

## ABOUT ARCTIC CANADIAN

Arctic Canadian is a Canadian mining company and a significant producer and supplier of premium rough diamond assortments to the global market. The company owns and operates the Ekati Diamond Mine located in Canada's Northwest Territories. In addition to its mining and exploration operations, Arctic Canadian has offices in Canada and Belgium.

Visit us online at [www.arcticcanadian.ca](http://www.arcticcanadian.ca)

SUMMER 2022

## President's Message



Welcome to the first edition of our community newsletter, which will be issued twice a year. Our goal is to keep in touch with our stakeholders and provide updates on our activities and programs.

I am pleased to report that since the restart of operations at Ekati in January 2021 as a new company with a new ownership group, Arctic Canadian Diamond Company, we have made tremendous progress.

Over the past 16 months, we have welcomed a significant number of new employees to the Arctic Canadian family, and ramped up our projects under difficult operating conditions, while navigating the threat of an ongoing pandemic. I am extremely proud of how our team pulled together and delivered on all fronts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone involved in bringing Ekati back to life, while building for the future through the successful permitting of the Point Lake Project. The five years of mining at Point Lake will provide the required time to build and test a new innovative mining system, that has the potential to extend mine life at Ekati well into

the future. This will enable us to continue to provide significant socio-economic opportunities and benefits for the North.

Arctic Canadian remains committed to placing a high priority on our relationships with stakeholders, including our workers, Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) partners, Northern communities, the governments of the Northwest Territories, and our Northern business partners.

I am deeply proud of our team's achievements and ability to tackle challenges, which I have no doubt we will continue to meet with determination and strength. I invite you to read more about our progress in this newsletter.

Mahsi' Choo,

Rory Moore  
President and CEO

## In the community: Arctic Canadian assists in the Hay River flood recovery efforts

In early May, Hay River residents were forced to flee their homes as severe ice and floodwaters caused extensive damage to the community. While Hay River experienced flooding in the past, this was the worst flood many long-time residents reportedly witnessed.

Arctic Canadian workers based out of Hay River became worried for their families and homes, as many were away working their regular shift on-site at the Ekati Mine.

While evacuation measures were being announced in the news, Arctic Canadian leadership came together with hours to spare and organized a charter flight back to Hay River before the flood worsened.

"It became vital to get workers back to their families to prepare for a potential worst-case scenario," said Sheila Chernys, Head of Health, Safety, Security and Environment at Arctic Canadian. "We understood the importance of giving employees as much time as possible, as we were already racing against the clock."

Sheila Warren, a Hay River resident and worker at the Ekati Mine, made it home just in time to rescue her daughter's keepsakes and an elder from the impending ice and water that shortly after raged through town.

"As the updates were coming in and the situation was worsening, our department Superintendent, Todd Harkies, kept a watchful eye on us 'Hay Riverites' and how we were managing throughout this stressful time," said Warren. "Once the Leadership Team realized that our community was up against an unusual and potentially disastrous river break, they immediately chartered a plane to get us home."

As water levels receded, Hay River residents were left to deal with the aftermath of the flood. Many of the town's buildings sat among large chunks of ice and debris, while mud caked inside and outside office buildings and residents' homes.

Arctic Canadian donated \$10,000 to assist in the clean-up efforts and will continue to work with our workers and the community towards recovery.



*Residential flooding in Hay River, NWT, May 2022.*

## Arctic Canadian donates \$20,000 to two Yellowknife-based organizations for youth and seniors

Arctic Canadian's Ekati Plus Community Development Program supports projects that help build resilient, sustainable communities. In partnership with the Union of Northern Workers Local X3050, we have been working with two Northern organizations, Northern Youth Leadership (NYL) and the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society (NWTSS), to give financial assistance where it's most needed. A \$10,000 donation was made to each organization to help fund programming for Northern youth and seniors.

### Northern Youth Leadership

NYL brings together youth from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) for remote land-based programming. The organization facilitates the development of leadership skills and resources needed for youth to overcome challenges, reach their full potential and create positive change in their communities.

“We have been working with Northern Youth Leadership for over 10 years,” said Rebecca Plotner, Community Relations Advisor with Arctic Canadian. “It’s been gratifying to see the program grow from grassroots to where it is today.”

NYL was founded by two Yellowknife-based individuals who experienced first-hand the sense of accomplishment and confidence that comes from stepping outside of your comfort zone and realizing a goal. Wanting to share this transformational experience with youth from across NWT, they founded NYL and began offering a diverse range of unique programming, such as youth camps, outdoor summer camps, cultural exchanges, and hands-on workshops, that focus on teaching survival and leadership skills.

**Northwest Territories Seniors’ Society**

The NWTSS is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, that provides information and resources for supporting seniors and Indigenous elders. Their programs and services are offered in partnership with the NWT government and various other organizations, and focus on promoting the

independence and well-being of older citizens.

The \$10,000 donation from Arctic Canadian will continue to support these programs and ensure the most vulnerable in the community are cared for.

“We believe the efforts of both these organizations and Arctic Canadian’s contributions, play a vital role in allowing Northern communities to thrive and work towards a brighter future,” said Plotner.

To learn more about Arctic Canadian’s EkatiPlus Community Development Program or how to apply for funding, please visit [www.arcticcanadian.ca](http://www.arcticcanadian.ca).



## Point Lake Project achieves major permitting milestones

Shortly after Arctic Canadian acquired the Ekati Mine in February 2021, the permitting process with Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board began for the Point Lake Project – a kimberlite pipe located close to the Misery Mine site at the Ekati Diamond Mine.

As part of the permitting process, Arctic Canadian works closely with various stakeholders to include both Traditional Knowledge and western science, to ensure we are operating responsibly and efficiently, while mitigating our environmental footprint.

“This is an important part of the regulatory practice to ensure we are doing all that we can to uphold our sustainability goals and commitments as an operator,” said Dustin Chaffee, Regulatory Applications Manager with Arctic Canadian.

On June 10, 2022, Arctic Canadian received the Fisheries Act Authorization from Fisheries and Oceans Canada allowing for the fish-out of Point Lake. This is a major milestone, as in addition to obtaining the Water Licence and Land Use permits earlier this year, the Fisheries Act Authorization was the final permit Arctic Canadian required to begin the fish-out of Point Lake – an essential step before dewatering activities.

“While there are still a few regulatory requirements to check off the list, this is positive news for the Point Lake Project to progress to the next stages. As the permitting process at Point Lake continues to progress, production is expected to begin in 2023 and extend the life of the mine until 2029,” said Chaffee.

**Design Matters: The Point Lake Project waste rock storage**

Designing an environmentally sustainable waste rock storage area for mining projects is important for wildlife habitat management. The Point Lake Project Team was tasked with tackling this challenge, especially since the Point Lake area is populated by Bathurst caribou, which are identified as a species at risk by the NWT government.

The team worked collaboratively to come up with an innovative design for how the waste rock should be placed, to avoid impacting the Bathurst caribou’s habitat. Part of the process included consultations with various community leaders and carefully analyzing the feedback given.

“Collaboration with communities and regulators on Point Lake was key to the project’s success,” explains Chaffee. “We were able to make important modifications to the project based on these learnings, most notably designing a waste rock storage area that will have minimal impact on the environment.”

Next steps for the Point Lake Project include the start of construction for the waste rock storage area, once the fish-out and dewatering is complete. The future is bright and full of opportunity at Ekati Diamond Mine and Point Lake is a big step in the right direction.

## Point Lake Project receives all permitting required to move forward with fish-out plan and dewatering process

As the ice begins to break up on Arctic Canadian’s future open pit mine site at Point Lake, the fish-out plan moves closer to completion. As part of Arctic Canadian’s commitment to sustainability, the fish-out plan includes working with the community and finding innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint.

While part of the process involves removing as many fish as possible from the lake, the Environmental Team will also collect and analyze the fish and their habitat associations to support an understanding of Arctic lakes and fish communities. This information will be used to inform future protocols for Arctic Canadian fish-out projects in the Canadian North.

“The timing of the fish-out is currently planned for mid-June, once the ice breaks up and is expected to wrap up by the end of July,” said Laura Pacholski, Environment Management Team Lead at Arctic Canadian. “Community involvement is an important part of this process, as community input will determine which fish are suitable for human consumption and which fish could be used for dog food by communities.”

Because Point Lake is not a large body of water, it houses a small population of lake trout and therefore the fish-out plan estimations predict it will not yield a substantive number of fish for human consumption. Approximately 275 fish are estimated to inhabit Point Lake.

“While we are excited to move forward with the Point Lake Project, we want to make sure proper protocols for environmental preservation are at the forefront of our operations,” says Sheila Chernys, Head of Health, Safety, Security, Environment and Communities at Arctic Canadian. “We look forward to continue working with our Northern communities and finding opportunities where both Arctic Canadian and community members can benefit from the success of our operations.”



*Point Lake prior to fish-out and dewatering procedures.*

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