

# Unlocking our Potential



OCTOBER 2018

## The New Face of Diamond Mining

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**Five Ways that the  
NWT's Mineral  
Development  
Strategy is  
Doing Its Job**

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Government of  
Northwest Territories





## LOOKING FOR GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES?

The Northwest Territories Geological Survey is your one-stop-shop for geological information. We offer a multitude of programs and services covering bedrock mapping, mineral deposits, petroleum, and permafrost science.

- Geological expertise and advice
- Specialized databases and reports
- Mining Incentive Program
- Education and training

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



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## Wally Schumann

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY,  
TOURISM AND INVESTMENT  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

At the Diamonds Do Good Awards in Las Vegas, the territory I'm privileged to serve was recognized for socially-conscious management of mining.

It was confirmation from the wider industry of what we've been doing for a long time: fostering a mining industry where industry makes a profit, our people prosper, and everyone can clock out knowing they did something that benefitted the territory that day.

It enforces what we call the NWT Difference. It's how the Northwest Territories leads the global mining industry, and it's what ties the stories in this issue together.

It's about strong individuals from our territory defining the new face of mining. Individuals like Kimi Balsillie and Kelly Lafferty-Norn — Indigenous women who have risen to the top of their fields in Northwest Territories mining.

It's about our world-leading Indigenous participation across our mining industry — and how that means projects in the NWT get going, and stay going.

It's about NWT businesses that have seen firsthand how it all works together — and why it matters for businesses working in the NWT.

Check out page 19 to get the last word from an exploration leader you're likely familiar with.

It's about our mineral potential, and how the minerals we have position us to lead in the technology metals boom.

And it's about the investments and support our government provides to encourage responsible mineral development.

Things are looking up. Staking is up, expansions are moving forward, and promising exploration campaigns advance as the markets continue to recover.

We're sharing these stories to help you understand how an investment in the Northwest Territories is an investment in the future — an investment that will pay off in your pocketbooks just as much as your social profile.

Please enjoy the magazine, and feel free to get in touch. My doors are always open to discuss how we can unlock the NWT's potential — together.

Cover Photo credit: Kimi Balsillie  
— photo courtesy of Diamond Producers Association



# The New Face of Diamond Mining

BY: DIAMOND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Many people begin their day with a car, bus or subway ride to the office. But for workers at the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine in Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT), chances are they'll go by plane.

It's a 320+ km journey from city to mine. The route is easily accessible by air or, for two of the coldest months of the year, via an ice road where truckers ferry vital supplies over frozen lakes.

Mine workers take a chartered flight from Yellowknife, the capital city of this vast northern region of Canada, arriving on a landing strip located just 250 miles south of the Arctic Circle. There, they board school buses to the mine's modest campus—their last leg of the journey before work begins.

But travel time isn't wasted. Kimi Balsillie, an environmental officer at De Beers' Gahcho Kué mine, uses it to update workers on onsite safety. Balsillie personifies how diamond mining has changed the region for the better.

Balsillie grew up in Yellowknife. Balsillie is Métis - descended from the First Nations people and early European settlers. Her upbringing informed her respect for the land as much as her education in environmental science.

Her work today is a testament to the industry's respect for the vast, mineral-rich land where it mines the world's most precious gems.

When diamond mines began producing in the late-'90s, exacting rules were established to protect and respect the land and the indigenous population. "We live by three rules," says Balsillie. "Zero harm, continual improvement and resource compliance." It takes work, Balsillie says, but it's worth the effort.



This respect for the environment is paired with a strong focus on filling positions with local and Indigenous employees — a result of decades of collaboration between diamond mines, Indigenous governments, and the territorial government.

Take Kelly Lafferty-Norn, a 35-year old Métis woman who works for Diavik Diamond Mine. Though she once worked an hourly office job in Hay River, Lafferty-Norn—a mother of four—now drives trucks and earns

multi-billion dollar economic engine to a territory in decline after gold mine closures. It now ranks third in worldwide diamond production, and the progressive approach has ensured treasures from the tundra have benefitted the whole territory.

Although the work can be difficult, a community has blossomed from the camaraderie at site. During a recent interview with a local Yellowknife radio station, Balsillie described the culture at Gahcho Kue. “We’re like a

a native of South Africa who grew up in the mining industry, says the real prize exists — the ability to climb the ranks.

Rodel, 31, started in production mining and now manages work flow optimization at Gahcho Kué. She has seen a number of her co-workers earn significant promotions. “This is more than just a job,” she says. “Here, you can have a career.”

Rodel loves the diversity of the work she does and welcomes its challenges. “There’s something new to learn each day,” she says. With a degree in mining engineering, her career has followed the trajectory of the very products she helps to unearth—from coal to diamonds.

“I began my career working to mine coal and now I help to mine diamonds. It’s a dream job for me,” she says. “Each diamond that emerges from the earth is unique and has its own story to tell. And that’s a dream in itself.”

This is the new face of modern diamond mining — an industry thriving in one of the world’s most remote locations, advancing careers, and empowering a successful future for thousands.

### *Women now account for a significant portion of the work force, and local and Indigenous employees account for around half.*

an extremely competitive wage. She is one of Diavik’s haul-truck operators, moving ore from mine to processing facility.

Women now account for a significant portion of the work force, and local and Indigenous employees account for around half.

The Northwest Territories’ role in the global diamond industry has grown under these standards. Diamond mining brought a new

family here. During the day, we work and at night we come together as friends and get to know one another. It’s very supportive.”

A 24-hour cafeteria, on-site gym and complimentary personal and career development classes on subjects ranging from public speaking to financial planning also help workers succeed at the mine site and beyond.

That focus on building folk up is where women like Megan Rodel,



Photo credit: Kelly Lafferty-Norn  
— courtesy of Diamond Producers Association



The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released its Mineral Development Strategy in 2014.

The document — a result of broad engagement with industry, Indigenous governments and other stakeholders — promised to be a plan of action that would help to unlock the mineral potential in the territory and promote the NWT as an attractive investment opportunity.

Almost five years in, we consider five key areas in which the Strategy is, in fact, encouraging the continued growth of the NWT's mining and exploration sector.

# 5

## 1 INCENTIVES TO KEEP EXPLORERS EXPLORING

Geologist Edith Martel with the NWT Geological Survey is a part of a team of geoscientists that are working to advance the first goal of the NWT Mineral Development Strategy: Enhancing Public Geoscience Information.

Read more about Edith's work on Page 15.

Photo:  
Courtesy of the NWT Geological Survey



## WAYS the NWT's Mineral Development Strategy IS DOING ITS JOB

In a tough marketplace, the territory introduced two incentive programs to help companies cope with volatility as part of the strategy.

These kinds of programs demonstrate the territorial government's willingness to support mineral explorers in their high-risk pursuit of new opportunities.

The Mining Incentive Program now invests \$1 million in qualifying exploration projects annually. Companies and individuals have benefitted from this program for four years, and more than \$8 million of additional exploration spending has been realized.

Visit [www.itl.gov.nt.ca/MIP](http://www.itl.gov.nt.ca/MIP) for more information.

The Assessment Work Credits Program has made exploring easier in tough economic times. The program adds a 50% credit to qualifying geological work, lessening the burden for explorers to maintain their mineral claims. It has provided nearly \$3.5 million in benefit to companies since its launch in 2014.

Visit [www.itl.gov.nt.ca/WCP](http://www.itl.gov.nt.ca/WCP) for more information.





## EVOLVING LEGISLATION

With a strong stated principle of bringing more certainty to the table for those doing business, the territorial government is concluding its policy development for new legislation to govern the extraction of mineral resources in the NWT.

It's the first new legislation drafted by the government since taking responsibility from the Government of Canada in 2014 for managing public land, water and resources in the NWT; it promises to be a positive development for the mining sector.

*Look for the legislation to be introduced in late 2019. Visit [Engage-ITI.ca/MRA](http://Engage-ITI.ca/MRA) to keep up with the latest.*

Increased strategic investment is augmenting the geoscience information provision role of the NWT Geological Survey — strengthening its capacity to both facilitate and instigate exploration investment and the scientific study of NWT geology.

The investment has led to the opening of a core library — including the largest, publicly available kimberlite core collection in the world — investments in new reports on the southeast and southwest areas of the territory; numerous aeromagnetic studies; and a series of geochemical assessments of the Lac de Gras region that stimulated interest and staking. Expect even more work in the future.

*Visit [nwtgeoscience.ca](http://nwtgeoscience.ca) for maps, mineral showings and reports on the NWT's massive potential.*



## MORE MAPPED GEOLOGY



## WORLD-LEADING INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

The Mineral Development Strategy recognized the importance of preparing Indigenous governments and communities to capitalize on mining and exploration. With millions invested in capacity-building and training, and the institution of a pioneering body where Indigenous governments have a tangible say on, and share in the benefits of, mineral development, Indigenous participation in the mining sector is at an all-time high. That involvement at every level is one reason why projects get going, and stay going in the NWT.

*Read the industry minister's case on why this is a business advantage at: [www.iti.gov.nt.ca/NWTDifference](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/NWTDifference)*

Mining companies are always encouraged to hire locally. Yet the Strategy recognized that the government has a role to play — investing in local training initiatives to build a pool of qualified talent. Since the Strategy's inception, the government's investments in initiatives like the Mine Training Society have seen hundreds of qualified employees enter the workforce, and training tailored to what the local industry needs to succeed.

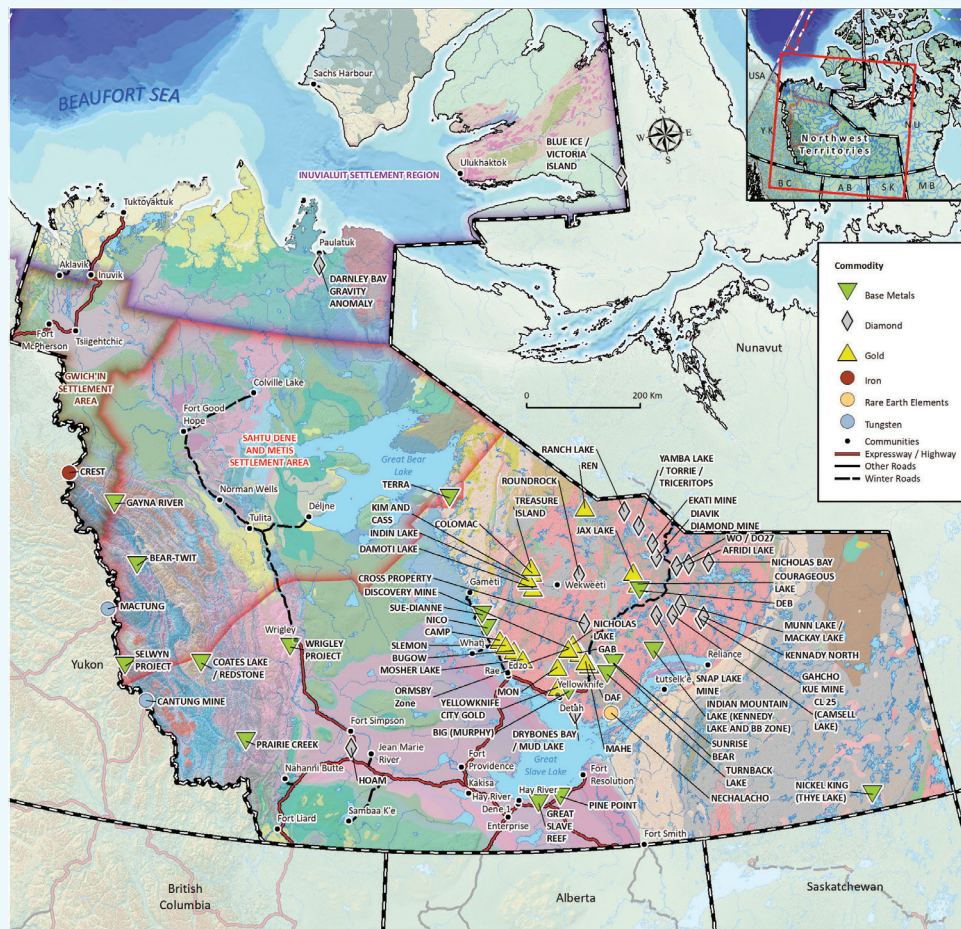
*See some examples of the training we've sponsored at [minetraining.ca](http://minetraining.ca).*



## STRONG LOCAL WORKFORCE

# Select Mineral Deposits of the Northwest Territories, Canada

PROJECT NAME	COMMODITY	STATUS	PROJECT OWNER / MANAGER	WEBSITE AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS	*RESOURCE CATEGORY	**TOTAL RESOURCE	*** GRADE
DIAMIK DIAMOND MINE	DIAMOND	producer	60% Rio Tinto / 40% Dominion Diamond Mines	www.ddmines.com	Prv + Prb (Dec. 31, 2017)	15 Mt	2.8 ct/t
EKATI MINE	DIAMOND	producer	89.9% Dominion Diamond Ekati ULC / 11.1% Stewart Blusson	www.ddmines.com	Prv + Prb (Jan. 31, 2017)	68.9 Mt	1.5 ct/t
GAHCHO KUE MINE	DIAMOND	producer	51% De Beers Canada Inc.; 49% Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.	www.angloamerican.com / www.mountainprovince.com	Prb (Dec. 31, 2017)	31.5 Mt	1.57 ct/t
SNAP LAKE MINE	DIAMOND	production suspended; care and maintenance	De Beers Canada Inc.	www.angloamerican.com	Prb (Dec. 31, 2015)	5.7 Mt	1.26 ct/t
CANTUNG MINE	TUNGSTEN	production suspended; care and maintenance	North American Tungsten Corp. / Government of Canada	www.natungsten.com / www.alvarezandmarsal.com/northamerican	Ind (Sept. 2014)	3.45 Mt	0.97% WO3
NECHALACHO	RARE EARTH ELEMENTS, BERYLLIUM	drilled; advanced project	Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.	www.avalonadvancedmaterials.com	Prv; Prb (April 2013)	3.68 Mt; 10.9 Mt	1.73% TREO (0.47% HREO); 1.69% TREO
NICO	COBALT, BISMUTH, GOLD, COPPER	drilled; advanced project	Fortune Minerals Limited	www.fortuneminerals.com	Prv + Prb (April 2014)	33 Mt	1.03 g/t Au + 0.11% Co + 0.14% Bi + 0.04% Cu
PRAIRIE CREEK	ZINC, LEAD, SILVER	drilled; advanced project	Canadian Zinc Corp.	www.canadianzinc.com	Prv + Prb (Aug. 2017)	8.1 Mt	8.6% Zn, 8.1% Pb, 124 g/t Ag
SELWYN PROJECT	ZINC, LEAD, SILVER	drilled	Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.	www.selwynchihong.com	Ind (Aug. 2012)	185.6 Mt	5.20% Zn, 1.79% Pb
DAF	GOLD	minor past producer	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	~	3,500 t	30.4 g/t
JAX LAKE	GOLD	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	~	36,287 t	14.1 g/t
DISCOVERY MINE	GOLD	past producer	GoldMining Inc.	www.goldmining.com	Ind (Sept. 2012)	Bruce zone: 749,000 t (open pit); 440,000 t (underground)	1.59 g/t; 3.17 g/t
NICHOLAS LAKE	GOLD	drilled	GoldMining Inc.	www.goldmining.com	Meas + Ind (Sept. 2012)	1.109 Mt	6.87 g/t
ORMSBY Zone	GOLD	drilled	GoldMining Inc.	www.goldmining.com	Meas (Sept. 2012)	7.339 Mt	1.59 g/t
REN	GOLD	drilled	Lane Dewar / M. Magrum	lanedewar@lincsat.com	~	1.8 Mt	10 g/t
MOSHER LAKE	GOLD	drilled	Lane Dewar, M. Magrum, T. Teed	lanedewar@lincsat.com	~	500,765 t	2.81 g/t
MON	GOLD	past producer / licensed to mine	New Discovery Mines Ltd. / Sixty North Gold Mining Ltd.	www.sixtynorthgold.com	PP	10,070 t	10 g/t (recovered)





## LEGEND

\* **RESOURCE CATEGORY:** Indicated (Ind); Inferred (Inf); Measured (Meas); Proven Reserve (Prv); Probable Reserve (Prb); Historic (non-compliant) ~; Preliminary Sample Result (Prelim)

\*\* **TOTAL RESOURCE:** tonnes (t); million tonnes (Mt); kilograms (kg)

\*\*\* **GRADE:** grams per tonne (g/t); carats per tonne (ct/t)

PROJECT NAME	COMMODITY	STATUS	PROJECT OWNER / MANAGER	WEBSITE AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS	*RESOURCE CATEGORY	**TOTAL RESOURCE	*** GRADE
COLOMAC	GOLD	past producer	Nighthawk Gold Corp.	www.nighthawkgold.com	Inf (June 2018)	Colomac: 44.8 Mt	1.64 g/t
DAMOTI LAKE	GOLD	drilled	Nighthawk Gold Corp.	www.nighthawkgold.com	Meas + Ind (Nov. 2005)	40,600 t	26.17 g/t
INDIN LAKE	GOLD	drilled	Nighthawk Gold Corp.	www.nighthawkgold.com	~	214,000 t	16.46 g/t
TREASURE ISLAND	GOLD	drilled	Nighthawk Gold Corp.	www.nighthawkgold.com	~	105,400 t	14.09 g/t
KIM AND CASS	GOLD	drilled	Pine Cliff Energy Ltd.	www.pinecliffenergy.com	~	448,950 t	7.37 g/t
BUGOW	GOLD	drilled	Rover Metals Corp.	www.rovermetals.com	~	70,000 t	10.29 g/t
CAMP LAKE	GOLD	drilled	Rover Metals Corp.	www.rovermetals.com	~	46,400 t (N Zone); 11,840 t (S Zone)	13.7 (N Zone); 12 g/t (S Zone)
SLEMON	GOLD	drilled	Rover Metals Corp.	www.rovermetals.com	~	31,751 t	6.8 g/t
COURAGEOUS LAKE	GOLD	past producer	Seabridge Gold Incorporated	www.seabridgegold.net	Prv; Prb (July 2012); Walsh Lake Inf (Mar. 2014)	Courageous 12.3 Mt; 78.8 Mt; Walsh 3.5 Mt	2.41 g/t; 2.17 g/t; 4.02 g/t
MAHE	GOLD	drilled	Silver Pursuit Resources Ltd.	www.silverpursuit.ca	~	156,840 t	17.28 g/t
GAB	GOLD	drilled	Silver Range Resources Ltd.	www.silverrangeresources.com	~	27,215 t	10.63 g/t
YELLOWKNIFE CITY GOLD	GOLD	past producer	TerraX Minerals Inc.	www.terraminerals.com	~ Ind + Inf	Crestaaurum: 145,150 t	7.54 g/t Au
WO / DO27	DIAMOND	drilled	72.1% Peregrine Diamonds Ltd.; 17.6% Archon Minerals Limited; 10.3% DHK Diamonds Inc.	www.pdiam.com	Ind (Aug. 2008)	19.5 Mt	0.94 ct/t
CL 25 (CAMSELL LAKE)	DIAMOND	drilled	Canterra Minerals	www.canterraminerals.com	Prelim	350.4 kg	221 diamonds; 9 macros
AFRIDI LAKE	DIAMOND	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	Prelim	511.3 kg	46 diamonds; 4 macros
BLUE ICE / VICTORIA ISLAND	DIAMOND	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	Prelim	934 kg	172 diamonds
NICHOLAS BAY	DIAMOND	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	Prelim	127.7 kg	1,174 diamonds
DRYBONES BAY / MUD LAKE	DIAMOND	drilled	David Smith	eastarm@gmail.com	Prelim	10 t (Drybones); 100 t (Mud Lake)	97 macros; 11 macros
DARNLEY BAY GRAVITY ANOMALY	DIAMOND	drilled	Generation Mining Ltd.	www.genmining.com	Prelim	533.1 kg	65 diamonds; 2 macros
YAMBA LAKE / RHOMBUS/TORRIE / TRICERITOPS	DIAMOND	drilled	GGL Resources Corp.	www.gglresourcescorp.com	Prelim	83.6 kg	68 diamonds; 6 macros
MUNN LAKE / MACKAY LAKE	DIAMOND	drilled	Jack Krywko	www.dgrm.co	Prelim	42 kg	14 diamonds; 2 macros
RANCH LAKE	DIAMOND	drilled	Mike Magrum	mike.magrum@gmail.com	Prelim	855 kg	266 diamonds; 46 macros
KENNADY NORTH	DIAMOND	drilled	Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.	www.mountainprovince.com	Ind (Kelvin, Jan. 2017); Inf (Faraday, Sept. 2017)	8.5 Mt; 3.27 Mt	1.6 ct/t; 1.54 ct/t
HOAM	DIAMOND	drilled	Olivut Resources Ltd.	www.olivut.ca	Prelim	TBD	6 diamonds from 3 kimberlites
CROSS PROPERTY	DIAMOND	drilled	Stornoway Diamond Corp.	www.stornowaydiamonds.com	Prelim	2.4 t	7 diamonds
ROUNDROCK	DIAMOND	drilled	Stornoway Diamond Corp.	www.stornowaydiamonds.com	Prelim	134.2 kg	19 diamonds; 6 macros
COATES LAKE / REDSTONE	COPPER, SILVER	drilled	Copper North Mining Corp.	www.coppertonmining.com	~ Inf (Aug. 2005)	33.4 Mt	3.92 % Cu, 11.3 g/t Ag
CREST	IRON	drilled	Crest Exploration Limited (Chevron Canada Ltd.)	www.chevron.ca	~ Inf	5.6 billion tonnes	47.2% Fe
GAYNA RIVER	ZINC, LEAD	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	~ Inf	1.07 Mt	4.51% Zn-Pb
WRIGLEY PROJECT	LEAD, ZINC	drilled	Crown Land	miners@gov.nt.ca	Inf	3.978 Mt	7.34% Zn, 2.02% Pb, 12.71 g/t Ag
TERRA	SILVER, COPPER, BISMUTH, GOLD	past producer	DEMCo Ltd.	www.denendehinvestments.ca	~	27,769 t; (+ 453,592 t tailings)	1028 g/t Ag; (+ 0.5% Ni, 0.5% Cu in tailings)
BEAR-TWIT	LEAD, ZINC (Ag, Cu, Sb, Cd)	drilled	Eagle Plains Resources Ltd.	www.eagleplains.com	~ Inf	7.26 Mt - 9 Mt	5.4% Zn, 2.6% Pb, 17.1 g/t Ag
SUE-DIANNE	COPPER, SILVER, GOLD	drilled	Fortune Minerals Ltd.	www.fortuneminerals.com	Ind (Mar. 2008)	8.44 Mt	0.8%Cu, 3.2 g/t Ag, 0.07 g/t Au
INDIAN MOUNTAIN LAKE (KENNEDY LAKE AND BB ZONE)	ZINC, SILVER, COPPER, LEAD	drilled	Panarc Resources Ltd.	www.panarc-resources.com	~	BB Zone: 879,964 t	9.5% Zn, 0.7% Pb, 116.5 g/t Ag
GREAT SLAVE REEF	ZINC, LEAD	drilled	Pine Point Mining Ltd.	www.osiskometals.com	Meas (Mar. 2014)	R -190: 647,000 t	12.47% Zn, 6.10% Pb
PINE POINT	ZINC, LEAD	past producer	Pine Point Mining Ltd.	www.osiskometals.com	Meas + Ind (April 2017)	25.8 Mt	2.94% Zn + 1.12% Pb
DEB	COPPER, ZINC (Ag)	drilled	Seabridge Gold Inc.	www.seabridgegold.net	~ Inf	1.01 Mt	0.83% Cu, 2.96% Zn, 21.9 g/t Ag
BEAR	SILVER, ZINC (Pb, Au)	drilled	Silver Bear Mines Inc.	www.silverbearmines.ca	~	1.136 Mt	5.1% Zn, 2.2% Pb, 336g/t Ag, 0.6g/t Au (M zone)
SUNRISE	SILVER, ZINC, LEAD, COPPER, GOLD	drilled	SSR Mining Inc.	www.ssrmining.com	Ind (Aug. 2002)	1.5 Mt	262 g/t Ag, 2.39% Pb, 5.99% Zn, 0.08% Cu, 0.67 g/t Au
NICKEL KING (THYE LAKE)	NICKEL, COPPER, COBALT	drilled	Strongbow Exploration Inc.	www.strongbowexploration.com	Ind (June 2010)	Main Zone: 11.1 Mt	0.4% Ni, 0.1%Cu, 0.018% Co
TURNBACK LAKE	ZINC, LEAD, COPPER, SILVER	drilled	Teck Resources Ltd.	www.teck.com	~ Inf	910 tons per vertical foot	2% Cu, 6% Zn, 1.5% Pb, 102.84 g/t Ag
BIG (MURPHY)	LITHIUM	drilled	Erex International Ltd.	thanhphambc@gmail.com	~ Inf	7.15 Mt	1.47% Li2O
MACTUNG	TUNGSTEN	drilled	Government of the NWT	mining@gov.nt.ca	Ind (April 2009)	33 Mt	0.88% WO3

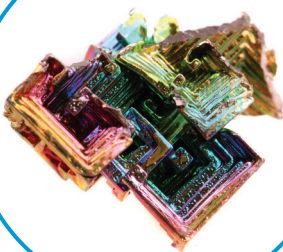
# TECH TERRITORY

## AN **ETHICAL** OPPORTUNITY FOR TECHNOLOGY METALS

Electronics and electric vehicles are revolutionizing the future; redefining how the world works, plays and lives.

These technologies are largely dependent on minerals — the most common being cobalt, lithium, bismuth and rare earth elements; increasingly referred to broadly as technology metals.

And, as with most revolutions, there is a crisis of conscience that needs to be addressed.



**12%**  
THE AMOUNT OF  
CONFIRMED WORLD  
RESERVES OF BISMUTH  
ALREADY DEFINED  
WITHIN THE NWT

### COBALT AND THE CONGO

It is perhaps most apparent in the cobalt market. About two-thirds of current global supply of this essential battery mineral comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where conflict and political instability define the investment environment.

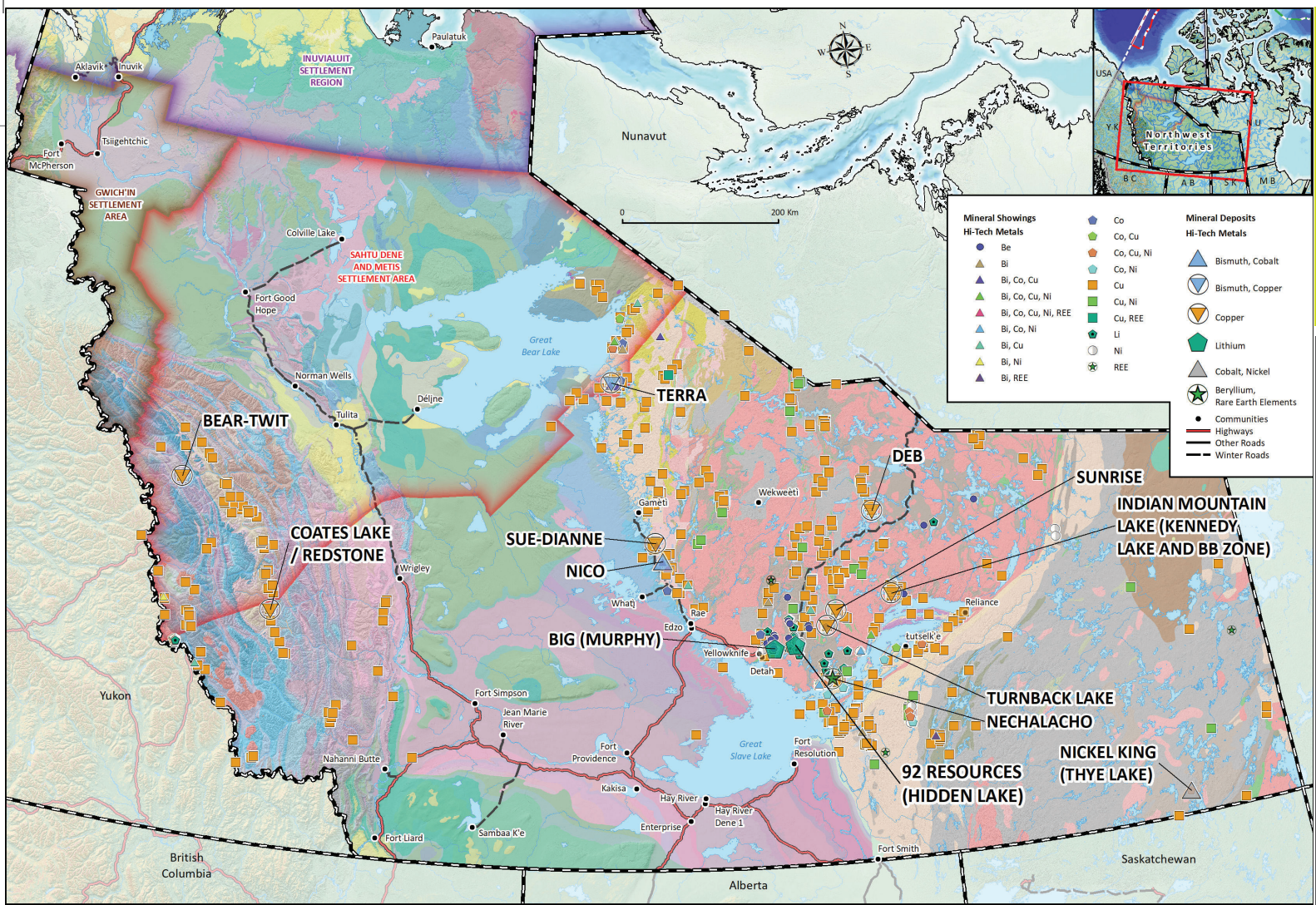
In fact, reports and accusations of exploitation are forcing companies to reconsider doing business in the DRC. Far beyond worrying about the bottom line, it's an ethical crisis that, according to reporting in the September 2018

issue of Fortune Magazine, has investors looking for ways to avoid doing business in the region all together. .

"Are consumers going to demand child-labor-free, corruption-free electric vehicles? I think it is coming," said Tyler Gillard, senior legal adviser to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in the same report.

With cobalt demand set to rise by double digits in the next five to 10 years, if companies want to keep their reputations clean, a solution is needed quickly.





## AN ETHICAL ALTERNATIVE

Enter Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT).

In Fortune Minerals' NICO project, the NWT does have an advanced, large-scale cobalt prospect with the added benefit of a transparent management system that empowers Indigenous populations, political stability and a predictable regulatory regime.

And cobalt is just one example of how the NWT could be a safe, stable, predictable home to supply technology metals currently largely extracted from volatile jurisdictions.

## PROMISING SHOWINGS

Cobalt is just the start — over recent decades, dozens of instances of these valuable metals have been discovered throughout the territory, and some more advanced exploration projects are underway.

With so much still to be learned, and nearly a million square kilometres of terrain still to be explored, the fact so many instances of technology metals are already known is incredibly promising.

For more information on the NWT's potential, visit [nwtgeoscience.ca](http://nwtgeoscience.ca) or [nwtmining.com](http://nwtmining.com)

**15**  
SHOWINGS  
OR DEPOSITS  
OF LITHIUM  
THROUGHOUT  
THE NWT



**13**  
ADVANCED  
PROSPECTS OF  
TECHNOLOGY  
METALS IN  
THE NWT

# “Diamonds Do Good” in the Northwest Territories

‘It is both statement and award’ Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Bob McLeod acknowledged in accepting the NWT’s Diamonds Do Good Award from the World Diamond Empowerment Fund in May. The Premier was quick to note, however, that the good has come – not from diamonds per se – but the 25-year partnership that they inspired between the NWT’s diamond producers and the region’s public and Indigenous governments;

It is a partnership that has evolved to realize the socially and environmentally-conscious

North. Formalized Socio-economic Agreements (SEAs) are negotiated by the territorial government setting out targets for things like training, procurement, wellness initiatives, and local employment.

Since 1996, the NWT’s diamond mines alone have provided over 27,000 person-years of employment to NWT residents; and purchased over \$14 billion in goods and services from NWT businesses.

These investments have served to empower and shape Indigenous governments, businesses, and

coming home schooled in mining-related fields like engineering and geosciences. They are embracing the wage economy – buying homes and investing in their future.

In short, the Premier noted, diamond mining has allowed the people of the Northwest Territories to take control of their future. “This (award) is aptly named; diamonds have done much good in Canada’s Northwest Territories.”

*The World Diamond Empowerment Fund is a global non-profit organization inspired by Nelson Mandela and founded by leaders in the diamond industry in 2007 to empower diamond communities around the world.*

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*Since 1996, the NWT’s diamond mines alone have provided over 27,000 person years of employment*

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management of diamond mining that exists in the North today; an area in which the NWT is proud to lead – both for its own benefit and those who choose to invest in its future.

“It has placed us on the cutting edge of mineral development in North America,” the Premier said.

In today’s NWT, major project proponents must agree to ensure economic benefits will stay in the

communities. From them has evolved a robust Indigenous service sector of construction, logistics and transportation companies; and a local workforce that keeps the mines humming.

Meanwhile, northern youth with the potential for real employment and careers are seeing a tangible reason to stay in school and seek higher learning. They are doing more than taking on labour jobs. They are going to university in the South and

*In its recognition of the NWT’s mining industry, it highlighted the NWT’s partnership approach to diamond mining that protects the environment, enhances indigenous engagement and community capacity building, promotes sustainability and leverages a local workforce; all while fostering attractive investment opportunities for the benefit of the local communities.*

Opposite  
Photo credit: Premier NWT Bob McLeod accepts the Diamonds Do Good Award - courtesy of Diamond Producers Association.







# MINING MATTERS CELEBRATES THIRD YEAR OF NWT PARTNERSHIP

With five tours, 14 schools and countless chocolate chip cookies “mined” in the interest of explaining, exploration, geoscience and mining, the Northwest Territories is embarking on a third year of partnership with the Canada-wide Mining Matters Program.

The charitable organization has become a key part of the territorial government’s efforts to increase public awareness, and nurture a better understanding of minerals, mining, and the role they play in the lives of NWT residents and the NWT economy.

Programming has included school visits to a broad section of grade levels, geological observation field trips and professional development workshops and resource kits for teachers across the territory.

The territorial government’s Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has co-delivered programming at various sites, and facilitated partnerships with industry to help bring unique experiences to participants of all ages.

This partnership is highly valued as part of the government’s Get REDI — Resources and Energy Development Information — campaign through which it is working to improve outreach to communities, and assist residents in meaningfully participating in discussions about resource development.







Photo credit: Edith Martel  
— photo courtesy of NWT Geological Survey

# Mapping Our POTENTIAL: Edith Martel

*Perhaps the single greatest resource  
for mineral explorers is geoscience  
information.*

The Northwest Territories has taken that seriously, employing some of the top geological talent in Canada to get in the field, and map the territory's prodigious potential.

One such employee is Edith Martel — a geologist with the territory's geological survey, and project leader for a major bedrock mapping push.

Martel, 40, is currently putting her Masters in Earth Science from the University of Waterloo and 20 years of field experience to work at Nonacho Lake — an under-researched region in the southeast of the Northwest Territories between the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and the Saskatchewan border.

This kind of fieldwork is anything but your standard 9-5.

"You're in the bush, so a lot can happen when you're out there collecting data," says Martel, chuckling as she recalls some of her favourite oddities.

"I've swam across a lake to escape a tenacious bear, struggled to improvise some camp-made bread to go with the last jam while stranded at camp, and laid down countless nights with bear bangers and spray in-hand dreaming of an uninterrupted sleep." All worth it for the rocks!

The bedrock mapping Martel and her team are currently running is important because the area isn't well-understood and could hold a ton of economic potential.

"It's an underexplored area in the Canadian Shield's Rae Craton," says Martel. "Even with limited understanding, we're already aware of showings of minerals like gold, copper, uranium and zinc."

Martel and her team just returned from the first round of fieldwork for the project. "This was the reconnaissance phase," says Martel. "The next two years will be where we take what we've learned, do the bulk of the mapping, and ultimately produce a report and geological maps."

It's this kind of work that Martel and her colleagues do every single day. Work like assessing geochemistry in the Slave Geological Province where reports from the team sparked a small staking rush. Or the Central Dehcho, where geologists found an intact diamond in stream sampling.

If geological knowledge is the explorer's most valuable tool, it's people like Martel who will pave the way to the next big prospects.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## MORE EXPLORERS VIE FOR MINING INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUNDS

*The Government of the Northwest Territories invested another \$1 million in the future of mineral exploration in the NWT in 2018. Eighteen projects will benefit this year from funding provided under the Mining Incentive Program (MIP).*

The program, now in its fourth year, invests in qualifying prospecting and exploration projects across the NWT to advance mineral exploration. It is administered by the NWT Geological Survey.

This is the program's second intake since contributions for the program were more than doubled to address rising demand, and reflect the need to stimulate activity in the NWT mining sector. The program has realized over \$9.8 million in leveraged spending since its inception.

Corporate projects can receive up to \$200,000 in funding, while prospectors may receive up to \$50,000 in funding.

## GEOSCIENCE ASSISTANT TRAINING RESPONDS TO INDUSTRY NEEDS

*With maps, GPS and compasses in hand, the first-ever enrollment of students in the territory's Geoscience Field Assistant Training Program began classes this fall.*

Eight students were accepted into the new program – five from Yellowknife, and one each from Łutselk'e, Tulita and Behchokò.

The Geoscience Field Assistant Training includes five weeks of classroom learning followed by 160 hours of on-the-job training. They will be learning about basic geology, claim staking, prospecting and wilderness

first aid, among a variety of other topics useful for exploration companies.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's NWT Geological Survey, the Mine Training Society and the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines collaborated to develop the curriculum.

The training is yet another way in which the Government of the Northwest Territories is fostering a skilled local workforce in the mineral sector.

## STAKING RESURGENCE HITS NWT

*Driven by recovering commodity prices and new government-released geoscience data, grassroots mineral exploration has increased in the NWT through 2017 and year-to-date in 2018.*

Last year saw the largest levels of staking since 2014 with 184 claims staked for over 139,000 hectares.

That performance is well on its way to being equaled in 2018 with 157 claims already submitted.

The bulk of activity has been focused on the geologically gifted Slave Geological Province, but activity has been seen across the territory across a number of commodities.

The return to form is indicative of the private sector's belief in the NWT's massive potential, and the territorial government's commitment to putting in the work necessary to stimulate exploration



## DIAMIK DIAMOND MINE CELEBRATES A21 OPENING

*Diavik diamond mine has officially opened its A21 kimberlite pipe expansion, which will keep the mine's production near current levels through 2023.*

Creating the mine's fourth diamond pipe was an investment of around \$450 million. Arnaud Soirat – Rio Tinto Copper & Diamonds chief executive – said the investment “reflects the strong outlook we see for the diamond industry.”

The NWT's Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Wally Schumann congratulated Diavik Employees, and celebrated the successful project in remarks at both the mine site, and a reception later on.

The pit is expected to reach full production by the end of 2018.

## EKATI DIAMOND MINE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

*Employees and leadership of Dominion Diamonds' Ekati Diamond Mine were recently joined by Premier Bob McLeod and Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Wally Schumann to celebrate 20 years of operations at the NWT's - and Canada's - first diamond mine.*

Events in Yellowknife and at the mine site celebrated what Minister Schumann described as “20 years of innovation, community-building, and prosperity”

and demonstrated the strong, mutually-beneficial relationship between political and industry leadership in the Northwest Territories.

While political leaders expressed congratulations, corporate leadership expressed optimism about the future of the mine, outlining their continual pursuit of new opportunities.

## NEW MINING TRAINING FACILITY OPENS

*Students enrolled at Aurora College's Centre for Mine and Industry Training in Fort Smith went back to class this fall in a new state-of-the-art facility. The new, standalone structure features several vehicle bays, classroom and office space, and areas to house mining equipment, simulators and other training materials.*

Programs delivered at the Centre include drilling, surface and underground mining, and heavy equipment operation, all in demand in the NWT's mining industry. The \$10 million investment, funded in partnership between the territorial and federal governments, reflects an ongoing commitment to foster a strong, well-trained local workforce to service world-class mines today and in the future.



In 2016, the NWT celebrated the 25th anniversary of the discovery of diamonds. Stu Blussom was recognized as a “discoverer”. Following this year's 20th anniversary celebration of the mine he discovered, we finally delivered his award (l-r) Tom Hoefer, Stu Blossum and Hon. Wally Schumann.

# Q & A TŁJCHQ AT ROUND-UP

The Tłjchq government showed up in force at last year's Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver. The message was clear – it was “a region that meant businesses”.

We talked to the Tłjchq Government's Senior Director, Governance Henry Zoe to get an understanding of what was behind their approach and how it is influencing their work for the future.

## Why did your government feel it was important to attend Round Up?

Roundup offers a unique opportunity to engage with other Nations – and industry; to learn from their successes and to understand how we can improve partnerships and our own Indigenous leadership within the mineral development sector.

## What kind of partnerships has the Tłjchq government realized with industry partners?

We signed our first Impact Benefit Agreement in 1996, and have since signed four more. Through these agreements, and the Tłjchq Agreement, we have ensured that our people are working at the mines, and are receiving the necessary training and education to participate in the mining economy.

We have been fortunate to work with some of the largest mining companies in the world and have built meaningful relationships with many industry partners. We take pride in the relationships that have been built over the course of several decades of development in the NWT.

## What is the primary message that you leave with industry?

We always emphasize the importance of early engagement with Indigenous Nations in a project – and to maintain that level and momentum of engagement throughout a project.

## What influence has the Tłjchq Government had on the NWT's diamond mining sector?

Because the Tłjchq have decision-making authority over their lands and resources,

we are party to decision-making in the regulatory process. We have influenced -and continue to influence - the process of resource extraction in the NWT by ensuring Indigenous participation is a part of the full mine life of any project - from planning and exploration right through to closure and remediation.

## What is the relationship that the Tłjchq people have with resource development in the NWT?

Resource development in the NWT has historically left behind many scars on Indigenous lands. While there's still a long way to go, we have seen great strides in the participation of Tłjchq citizens in the resource industry – in the form of employment, training and even occupying senior management positions.

## What role does the Tłjchq government see itself taking in future responsible development?

As a nation and government, we strive to balance building a future for our people through economic development and ensuring the healthy continuation of the Tłjchq way of life.

The signing of the Tłjchq Agreement in 2005 awakened many of our industry partners to the rights of the Tłjchq Government – and our vested interest in protecting our land and our people with balanced economic growth. The priority of the Tłjchq Government is and will remain: protecting the land, waters, animals and Tłjchq citizens.

We do see an opportunity to build and instill a greater role for the Tłjchq Government and other Indigenous partners in ensuring more robust participation in the resource sector — both in development and in closure and remediation processes.



Photo credit: Henry Zoe  
– photo courtesy of GNWT





## LAST WORD

**Michael Byron**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF  
NIGHTHAWK GOLD CORP

Exploring for gold is rife with challenges, and certainly not for the faint of heart. However, as a career exploration geologist, my passion has always been centred on making that new discovery and seeking out overlooked opportunities. This has been a 30-plus year undertaking with no shortage of ups and downs.

From extensive field campaigns and conducting research, to working in senior management positions for several junior explorers, I have been fortunate to witness the evolution of the industry. My profession has given me an opportunity to work in many different parts of the world including North and South America, Asia, and Africa.

Canada continues to maintain its status as one of the most stable and pro-mining countries, and, in particular, the NWT is certainly at the top of my list. Having been actively exploring in the NWT since 2009, I can truly say it is one of the best places to do business. It has been a breath of fresh air.

We are supported by a progressive government that is not apologetic for its resource industry (which accounts for almost 30% of the territory's GDP). They are proactive in their approach and transparently talk about infrastructure needs as a fundamental requirement for building a foundation for future economic development. They listen to all stakeholders and are proactive. Something I have not witnessed with much frequency elsewhere. This is a true alliance that strives to take everyone's best interests to heart.

This observation is not confined to the territorial government alone. Over the past nine years that we have been actively exploring our NWT project area, I have also had some very positive and forward-thinking interactions with Indigenous governments. Having settled their land claims, formed their governments and established their businesses, they are well positioned to foster a better life for their communities, and we are pleased to be a small part of that reality.

But let's get back to the challenge at hand; exploring and delivering new resource opportunities for our shareholders and the NWT. All of the support services, skilled workforce, Indigenous groups and territorial government are aligned because of the tremendous metal endowment that exists. Best known for its wealth of diamonds, the NWT also has iron ore, lead, zinc, copper and, of course, gold resources.

This is what drew me to the NWT in the first place. I saw the untapped potential of an underexplored Archean terrain and the opportunities that it presented.

Within our 899-square-kilometre Indin Lake Property, we have identified a multitude of gold deposits and showings, centred around our flagship asset, a growing, multi-million ounce project. To date, we have identified 2.6Moz of gold at our Colomac Gold Project; and embarked on one of our largest drilling campaigns in 2017, which has been increased again this year testing more of our regional targets in addition to Colomac.

We see a bright future for Nighthawk. And while there is still a lot of ground to cover, we are confident we can achieve our goals. Our path ahead is made easier by our committed shareholders and, of course, our many partnerships here in the NWT.

# World class resources are discovered in Canada's Northwest Territories

Come see for yourself.

- Low-risk investment jurisdiction\*
- Wide range of early and advanced stage projects seeking investment
- Modernized mining legislation in progress to improve processes, increase certainty
- Strong resident support and Indigenous engagement in mining sector
- New transportation infrastructure to improve access to mineral resources

\*5th of 85 jurisdictions  
– 2017 World Risk Report



**Unlocking  
ourPotential**  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERALS AND PETROLEUM

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Northwest Territories**