



information

BULLETIN

ABORIGINAL MINING PARTNERSHIPS

OCTOBER 2005

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.

Voisey's Bay Nickel Company – Partnership Agreements

Project

Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited (VBNC), owned by Inco Limited, is a mine/concentrator/port located in Anaktalak Bay, Labrador. Construction of the mine, concentrator and port began in the third quarter of 2002. Shipment of the first concentrate from the mine and concentrator is expected in late 2005.



Signed Agreements

VBNC signed Impact and Benefit Agreements with the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) and Innu Nation. While the details of these agreements are confidential, they provide specific business, employment and training opportunities for members of the Innu Nation and LIA related to the mine and concentrator project.

Employment and Training

At its construction peak in 2004, over 40% of the mine's Labrador work force comprised Innu and Inuit. More than 350 Aboriginal people have participated in training related to the Voisey's Bay project. Pre-employment training was offered in communities throughout Labrador in 2003-04 through the Joint Voisey's Bay Employment and Training Authority. VBNC established the positions of Innu Employment Coordinator and Inuit Employment Coordinator to facilitate the hiring of Innu

and Inuit and to provide access to information about the project to local residents. VBNC also developed Innu and Inuit Employee Advisory Committees to provide advice to site management.

Economic/Business Development

A total of \$810 million was awarded on procurement and contracts related to the construction of the mine and concentrator and \$515 million was awarded to Aboriginal companies. VBNC has encouraged the establishment of capacity-building Aboriginal joint ventures to meet the supply and service needs for the Voisey's Bay project. The majority of contracts for the operations phase are with Innu or Inuit businesses.

Social, Cultural and Community Support

VBNC regularly supports cultural and community events through sponsorships and donations. So far, VBNC has established eight scholarships that are available to the Innu and Inuit; the company is also providing ongoing support funding to schools to encourage attendance and student development. In 2004, VBNC contributed



\$50 000 to civic, community, cultural, health and education initiatives in Newfoundland and Labrador.

VBNC's parent company, Inco Limited, contributed \$500 000 toward the development of a new community centre in Nain, Labrador, in 2004 and \$1.2 million to the Innu Healing Foundation's Building Hope Campaign to help build, equip and endow two community recreational facilities in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish.

VBNC produces an annual *Social Responsibility Report* that outlines employment, training, procurement and community investment initiatives. Socio-economic monitoring strategies are being developed jointly with the Innu Nation and the Labrador Inuit Association.

● Environmental Protection

VBNC has implemented an Environmental Protection Plan that consolidates all relevant provincial, federal and Inco corporate environmental guidelines. This ensures the approach to identifying non-compliance issues and offering mitigation is consistent. Environmental management and monitoring involve a high level of Aboriginal participation and extend to virtually all aspects of the environmental management process. The company incorporates the traditional knowledge of Aboriginal peoples in the ongoing management and monitoring of daily environmental performance. This allows for the protection of areas of cultural significance. VBNC also meets monthly with the LIA and Innu Nation to discuss and review plans for the environmental management and monitoring of project effects. In addition, VBNC funds on-site Aboriginal Environmental Monitors who report to the LIA and Innu Nation.

● Moving Forward

VBNC is committed to maximizing opportunities for Aboriginal peoples in Labrador. According to Tom Paddon, VBNC's Manager of Labrador & Aboriginal Affairs, "Our employment and procurement success to date is evidence of this commitment. We achieved this level of success by working closely with the Innu Nation, the LIA, and all of our stakeholders to reach our goals."



For more information on Voisey's Bay Nickel Company, please visit www.vbnc.com or contact the company by telephone at (709) 758-8888 or by facsimile at (709) 758-8833.

Photos courtesy of Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited (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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