



information

BULLETIN

ABORIGINAL MINING PARTNERSHIPS

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The Minerals and Metals Sector of Natural Resources Canada promotes the participation of Aboriginal communities in minerals and metals activities across Canada by sharing information on Aboriginal-industry leading practices.

Eskay Creek Mine – Partnership Agreements

● Project

The Eskay Creek mine is located in northern British Columbia, approximately 300 air kilometres northwest of Smithers and 80 kilometres north of Stewart. It is at the southern edge of the area identified as the traditional territory of the Tahltan First Nation. One of the highest-grade gold and silver deposits in North America, Eskay Creek officially became an operating mine in November 1994. Historically, International Corona Corporation (Corona) began exploration in 1987. In 1992, Homestake Canada acquired Corona and began a surface diamond drilling program. Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) merged with Homestake Mining Company in 2001.



● Signed Agreements

A Collaborative Agreement was signed in 2004 by the Tahltan and Iskut Bands, the Tahltan Central Council, and Barrick that outlined the ongoing nature of the relationship between the local First Nations and Barrick. The Agreement also identified two developmental positions: Human Resources Coordinator and Natural Resources Coordinator. Barrick made a commitment to define these positions and recruit candidates who would be provided with certified training in these professions. The commitment to these positions extends through to the end of the operating mine life. Although not part of the Collaborative Agreement, Barrick has also agreed to provide financial assistance for the establishment of a Wellness Centre for the Tahltan First Nation.

● Employment and Training

Since it began operation, a commitment has been in place to provide entry-level positions to local First Nations, primarily Tahltan, where and whenever possible and then to train them to higher-level skills. Approximately 50% of the mill operators and 75% of the loader operators are Tahltan. At the end of 2004, 32% of the 350-person work force at Eskay Creek was First Nation. Barrick has supported apprenticeship training for millwrights, warehouse employees, heavy-duty mechanics, electricians, and welders. Training has also been provided for underground truck drivers – an entry-level mining position – with ongoing underground mining employment and development. Nearly 20 Tahltan, including two women, are currently employed in a variety of underground positions.

● Economic/Business Development

Barrick contracts with the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) for access road maintenance and



haulage of both backfill and waste. Spatsizi-Sodexho, a Tahltan joint venture, provides catering and housekeeping services. Arrow Trucking entered into a joint venture with TNDC for ore and concentrate haulage. Barrick spends in the order of \$1 million per month on the procurement of goods and services from Aboriginal companies/joint ventures.

● Social/Cultural and Community Support

To help address social issues stemming from work schedules that require extended absences from families, Barrick created the position of Social Development Coordinator. This person provides first-level counseling to on-site employees and referral to off-site resources, including those in the local communities.



● Moving Forward

Throughout its operational history, the relationship between the Eskay Creek mine and the Tahltan First Nation has been collaborative and positive, focusing on employment and training for local people and on economic opportunities for local contractors.



For more information on Barrick Gold Corporation, please visit www.barrick.com or contact the company by telephone at (416) 307-7477 or by e-mail at vborg@barrick.com.

Photos courtesy of Barrick Gold Corporation (used with permission).

For more information on Aboriginal communities and mining, please visit www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms or send an e-mail to info-mms@nrcan.gc.ca



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