

MINING WORKS FOR CANADA


L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE PARTENAIRE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



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A Mining–Inuit Partnership Centred on Traditional Knowledge



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MAC Consulting on Aboriginal Policy

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MAC Consulting on Aboriginal Policy

by Pierre Gratton, Vice President of Sustainable Development and Public Affairs, Mining Association of Canada

ON NOVEMBER 22, 2006 the MAC Board adopted a draft policy Framework on Mining and Aboriginal Peoples as part of MAC's *Toward Sustainable Mining* (TSM) Initiative. TSM is a major MAC initiative designed to help improve the social and environmental performance of the Canadian mining industry. Developing positive relationships with Aboriginal people is a key objective for TSM and the draft framework articulates broad policy commitments in this area. It remains draft because MAC is committed to undertaking further discussions with Aboriginal communities and organizations in 2007–08 on its contents and on actions to support the commitments.

On October 15–16, 2007, MAC held a workshop on the framework in Yellowknife, in collaboration with MAC's diamond producers and five Aboriginal organizations. We asked for input on how the framework could be improved, what it means to northern Aboriginal communities and their expectations for acting on it. We also learned about their experiences with the diamond mines and how these companies are acting relative to the framework.

It was a rich dialogue marked by candour and goodwill. A full report of the workshop is

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LA COMMUNAUTÉ

Consultations de l'AMC sur la politique relative aux Autochtones

par Pierre Gratton, vice-président, développement durable et affaires publiques, l'Association minière du Canada

LE 22 NOVEMBRE 2006, le Conseil de l'AMC a adopté un cadre stratégique provisoire sur l'activité minière et les peuples autochtones dans le contexte de son initiative *Vers le développement minier durable* (VDMD). Il s'agit d'une grande initiative de l'AMC qui vise à améliorer le rendement socioenvironnemental de l'industrie minière au Canada. L'établissement de relations fécondes avec les peuples autochtones en est un objectif primordial et le cadre stratégique énonce les engagements généraux pris dans ce domaine. Le cadre demeure provisoire, parce que l'AMC entend poursuivre les discussions avec les collectivités et les groupes autochtones en 2007 2008 au sujet du contenu et des mesures à prendre en ce sens.

Les 15 et 16 octobre, l'AMC a tenu un atelier sur ce cadre à Yellowknife avec cinq organismes autochtones dans une collaboration avec les producteurs diamantifères membres. Nous avons sollicité l'avis des gens sur les améliorations pouvant être apportées au cadre stratégique, sur la signification de celui-ci pour les collectivités autochtones du Nord et sur les attentes quant aux mesures à prendre. Nous avons appris ce qu'est leur

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Quick Facts

- 1200 Aboriginal communities located within 200 km of producing mines and 2100 exploration properties across Canada
- While total labour force in mining declined from 1996 – 2001, Aboriginal participation increased by 21 %



THIS QUARTERLY NEWS FEDERAL POLICY ISSUE MINING WORKS FOR C

ECONOMY

Mining Sector Offers Jobs, Training for Aboriginal Peoples

by Carolyn Purden

WHEN NATIONAL CHIEF Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations addressed an audience of 330 members of the mineral industry on October 12 at a luncheon organized by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), it marked a tangible sign of the increasingly close partnership between Aboriginal peoples and the industry that is one of their biggest employers. In his remarks, Fontaine explored the economic opportunities that exist for both Aboriginal peoples and the mineral exploration industry in their growing relationship.

Within the next eight years, the mining and minerals industry will need more than 80,000 new employees, and it will be looking to Aboriginal communities to supply a growing part of this need. For that reason, the industry has been partnering with Aboriginal peoples on a number of projects whose goal is to make Aboriginal communities more sustainable through education, training and employment.

Aboriginal communities are a natural place for the industry to look for its employees—there are some 1,200 communities across Canada that are within 200 km of mineral operations.

However, National Chief Fontaine stressed in his presentation that any development in collaboration with Aboriginal people has to be economically beneficial, environmentally sustainable, and show respect for their cultures, values and particularly, treaty rights.

“First Nations people are not anti-development,” he said. “Our people want exactly what



you want: healthy children and grandchildren with a good future, who will have a chance to share in the benefits and prosperity of this abundant land.”

In recent years, the PDAC has initiated several projects to inform Aboriginal people about the mineral exploration industry and the opportunities it offers. At the same time, in its search for minerals and metals, the industry is benefiting from the traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal peoples.

One result of this effort can be seen at the annual PDAC International Convention, which annually attracts some 17,000 delegates from around the world. In 2006 and 2007, the convention program dedicated a half day to the discussion of Aboriginal participation in mineral exploration in Canada and overseas. Another half-day session is planned for the 2008 convention, to be held in Toronto in March.

The PDAC along with MAC, Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Aboriginal Mineral Association also participated in the development of a Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities that describes the mining cycle, from early exploration to mine closure, and helps communities to identify ways in which exploration and mining can help them become more sustainable.

Carolyn Purden is a communications consultant who works with the exploration industry. ■

NEWSLETTER IS DESIGNED TO INFORM YOU OF CURRENT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO OF CANADA PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

KNOWLEDGE

A Mining–Inuit Partnership Centred on Traditional Knowledge

A FIRST IN CANADA

FOR 12 YEARS NOW, traditional Inuit knowledge has been at the heart of a unique project involving BHP Billiton and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. These partners, along with Rescan, an environmental consulting firm, have created a database to capture the ecological knowledge of the Inuit from the western Kitikmeot region.

The GIS-based database contains information about the Slave Geological Province, some 720,000 square kilometres of Arctic tundra that covers parts of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (see map below). The information

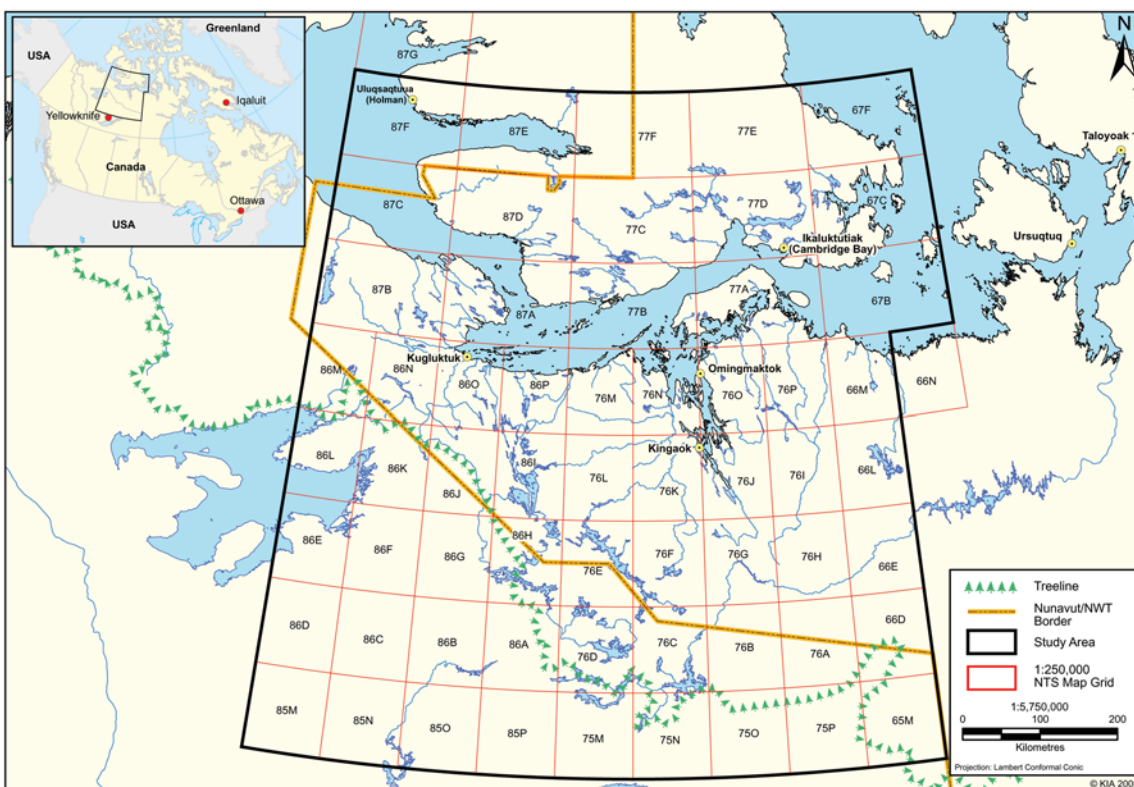
was collected so that traditional Inuit knowledge could be incorporated into environmental screening processes, as well as into environmental management at BHP Billiton's EKATI diamond mine.

The project, known as the NTKP, or Naonayaotit Traditional Knowledge Project (*Naonayaotit* is Inuit for "seeking knowledge"), will benefit the Inuit of western Kitikmeot in two ways. First, it will help inform future decision making about their traditional territory. Second, it will preserve hundreds of years of Inuit knowledge for generations to come.

The idea for the NTKP came in 1996, during the environmental assessment for the EKATI diamond mine in the Northwest Territories. The environmental review board required the mine to give traditional knowledge equal consideration alongside scientific and engineering knowledge when developing the mine. This requirement was a first in Canada.

The information was collected so that traditional Inuit knowledge could be incorporated into environmental screening processes.

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on MAC's website at www.mining.ca/www/Towards_Sustaining_Mining/index.php. Additional workshops are planned over the coming year with Aboriginal communities in different parts of the country. ■

Politique relative aux Autochtones suite de la page 1

expérience des mines de diamant et comment les sociétés en question agissent par rapport à ce cadre.

Ce riche dialogue a été empreint de franchise et de bonne volonté. On en trouvera le compte rendu complet au site Web de l'AMC à l'adresse www.mining.ca/www/Towards_Sustaining_Mining/index.php. Pour la prochaine année, on prévoit d'autres ateliers avec les collectivités autochtones dans diverses régions du pays. ■

Did You Know?

Three MAC members – Diavik Diamond Mines, Syncrude Canada Ltd. and Cameco – have all achieved Gold standing by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business through the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program.

PAR is a way for businesses to earn the right to use an identifying hallmark indicating that they are committed to increasing Aboriginal employment, assisting business development, building individual capacity, and enhancing community relations. PAR sets out a framework for establishing performance benchmarks in organizations that want to develop mutually beneficial relations—or enhance relationships they already have—with Aboriginal individuals, businesses and communities. It is about creating mutual opportunities for Aboriginal people and the business community.

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As a result, BHP Billiton staff and consultants worked with elders and community members from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to develop a framework for collecting traditional knowledge and a platform for storing, querying and graphically retrieving the knowledge. The partnership they formed continues today, as BHP Billiton works with the Inuit owners of this knowledge to build capacity that will make the project a sustainable and integral part of environmental management at the EKATI mine.

The NTKP's first major product was an atlas of place names in 2004. The second was a series of 13 reports on topics such as heritage and culture, wildlife and land use, water quality and Inuit opinions on exploration, research and development. The third major product is the GIS database, a valuable tool for Inuit land managers.

As the NTKP has progressed, the Inuit and BHP Billiton have worked together to solve problems related to environmental management at EKATI. To begin with, the two parties developed methods acceptable to both Aboriginal groups and government for removing fish from lakes that had to be drained before mining. Then, as part of BHP Billiton's Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program, Inuit hunters helped develop a system that tracks wolverine presence near the mine.

More recently, the Inuit have spent several years at EKATI evaluating how caribou move in and around the mine site. The result is a series of experimental inokhok fences that steer herds of caribou around the site. The Inuit will continue to monitor these fences and study their effectiveness.

As the owner of the NTKP, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association will benefit from the database when making decisions that affect traditional Inuit lands. And resource developers will benefit as well. Like BHP Billiton, they can turn to the database for invaluable information on how to design and manage resource activities to minimize their ecological effects. ■