

Unlocking our Potential



MARCH 2023

Recharging the Exploration Sector

NWTMINING.COM
E: mining@gov.nt.ca
T: 867-767-9209

NWTPETROLEUM.COM
E: petroleum@gov.nt.ca
T: 867-777-7480

NWTGEOSCIENCE.CA
E: ntgs@gov.nt.ca
T: 867-767-9211 Ext.63469

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**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

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Cover photo:
Scott Cairns of the Northwest Territories Geological Survey documents a spodumene crystal on the pit wall at the Best Bet deposit not far from the original DeStaffany mine. Photo: GNWT-NTGS

Hon. Caroline Wawzonek

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY,
TOURISM AND INVESTMENT
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

There's a mini staking rush underway in the Northwest Territories today (see story page 4). Key areas are getting staked up, options and acquisitions are being negotiated, preliminary prospecting is underway and applications for the permitting/licensing of drill programs are stacking up.

Not unlike the diamond play of the 1990s, the NWT is once-again witnessing the evolution of a new mining cycle, driven by the digital low-carbon economy and the demand for rare earths and other critical minerals that will fuel it.

In the 1990s, Canadian juniors and creative geologists turned the industry on its ear by getting out ahead of the majors, staking their own claims, raising their own capital and blazing a new trail. It is a story that is set to unfold again as critical mineral exploration and staking increases; and companies consolidate their known discoveries and prepare to take them to the next step.

NWT diamonds offered an opportunity for learning, capacity creation and growth for our territory and our industry.

The Northwest Territories is in a far stronger position to work with industry this time - with made-in-the-NWT legislation that will provide companies with increased understanding and certainty, a skilled and ready workforce, and greater social support based on impact-benefit and socio-economic agreements that have established a socially responsible way of doing business here.

So, will lithium (and other critical minerals) replace diamonds and gold as the "go to" commodities and the new economic driver for the NWT?

It's a hard act to follow, however, as the next chapter of the NWT's mining story continues to unfold; and with full marks for ESG-I standards and geological potential, the narrative around the North's competitiveness is set to change. Stay tuned.



Readily visible outcropping Pegmatite dykes situated East of Hidden Lake within the Yellowknife Pegmatite Province. Photos courtesy of LIFT Power.



Recharging

the Exploration Sector

LITHIUM INTEREST COMES AT A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR THE NWT

There's a time for every metal.

With the market for electric vehicles and battery storage technology predicted to skyrocket in coming years, demand for critical minerals is growing. With it, lithium – a crucial element to high-tech and green energy sectors – appears poised to recharge the NWT's exploration sector.

It's been a long wait. Spodumene-bearing pegmatites that host lithium mineralization were first discovered in the Yellowknife area in the 1940s. But they were of little interest to most prospectors of the day, obsessed with the fortune-making gold strikes the city was founded on.

Still, a few properties were developed. Some 20,000 pounds of

lithium was even recovered – as a byproduct of tantalum production – at one mine before it closed in the 1950s. (Some ore was said to be so high-grade it did not require milling.)

Exploration of these pegmatites continued through the 1970s and 1980s, with companies conducting bulk samples of the most promising targets. By the late 1980s though, this work was shelved, and attention soon shifted to a dazzling discovery nearby. That discovery would set off the greatest diamond staking rush in North American history.

Now, almost a century after being passed over by prospectors north of Great Slave Lake, interest in the NWT's lithium plays is once-again picking up.

The newfound activity coincides with urgent action from western nations seeking to secure domestic supplies of critical minerals – a group of 31 minerals vital to

clean energy, military defence, and telecommunications sectors. Production of many of these minerals is majority controlled by just a few countries, and that puts supply at risk.

In December 2022, the Canadian government released details of a \$3.8 billion Critical Minerals Strategy to fund research and innovation, supply chain infrastructure, and targeted geoscience and exploration.

Now, almost a century after being passed over by prospectors north of Great Slave Lake, interest in the NWT's lithium plays is once-again picking up.

The government also announced a new Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit. Combined with the existing flow-through share program, it provides a 30% tax credit to investors for certain exploration expenses incurred by Canadian companies exploring for critical minerals, like lithium.

Given more than half of the 31 critical minerals in Canada's strategy have been found within the borders of the NWT, the Government of the Northwest Territories is also acting on the opportunity to become a hub of critical mineral investment.

In December, the NWT Geological Survey (NTGS) released a new compilation of critical mineral showings highlighting the distribution of critical mineral finds in the territory.

"We are at a pivotal time for the NWT," says Caroline Wawzonek, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI). "Resource availability, technology, market demand and global interest are coming together to create extraordinary opportunities for investment."

Nowhere is this opportunity greater than the Yellowknife Pegmatite Province (YPP), where dozens of lithium-rich targets have been evaluated within a 100-kilometre radius east of the city.

The World Bank forecasts that annual demand for battery minerals like lithium will increase five-fold in the next three decades and the move towards a net-zero carbon economy has reinvigorated lithium exploration to its busiest point in more than 50 years.

"The Yellowknife Pegmatite Province is clearly a very strong contender in this global rush for hard-rock lithium, having been described as the largest-known lithium resource in Canada," says Mike Byrne, Resource Pathfinder with ITI.

The NWT has already experienced an uptick in claim staking. In 2021, 70 new claims were recorded, largely around the outskirts of the Ekati property in the North Slave Region. In 2022, the number of new claims more than doubled to 175, concentrated in the Slave Geological Province and open lands closer to Yellowknife.

There has also been a flurry of lithium property transactions in recent months. In December 2022, Vancouver-based explorer Li-FT Power acquired 14 lithium pegmatite systems in the YPP. Then, in February, it announced its intention to acquire additional mineral leases in the area, covering the site of the former Thompson-Lundmark gold mine, which operated



Photo taken by Gary Vivian

"We are at a pivotal time for the NWT... Resource availability, technology, market demand and global interest are coming together to create extraordinary opportunities for investment."



in the 1940s. The company hopes its portfolio of lithium pegmatites Project – can one day become the largest hard-rock lithium resource in North America.

Li-FT Power is preparing to drill out its most promising targets on a property that has seen little work for the last 35 years. The company also acquired the Cali project, located in another NWT lithium

play – the Little Nahanni Pegmatite Field in the Mackenzie Mountains.

In January 2023, North Arrow Minerals acquired the DeStaffany property, covering 1,843 hectares roughly 115 kilometres east of Yellowknife – and just 18 kilometres from Nechalacho, Canada's first producing rare earth elements mine.

The lithium story comes full circle: DeStaffany was home to the NWT's first lithium producer in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

If precious metals and stones were the foundation of three generations of mining in the NWT, the next generation may well belong to lithium – now itself an increasingly precious commodity.

NEWSBRIEFS

OCTOBER 26, 2022

After a nearly three-year hiatus due to social gathering restrictions, ITI's REDI (Resource and Energy Development Information) initiative returned October 4 to Inuvik.

REDI events, often described as information tradeshows, respond to the public need for

increased transparency and access to balanced information about resource and energy development projects and opportunities within the territory.

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2022

The 2022 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum also reconvened in person, celebrating its 50th year of geoscience discovery and communication.

Over the years, the focus of northern geology has expanded from gold to diamonds, and

now to critical minerals, including rare earth elements. This new age of mineral extraction comes hand in hand with a commitment to cleaner energy and climate change, better remediation practices and more inclusive governance.

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Alongside the Chief of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, Caroline Wawzonek, formally opened the 50th Yellowknife Geoscience Forum looking back over the many important milestones achieved by the NWT and its mineral resource industry since its first gathering

in 1972.

"[...] the strong foundations that have resulted in so much progress and opportunity over the last 50 years are still here, along with continued investments in geoscience, modernized legislation, new infrastructure development, and our leadership in ESG."

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

One of the best attended events at the 2022 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum was a luncheon hosted by the NWT's newly formalized Women in Mining chapter.

The event featured remarks from MLA for Yellowknife Great Slave, Katrina Nokleby, a geological engineer by trade, and Angela Bigg,

president of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. Each spoke of their experiences and careers in the mining industry and how to best support women entering the industry today.

The take-away message for those in attendance was that northern role models are key.

DECEMBER 13, 2022

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released a summary of policy intentions that will guide the drafting of regulations for its new Mineral Resources Act.

The creation of "policy intention papers" is one of the final steps in the co-development process of regulations that will eventually bring the NWT

Mineral Resources Act into force and capture the intent and rationale of the regulations that are being proposed.

The NWT *Mineral Resources Act* and its regulations will be the first-ever legislation governing mineral resources to be drafted in the NWT.

DECEMBER 19,
2022

A hybrid (in-person and online) forum brought together leaders and representatives of Indigenous governments, the territorial government, the mining Industry and various stakeholder organizations to discuss a review of the NWT's 30-year history with Socio-Economic Agreements (SEAs).

Comments and opinions were dynamic and wide ranging from equality, diversity and cultural well-being to the economic benefit and

social repercussions of mine working-structures, all towards improving the future social and economic health of the Northwest Territories.

In her opening remarks, the GNWT's Deputy Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Pam Strand, described the initiative as "a conversation about the future of our economy and the place of the mineral resource sector to create benefits for Northerners within it".

JANUARY 12,
2023

The GNWT opened a public engagement process to determine the viability of a remediation-based economy in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and how to best position NWT residents and businesses to keep the economic benefits

from remediation activities in the territory.

The estimated economic potential from remediation activity in the NWT is roughly \$4.8 billion in spending over the next 30 years.

JANUARY 20,
2023

The Northwest Territories government returned to AME Roundup in Vancouver following two years of virtual attendance. NWT networking events on each day showcased the partnered and sustainable approach to resource development that exists in the NWT, promoted the need for strategic infrastructure

investment and celebrated the accomplishments of NWT women in mining.

As many as 100 Indigenous government representatives from the NWT also attended Roundup to promote regional interests and partnership with the mining industry.

JANUARY 24,
2023

The What-We-Heard Report on the future of resource royalties was released. The document provides excerpts and meeting notes capturing the responses to public engagement questions and topic areas.

Public and targeted engagements were completed from February 3 - July 29, 2022

to solicit input from NWT residents, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders on the development of regulations governing resource royalties in the NWT.

JANUARY 25,
2023

A compilation of Northwest Territories (NWT) Critical Mineral Showings was released by the Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) to respond to an escalation of interest in the NWT's known and potential deposits for rare earths and other critical minerals.

The online document shows general trends and variability of the genesis and distribution of critical mineral finds in the NWT. Its content has been assembled from previous reports and already-existing data published by the NTGS and builds on historic knowledge and previous mapping projects.

Changing The Narrative in Canada's North



L-R Minister of Mining ON, George Pirie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation BC, Josie Osbourne and Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment NWT, Caroline Wawzonek.
Photo: GNWT-ITI

At the AME Roundup in January, Northwest Territories Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment Caroline Wawzonek said its' time to change the narrative around mining in Canada's North.

The setting itself gave her words weight. She was sitting alongside Ontario's Minister of Mining, George Pirie, and BC's Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, Josie Osbourne, on a panel of jurisdictions destined to lead the development of critical minerals in Canada.

The NWT is competitive, she affirmed, when measured by today's priorities; specifically its geology and how it does business.

Minister Wawzonek and her colleagues addressed a series of questions posed by the panel's moderator, Marcella Munro of Teck Resources Ltd. The following is a summary of the NWT Minister's responses:

What are you most excited about (in your jurisdiction)?

MCW: For me, it's the timing. We have the possibility as governments, and industry, to make tremendous change in communities where it is desperately needed; at a time, and in a manner that can also contribute to climate change and make greener energy available. Not only do we see the possibilities of what we can do, but we are being pushed to address them at the same time. It's an incredible opportunity

How do we make sure we are implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and on the path to reconciliation without seeing delays in projects?

MCW: We just do it. It's the way that we've been doing things in the North for a while. Fundamentally, getting the (UN's) Declaration right means you're going to wind up with more stability. You're going to wind up with more certainty. You might wind up with equity partners. At the very least, you wind up with operational partners.

In 2014, under what we call the Devolution agreement, the NWT took control of land and natural resources from the federal government. We created the Intergovernmental Council. At it, we (the GNWT) sit as equals with Indigenous governments who also signed the agreement. Together, we co-develop legislation on land and natural resources. It's been an incredible process.

My department was the first one out of the gate. We now have a made-in-the-NWT Mineral Resources Act and we're almost all the way towards having the regulations to implement it. We've co-developed these regulations with the people on whose traditional territories the mines and mineral resources will be developed and in doing so, we've built and, hopefully, rebuilt trust.

More than that, we've created a process that's been co-developed, understood and can be bought into because the work was done by the very people whose support we need to move projects forward.

The process provides certainty and clarity to industry as well as to Indigenous governments, and certainly to our own staff. It's a process that is ultimately making good on the promises of the UN Declaration, and one that's going to make the actual way we do business better. It's to everyone's benefit to go through this process. It's taken us a little bit longer, but it's going to lead to very positive results.

Could you describe what you see in your jurisdiction as the most important infrastructure challenge?

MCW: We have a deficit of infrastructure. That is the situation of the North generally. We don't have the nation-building infrastructure that other jurisdictions have benefited from. We are light years behind.

If you're going to supply minerals and metals to the green energy sector, they don't want them mined on diesel energy. We understand that. But how do you address it?

We have the Taltson Hydro Energy Project. We are sitting down with Indigenous governments to develop that project, hopefully with an equity stake. We're talking about how it should be developed, where it should run, how it should run—and where it should be placed.

But there's other options for communities and projects that may be off that grid. There's new ways to supply power through solar, through wind, through micro nuclear and it's time to have the conversation about how we're going to realize these options for remote (mining) operations so they can actually fuel the green economy with greener energy.



Photo: GNWT-ITI

Can you comment on how we move forward and collaborate on Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy?

MCW: If there is a way to have more and faster access to the money that was set aside to improve the regulatory processes in the North, we'll take it.

Critical minerals and metals projects need high inputs to build their capital or to build their projects up; to get them over the gap before they're turning a profit. Our understanding is that the investment that is coming will help accelerate that.

The (Critical Minerals) strategy is great. We need to actually implement it; to move it forward and to start to accelerate the conversations that it's promising. We're all saying very similar things. It's going to involve a significant commitment of dollars, time and political wealth. We're anxious to get that moving.

5 FIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MIP

With this year's application deadline just around the corner, (April 28, 2023), we compiled (in no particular order) five highlights of the MIP in action:

1

Seven prospectors have sold or optioned properties as a result of their MIP-funded exploration – all have been incorporated into promising exploration projects.

2

Since 2014, Gold Terra Resources Corp. has used MIP funding to conduct innovative grassroots exploration related to its Yellowknife City Gold Project. The company has consistently leveraged the success of its grassroots work to develop major drill projects. This work has greatly contributed to knowledge of gold mineralization in the Yellowknife area as the project advances closer towards a mine-construction decision.

Like all good government programs the Government of the Northwest Territories' Mining Incentive Program is perhaps better known by its acronym, MIP.

Since its introduction in 2014, the MIP has shelled out \$6 million in government support to a variety of NWT-based mineral exploration projects, leveraging an impressive \$29 million in reciprocal spending by its collective recipients.

Anyone with a valid NWT prospecting licence and a registered Canadian bank account is eligible to apply for MIP funding. Mineral exploration companies can apply for up to \$240,000 (60% of eligible project expenses). Prospectors can receive up to \$25,000.

Since its inception, a number of companies, individuals and projects have employed MIP funds with notable success.

3

In 2018, North Arrow Minerals Inc. discovered a new kimberlite in the Lac de Gras region. It was the first to be discovered in over five years.

4

With MIP support, Arctic Star Exploration discovered five new kimberlites in 2021. Of note is the Sequoia kimberlite from which two commercial-grade diamonds have been recovered with only limited drilling.

5

Cheetah Resources used MIP funding to advance drilling and mine planning at the Nechalacho rare earth deposit. Mining was able to commence on the Nechalacho deposit in 2021, making it the first rare earth mine in Canada and just the second in North America.



Andy McMullen received the MAX Award for Special Achievement from Tom Hoefer, NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines. billbradenphoto

2022 MAX AWARDS Celebrate Excellence in NWT Mining and Exploration

"The bar, on a normal day in the NWT's mining and exploration sector is set pretty high," Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, Caroline Wawzonek remarked to a full house as she formally opened the 2022 MAX Awards in Yellowknife.

"On a day-to-day basis, we are witness to the excellence that exists in mining and exploration in our territory. Tonight, we will recognize the best of the best."

The NWT's MAX Awards are an annual collaboration of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Government of the Northwest Territories and celebrate excellence in the NWT's mining and exploration sector. (MAX is a quasi acronym for Mining and Exploration).

Many of the NWT's biggest names were on hand at last November's gala event which also concluded the 2022 edition of the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum – and the first time in three years that delegates to the conference had gathered in person.



Top left: Premier Cochran presents the MAX Award for Economic Leadership to Cheetah Resources/Necholacho Mine. billbradenphoto

Top right: Premier Caroline Cochrane presented the MAX Award for Indigenous Achievement to Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty (middle) of the Tlicho Government. billbradenphoto

Bottom: All three of the NWT's diamond mines received a MAX Award celebrating Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) excellence. (L) Lyndon Clark, General Manager of Gahcho Kué Mine; and (R) Rory Moore, president & CEO at Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd. billbradenphoto

The program included a live charity auction and a keynote from Jeff Hussey, president & COO of Osisko Metals. The event extended well past its scheduled three-hour run time and on this particular occasion nobody seemed to mind.

From boots-on-the-ground-exploration to long-term monitoring and through the full spectrum of planning, regulatory submissions, construction, production and reclamation, the NWT's mining industry is among the best in the world.

Events such as the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum and the MAX Awards serve to profile the potential, capacity and excellence that exists in the NWT's mineral and exploration sectors.

Right top: Diavik Diamond Mine received MAX awards for Safety Leadership and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) while Gaeleen MacPherson (3rd from the left), Sr. Manager, HR & CS, received the inaugural Women in Mining Award. billbradenphoto

Right bottom: The Northwest Territories Geological Survey was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by David Mate (far right), Director with the Geological Survey of Canada. billbradenphoto



NWT Women in Mining

At an AME Roundup networking event in Vancouver that pushed the capacity of its room rental, Women in Mining Canada (WIM) formally recognized its newest member in January – the NWT.

And there was a who's who of the NWT's mining industry and Indigenous and public governments to celebrate.

"The NWT mining industry has had some incredible women who have contributed to its growth and success," Premier Caroline Cochrane highlighted - recognizing the many prominent figures that have shaped the NWT mining industry.

Figures like: Angela Bigg, president and COO of Diavik Diamond Mine – the first woman to lead operations at a Canadian diamond mine; Mpumi Zikalala who guided DeBeers' operations in the NWT before becoming CEO of Anglo American's Kumba Iron Ore business; and Eira Thomas, with Lucara Diamond, a Canadian geologist with over 25 years of experience in the Canadian mining industry, including, in the NWT.

You can add Gaeleen MacPherson to the list.

As a member of the NWT mining industry for the over 22 years, Gaeleen has worked at all three NWT diamond mines. She served as Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Dominion Diamond Mines for six years, the highest position held by an Indigenous woman in the NWT mining industry. Currently, she is the Senior Manager of Human Resources and CSP for Rio Tinto Diavik - and the new president of the Women in Mining NWT Chapter.

Following the premier's comments, several other key speakers addressed the room, including Maria Vallejo Garcia, a WIM National Board Member, who officially welcomed the NWT branch into the national organization.

Tł'ichô Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty was also in attendance and spoke about the contributions Tł'ichô women like MacPherson have made to the mining industry as local inspirations and role models.

Although women make up close to 48% of the general workforce, the national average for women in the mining industry is just 15%. The Northwest Territories is on par with that average.

Although women make up close to 48% of the general workforce, the national average for women in the mining industry is just 15%. The Northwest Territories is on par with that average.

The new NWT WIM chapter hopes to better that.

As the Government of the Northwest Territories works to improve the northern hiring component of established Socio-economic Agreements, it is actively seeking ways to help more women find employment in mine-related fields and to increase female representation in all aspects of the mining industry, from field exploration and lab work to active mining and mine administration.

Sponsors for the celebratory event included Rio Tinto, Arctic Canadian Diamond Company, De Beers, and the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines.



Top: Premier Caroline Cochrane "The NWT mining industry has had some incredible women who have contributed to its growth and success". Photo: GNWT-ITI

Middle: The Tł'chǫ Drummers opened the Women In Mining Celebration. Photo: GNWT-ITI

Bottom: DDMI's Gaeleen MacPherson is the President of the Women in Mining NWT Chapter. Photo: GNWT-ITI

A GOLDEN MILESTONE FOR THE YELLOWKNIFE GEOSCIENCE FORUM

Fifty years ago, Canadians were basking in the glory of Henderson's famous goal over the Russians. The Yellowknife movie theatre was likely showing Marlon Brando in the Godfather.

Trudeau was Prime Minister – but it wasn't Justin, it was his father; and the Northwest Territories government was headed by a federal Commissioner.

Yellowknife was a gold town and the NWT included what is now Nunavut. Prospectors and mining enthusiasts gathered at the Miner's Mess to talk about places like: Echo Bay, Lupin and Nanisivik.

In the fall of 1972, about 150 people came together for the inaugural gathering of the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum

That first geoscience forum would have been organized without the benefit of cell phones or internet. Who among them could have even imagined on-line staking? Yet today the GNWT is putting the legislation in place to make that possible.

50 years ago, few if any, would have predicted the diamond rush of the 1990s; or that the NWT would rise to be the third largest producer of rough diamonds in the world. Even less would have foreseen mining for rare earths and other critical minerals.

Today the NWT is home to three operating diamond mines and Canada's first rare earth mining project – the first link in an independent mine-to-motor supply chain that will see NWT rare earths processed in Saskatchewan for use in German-made electric vehicles.

"Northern control over northern resources" was a familiar, but seemingly improbable, mantra for local politicians in the early 70's. They would not have envisioned the 2014 devolution of authorities and responsibilities over lands and resources to the NWT.

An agreement to share resource royalties across three levels of government would have been dismissed as unlikely. The reality of a table where NWT Indigenous Governments work alongside the territorial government to develop a Mineral Resources Act would have been considered far-fetched.

Who could predict, in 1972, the level to which northern and Indigenous entities would be partners and leaders in today's mining sector; that a 17 billion dollar made-in-the-NWT service sector would evolve to service not one but three diamond mines.

Or that in 2021, a business arm of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation would lead mining operations in its own traditional territory at the Nechalacho project.

In the 50 year-history of the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, the unpredictable, the unimaginable and the improbable have all become reality.

They weren't all envisioned. They weren't all planned.

In today's terms, it's hard to fathom life beyond diamond mine. The North's infrastructure deficit is daunting. A fully-devolved regulatory environment is aspirational. The concept of Net Zero operations is difficult to grasp.

And yet, we'll get there.

In the 90's, partners to the NWT's first socio economic agreement could not have known, the growth and capacity that these agreements would bring to NWT businesses and the economy. The same holds true for Impact Benefit Agreements established between developers and Indigenous governments.

Today, we can look back on these agreements and recognize that they have positioned the NWT as a leader in the application of ESG and ESG-I principles; and in the overall implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. None of which were envisioned when the Agreements were conceived.

With the exploration and development of critical minerals, improved geoscience, modernized legislation, new infrastructure development, and the evolution of ESG, the GNWT is evolving its modern and uniquely northern approach to resource development; and will be ready to welcome the mineral industry of tomorrow.

LAST WORD



*Tł'ichô Grand Chief
Jackson Lafferty*

The NWT's Mining and Exploration (MAX) Award (see page 14) for Indigenous Achievement celebrates and recognizes Indigenous leaders or companies in the (NWT) resource sector who demonstrate excellence in: innovation, best practice, sustainability, and/or capacity-building in their home community or region.

The 2022 MAX Award for Indigenous Achievement was presented by NWT Premier Caroline Cochrane to the Tł'ichô Government. Tł'ichô Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty's acceptance speech highlighted the partnered approach to mineral development that exists in the Northwest Territories and the benefits and certainty that it can bring.

They are a fitting final word to this edition of our newsletter...

I would like to start by thanking our elders, former leaders, our present leadership and the staff of Tł'ichô Government that have contributed to the successes that are recognized in this award.

Our successes are created by respecting our history, our journey, the wisdom of our elders and a vision for our youth, and our nation, to be strong like two people.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our partners that are a part of our journey in self-governance and co-management of our traditional territory, Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njìtlèè:

Our boards and agencies, including the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board, the Review Board, the Renewable Resource Board, the Tł'ichô Investment Corporation and our Tł'ichô Community Services Agency. The chairs of these boards are with us today.

These are the institutions created through our modern treaty that we are working with to rebuild our nation...we respect these agencies to do the important work they do – we ask you to respect and support them also.

Our successes are through our partnerships. We have partnered in one way or another with many of you, both industry and governments.

We are writing laws together, promoting projects, running programs for our citizens and continuing the devolution of authorities to the North as a whole.

What we are learning is that we cannot do this without Indigenous Governments at the table...not as stakeholders, but as true partners.

This award is a reflection of the strength of our government's commitment to our people...Tł'ichô Unity has held, and will continue.

Our people are embracing the opportunities available to become Strong Like Two People.

Programs like scholarships, originally made possible by mining partnerships, are now a core part of our government's programming.

Creating certainty through land use planning and protected areas allows for protection and development with certainty.

Our recent deal with Explor is a perfect example of how we can work together to promote development and protect Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njìtlèè.

Work with us and listen to us and when the conditions are right, and projects are environmentally and economically sound, we can create partnerships that will create opportunity for our citizens and your companies.

It wasn't long ago mining brought nothing but devastation to our environment; today it brings jobs and opportunities.

As we move forward, we are looking to lead development throughout our region - at our pace, led by our people and our organizations.

Tł'ichô Government has reestablished our right to govern and manage ourselves, and at the same time we have shown how our self-governance creates opportunities for our citizens, northerners and all Canadians.

Thank you for this award.



Government of
Northwest Territories



<https://qrco.de/UoPPDAC>

**We're working to unlock
the full potential of Canada's
Northwest Territories.
Please take our survey!**

Tell us how best to connect leading exploration and mining companies like yours to information and data about our world-class mineral deposits.

**Unlocking
our Potential**

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERALS AND PETROLEUM

NWTGEOSCIENCE.CA:
E-mail: ntgs@gov.nt.ca
T: 867-767-9211 Ext. 63469

NWTMINING.COM:
E-mail: mining@gov.nt.ca
T: 867-767-9209 Ext. 63160