

News Release

Partnership to Promote Mine-Related Training Announced

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut (November 27, 2007) – The Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission, Miramar Hope Bay Ltd., Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement to develop cooperative ventures in education, labour force research, and training associated with mine-related opportunities. This MOU will also cover projects such as the development of career orientation programs, transition to work programs, certification and registry requirements for the purpose of developing a seamless approach to services from kindergarten to grade 12 to adult training.

“Partnerships between communities, Inuit organizations, government and industry are critical to ensuring that Nunavummiut receive the increasing benefits of development activities,” said Minister of Education, Ed Picco. “Central to assessment and planning is the Nunavut Community Skills Information System (NCSIS) which recently received national recognition for Innovation. NCSIS is delivered at the community level, helping Nunavummiut take advantage of employment opportunities by determining their skills and training needs. NCSIS will provide the necessary data for regional training committees to identify what training is needed, where and when,” added Picco.

Donald Havioyak, President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, said: “Our region has experienced tremendous growth in the minerals sector over the past several years. This partnership will add to our efforts in achieving our goal of ensuring Inuit benefit from this development.”

The first activity being launched under the new agreement is a jointly-funded and developed underground mine training program which will be launched early in the New Year. This program is critical to the Kitikmeot region as mining activities move underground and will provide Kitikmeot residents with transferable skills and certification to work on the Doris North project and elsewhere.

“It has always been Miramar’s philosophy that we can best contribute to the region and to our own growing employment needs by encouraging and enhancing education and training opportunities in Nunavut, particularly the western Kitikmeot,” said Tony Walsh, Miramar’s President and CEO. “We view our contributions to this initiative as an investment in the region. We are truly excited to be involved in such an innovative endeavour and look forward to continuing to provide employment opportunities for Nunavut, especially for graduates of the program.”

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