Ltd.

Joseph Nayally, Kwänlin Dun First Nation

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 and related resource industries in the North for First Nations and other Yukoners. The YMTA also ensures that safety training is developed and delivered, meeting industry standards. The YMTA is funded by industry, First Nations, Yukon government, Workers’ Compensation Board Prevention Fund and the Northern Strategy.

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