



news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada creates partnerships to improve opportunities for Aboriginal people in Yukon

Whitehorse, Yukon, July 8, 2008—A project that provides Aboriginal people with the skills development, support and training that they need to find jobs in Yukon was announced today.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, made the announcement along with the Honourable Dennis Fentie, Premier of Yukon, and Mr. Bill Dunn, Chair of the Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA).

The Government of Canada is contributing approximately \$9.3 million through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program for the “Partnership, People, Production: Get Into It” project operated by the YMTA.

“The Government of Canada is committed to creating the best educated, most skilled and most flexible work force in the world,” said Minister Ambrose. “The “Get Into It” project will offer Aboriginal people the skills they need to find and keep good quality jobs, help industry facing labour shortages and strengthen the local economy.”

Total funding for the “Partnership, People, Production: Get Into It” project could reach over \$19 million over five years leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.

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The Yukon Mine Training Association

The Yukon Mine Training Association (YMTA) works to increase employment and opportunities in the mining sector, assists with attraction and retention in the work force, and facilitates the delivery of targeted skills and training programs. The YMTA also ensures that safety training is developed and delivered to meet national standards.

The YMTA was first envisaged in October 2005 by a small industry steering committee. In early 2006, there was a foundational meeting in which Yukon First Nations Chiefs and Yukon mining chief executive officers came together to agree on a vision of First Nations-Industry partnership in developing a northern work force.

In 2006, the organization took shape, a board of directors was developed, the organization was registered and formal development of its vision, purpose and policies was initiated. Seed funding was provided through the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

In 2007, the organization started delivering small-scale training programs. The Board was strengthened and a project manager was hired to develop the organization to its full potential. YMTA secured additional funding sources through Worker's Compensation Board, Northern Strategies, and the Targeted Investment Program.