

Dominion Community Newsletter

Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Jay Project Update	1
Environmental Updates	2
Community Engagement	3
Employment Updates	3
Civic Award	3
Site Visits	4
Upcoming Activities	4
Environmental Award	4

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Dominion Community Newsletter. Our goal is to keep in touch with the communities and provide updates on some of our programs.

Dominion Diamond is a northern company run by northerners. We strive to be good employers and good neighbours. The North is our home, and we want to take care of it.

We are proud of the strengths of our company and the work we do. We are also proud of the fact that as a northern-based company, we employ more northern Aboriginal people than any other mining company in the NWT.

Of our employees, 62% are from the north, and 43% are northern Aboriginal.

As part of our commitment to sharing information to the communities about our operations and future plans, we intend to distribute this newsletter every two months.

Brendan Bell, Acting CEO



We are interested in hearing from you! Please email laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca with any questions you may have.

Jay Project Public Hearings

Members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the Jay project. Below are the dates and locations of the upcoming public hearings:

- September 14-16 Yellowknife
- September 17 Behchoko
- September 19 Łutsel K'e



Jay Project Update

The Jay pipe is the most significant undeveloped diamond deposit at Ekati. If approved, the project would add 10 to 11 years to the current mine life of Ekati, keeping the mine open until at least 2030. Based on our current plan, construction could start in the second half of 2016.

Environmental Assessment

We are currently in the middle of an Environmental Assessment for the project. A lot of environmental knowledge has been gathered over the past 17 years of the Ekati mine. Our plans for the Jay Project are based on the good environmental practices we have developed over the years. We believe that the Environmental Assessment will show that the Jay Project can be developed in a responsible way, both environmentally and economically.

Many organizations, including the Tłıcho Government, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the North Slave Métis Alliance, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Fort Resolution Métis Council, and the Deninu K'ue First Nation are participating in the Environmental Assessment.

Each group has the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide input on the way the project will be developed.

Drilling Program

This winter, we completed a drilling program in the project area to find out more about the soil and rock conditions, the flows of water underground, and the quantity and quality of the diamonds we expect to recover. Many employees and contractors worked hard all winter to clear ice and snow off the project area, and made sure the site was properly protected and cleaned up after the drilling.

This newsletter will continue to provide news and information related to the project as we move towards construction.



YKDFN Chiefs Ernest Betsina (l) and Ed Sangris (r) tour the Jay Winter Drilling Program (CK)

Environmental Updates

Coming Soon!

The plain language summary of the *Water Licence and Environmental Agreement Annual Report* will be published soon, so keep an eye out for that. It will be posted on the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board website, and printed copies will be distributed to the communities.

Plant Seed Collection Project

There will be an opportunity for students from the communities to assist in the collection of local plant seeds for on-going reclamation projects. This activity will take place over three days in July and three days in August. For further information, please contact Charles at charles.klengenberg@ekati.ddcorp.ca.

Throughout the mining process, Dominion Diamond is focused on keeping the land and water of the mine area clean and safe for people, plants, and animals. Dominion understands the importance of the Arctic tundra and is committed to mining in a safe and environmentally responsible way.

We are pleased to provide updates below on some of our recent environmental programs:

Wolverine DNA Program

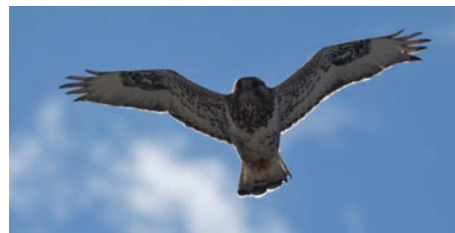
Dominion carried out a wolverine DNA program in March and April 2015, covering approximately 3,500 square kilometers in area.

A total of 454 hair samples were collected for analysis, with results expected in October 2015. These results will be shared with the GNWT as part of a regional wolverine population analysis, and the report will be made available to the public.

Winter Water Sampling

The Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) has completed the winter field data collection.

The goal was to collect water quality data during the winter months to monitor for seasonal changes. A total of 68 samples were taken from fourteen lakes in April. The results will be included in the 2015 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program to describe the quality of water downstream of the mine.



Rough-legged hawk

Misery Monitoring Programs

In 2014, we hired two community wildlife monitors to conduct bird surveys on the Misery pit wall. Following the program, we were pleased that these two individuals joined us in September as full-time employees.

We are continuing to build on this program in 2015 by hiring more community monitors for both the Misery pit and our power line construction along the Misery Road.



Caribou at Ekati

Community Caribou Hunts

This year, Dominion Diamond partnered with the GNWT to provide financial support to the Tłjcho and Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) community hunts. Due to the hunting ban on the Bathurst caribou herd, the contribution assisted the Tłjcho and YKDFN communities to travel to the Beverly Caribou herd in order to harvest meat and hides for elders and community members who are unable to hunt. The company continues to look at other Traditional Knowledge opportunities for next year.

Lynx Lake Fish-Out

As one of the next steps in the development of the Lynx pit, Dominion Diamond is carrying out a fish-out of Lynx Lake this summer. This is a small lake located above the Lynx diamond deposit that must have the water removed in order to access the area.

We worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and our IBA communities to determine the best way to collect the fish in the lake, and to offset the lost habitat by creating new fish habitat in another area. The plan is to start the fish-out in June or July this year.

Community members from Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Tłjcho Government, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation will participate in the fish-out, which will take approximately four weeks.

Prior to the fish-out, a Ceremony of Respect will be held to honour the land, water, and culture. Harvestable fish will be distributed to the communities. The team for the fish-out will include community members, biologists, and a project supervisor from Dominion.



Tłjcho community members participate in a Fish Health Survey (CK)

Community Engagement

Dominion Diamond believes in supporting sustainable community development projects that help to build a stronger North. We are excited to get behind worthwhile northern initiatives. Below are some of the programs we support:

Side Door Youth Centre

Side Door provides quality support services to youth in need of a safe place to stay at night when there is nowhere else to go. The program provides laundry and shower facilities and employs staff who are trained to provide counseling, guidance and direction for youth.

The program *Bringing Hope and Prosperity Back* allows staff to engage with youth to identify resources, develop plans for their future and to provide various support and mentoring while they are using the emergency shelter.



Side Door program in Yellowknife



The Breakfast for Learning program serves up nutritious food for students

Breakfast for Learning

This program provides resources to school nutrition programs that improve the ability of students to focus and perform in the classroom.

Dominion's support is having a lasting impact on the lives of children and youth in forty-eight schools in the NWT and two schools in Kugluktuk, NU. The children use the nutrition programs each school day, providing them with a head start for years to come.

According to the Chief T'selehye School, "Parents want to give their children healthy choices but due to high expenses for healthier food items and lack of work, it is difficult."

Dominion Wins Civic Award

Dominion Diamond is pleased to accept the 2015 Civic Award by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists (NAPEG) for the company's contributions to local communities.

We take our responsibility to the communities seriously, and it is gratifying to be recognized for those efforts. We continue to take on projects that improve the quality of life for local residents.

The corporate Civic Award recognizes a company that has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life for the citizens of their community.

The award was given in recognition of a number of initiatives that we support, particularly the Food Rescue program, Habitat for Humanity, and Lynn's Place (BETTY House).



Elliot Holland, VP of Projects and Business Development for Dominion, accepts the 2015 Civic Award from Ron Kent, P.Eng, NAPEG President

Did You Know?

Soon after purchasing the Ekati mine, Dominion Diamond reintroduced the role of **Adult Educator**, which is currently being filled by Barb Curtis.

Barb works with apprentices to ensure their skill levels are adequate to pass their exams. She also works with employees to assess their levels in various workplace essential skills such as mathematics, English, and basic computer skills, to name a few. She then identifies what support is needed, and works with individuals one-on-one to help them achieve their goals.

Employment Opportunities

Dominion Diamond is looking for qualified people to join our team. That could be you! Please visit www.ddcorp.ca/careers regularly to find out what job opportunities are available. The postings at the time of publication are:

- Condition Monitoring Technician (deadline June 15)
- Lead Senior Environmental Advisor (deadline June 15)
- Mine Engineer (deadline June 15)
- Process Control Technician (deadline June 16)
- Document Controller (deadline June 23)
- Chief Exploration Geologist (deadline June 24)
- Disbursements Manager (deadline June 24)
- Superintendent Procurement (deadline June 24)
- Senior Business Analyst (deadline June 26)

Community Engagement Meetings

Dominion Diamond remains committed to engaging with communities in an open, timely, and comprehensive manner. We meet regularly with our partner communities on issues related to the mine, including wildlife and environment, training and employment, future projects, and reclamation plans. Below are the meetings that took place recently, not including workshops and technical sessions:

- March 11 Kugluktuk
- March 12 Tłıcho Government - Gameti
- March 16 Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- March 17 Tłıcho Government - Wekweeti
- March 19 Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- March 27 Deninu K'ue First Nation
- March 31 North Slave Métis Alliance
- April 2 Tłıcho Government - Kwe Beh Working Group
- April 13 Tłıcho Government - Whati
- May 7 Fort Resolution Métis Council
- May 12 Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Activities and Events

School Visits to Ekati Mine

Kugluktuk School Visit	Apr 30, 2015
Yellowknives Dene First Nation Student Visit	May 4, 2015
North Slave Métis Alliance Student Visit	May 20, 2015
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation Student Visit	May 21, 2015

Upcoming Events

Community Tours of Jay Project	June 2015
Lynx Fish-out (see page 2)	Summer 2015
North American Breeding Bird Survey	June or July 2015
Plant Seed Collection Project (see page 2)	June, Aug 2015
Ekati Community Caribou Engagement	Aug 17-27, 2015
Public Hearings on Jay Project (see page 1)	Sep 14-19, 2015



Students from Kugluktuk on a tour of Ekati mine (LWB)

Environmental Excellence Award

Dominion Diamond and Diavik Diamond Mines jointly won the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Environmental Excellence Award in May for a regional grizzly bear DNA program in the NWT. The project was designed to find out if mining-related activity affected the presence of grizzly bears over time.

Traditional knowledge was sought from community elders and land users for the design and placement of posts, which were used to gather grizzly bear hair samples for DNA analysis.



A grizzly bear at one of the DNA collection posts (DDC)

This project was the largest grizzly bear DNA program in the NWT. The results of the study indicated a stable or increasing bear population in the region.

Acting CEO Brendan Bell commented, "Dominion Diamond takes our responsibility to the environment, wildlife, and the surrounding communities seriously, and it is gratifying to be recognized for those efforts at a national level."



Harry O'Keefe and Claudine Lee with the TSM Award (LWB)

Do you have any questions?

For Environment & Traditional Knowledge:

Charles Klengenberg
Advisor, Traditional Knowledge
Tel: (867) 766-6527
charles.klengenberg@ekati.ddcorp.ca

For Community Engagement:

Ora-naja Wah-Shee
Team Leader, Community Development
Tel: (867) 669-6147
ora-naja.wah-shee@ekati.ddcorp.ca

For General Information:

Laura Worsley-Brown
Senior Advisor, External Relations
Tel: (867) 669-6105
laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca

Dominion Diamond Corporation | #1102-4920 52nd Street | Yellowknife, NT X1A 3T1 | www.ddcorp.ca

Unless otherwise indicated, photos credited to Dave Brosha photography.
If you have ideas for what you would like to see in a future newsletter, please email laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca.

