



Yukon Mine Training Association

Youth in Mining: YMTA, Selkirk FN and Minto Mine create a path to a bright future

(August 3, 2009 Pelly Crossing) –

The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) announced today that it is providing funding to the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) to carry-out a “Youth in Mining” Project at the Minto Mine Site.

“With this is exciting project we are aiming to expose youth to new opportunities, ignite interest in post-secondary education and assist them in making informed career choices,” said Sheila Sergy, who was hired by SFN as the Youth in Mining Project Coordinator.

Following an interview process, eight SFN students between the ages of 16 and 21 were chosen to spend five weeks in a job placement. The eight students will work under the direction of a mentor at Minto mine in their chosen area of interest. Career paths range from environment, health & safety, mill worker, maintenance and metallurgy.

“So far, the enthusiasm of the youth has been overwhelming”, said Sheila “When they come back into the community from the mine site, they are overflowing with stories of their week and the new knowledge and experience they have acquired.”

In addition to the on-the-job training, the students will participate in various workshops for the remainder of the summer ending with a tour of Yukon College and a wind-up celebration dinner. The workshops will include expertise from the SFN community of Pelly Crossing and professionals in the mining industry, such as geologists and surveyors.

“YMTA is proud to support SFN and encourage our youth to finish high school and pursue further education,” said Tracy Thomas, YMTA Executive Director. “We are very pleased to see that Minto Mine has partnered with SFN and YMTA to make this project a success and we are counting on the successes of this project to generate interest from other communities and companies to deliver similar projects,” she added.

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:

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Selkirk First Nation Youth in Mining Project

This project has been coordinated by Selkirk First Nation in partnership with YMTA and Minto Mine. Eight SFN Students are working under a mentor at the Minto Mine Site from the beginning of July until August 5th. They will then be involved in various types of workshops that will prepare them for entering post-secondary educational programs and the workforce. The community of Pelly Crossing will be holding a wind-up dinner on August 27th to celebrate the students' successes in the program.