

New Care and Maintenance Arrangement at Giant Mine

YELLOWKNIFE (March 15, 2005) - New arrangements are being made for the care and maintenance of Giant Mine, including an approximately \$8-million contract awarded to the Deton'Cho Nuna Joint Venture. The new arrangements will take effect on June 1, 2005.

The announcement was made jointly today by the Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Member of Parliament for Western Arctic and Minister of State (Northern Development) and the Honourable Brendan Bell, Northwest Territories Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED).

"I'm very pleased that a northern joint venture, including a Ndilo-based company, has won such a significant project in the NWT," said Minister Scott. "As we continue to protect the health and safety of Northerners and the environment by cleaning up contaminated sites, I am pleased to note that through the awarding of this contract we are also supporting northern and Aboriginal economic development. This approach is, therefore, fully consistent with our proposed goals for the Northern Strategy."

"We have seen through other contaminated sites projects that it is very important to involve local residents in the work being done on these sites," said Minister Blondin-Andrew. "This contract provides local residents with both the opportunity to be actively involved in the project and to gain valuable work skills that may be used on other sites in the future."

The two-year contract covers all care and maintenance activities at the site, which includes ensuring the mine remains in compliance with relevant environmental regulations, maintaining site security and public safety, facilities maintenance, management of mine water, treatment of effluent and effective site monitoring. After an international competition carried out by Public Works and Government Services, Western Region, the contract was awarded to Deton'Cho Nuna Joint Venture, which submitted the best technical proposal at the lowest overall cost.

In accordance with the new Cooperation Agreement between DIAND and the GNWT regarding Giant Mine, the GNWT is contributing \$1 million per year for three years toward the care and maintenance of the site.

"This contract is a critical first step in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement on the joint management and remediation of the Giant Mine site," said Minister Bell. "The awarding of this contract to a northern business sends a clear message that NWT

businesses are ready, willing and able to compete on an international scale to handle major environmental contracts.”

Deton'Cho Nuna is a joint venture between Ndilo-based Deton'Cho Corporation, which is a 100% Aboriginal-owned business, and another northern company Nuna Logistics Limited. Deton'Cho Corporation is the economic arm of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Created in 1988, it is owned by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation membership and has extensive experience providing support to the mining industry, among other enterprises. Nuna Logistics Limited, a northern, 51 % Inuit-owned company, was incorporated in 1993. The company has extensive experience in earthworks, contract mining, frozen core dam and dike construction and mine site support.

Giant Mine is a former gold mine, located five kilometres north of Yellowknife city centre, NWT. On-site processing operations ceased in 1999 when the owner at the time, Royal Oak Mines Inc., went into receivership. Limited mining operations continued by Miramar Giant Mine Ltd. until July, 2004. The main issue at Giant Mine is the 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide dust stored underground at the site, which is the by-product of more than 50 years in operation. The ongoing care and maintenance at Giant Mine is to ensure protection of health, public safety and the environment.

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