



News release

Premier Okalik tours diamond polishing factory

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 10, 2001) – Premier Paul Okalik is touring a diamond-polishing factory in Puerto Rico this week as part of the Government of Nunavut’s commitment to develop employment opportunities for Nunavummiut within the mining sector.

Premier Okalik accompanied representatives from Tahera Corporation’s Jericho Diamond Mine Project to the Lazare Kaplan factory in Puerto Rico. The tour of Lazare Kaplan’s Puerto Rico diamond polishing factory will focus on the training methods used at the lab and their potential application at the Jericho Diamond Mine, which is under development near the north end of Contwoyto Lake in western Nunavut.

Premier Okalik was also accompanied by Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk and Kitikmeot Inuit Association President Charlie Evalik.

“Seeking out opportunities and developing these relationships is a key to the growth of the mining sector in Nunavut,” Premier Okalik said. “There is a wealth of potential in the territory and the government is committed to working with businesses to ensure that Nunavummiut are part of their success.”

Last year exploration companies invested almost 40 million dollars in their search for mineral deposits in Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to exploring new business opportunities within the mining industry through partnerships and environmental responsibility. The government will work to develop new projects to ensure that Nunavummiut and communities benefit fully from these opportunities.

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