



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### What's new?

Arctic Canadian Diamond Company has increased its work in Northern communities through its Ekati Plus Community Development Program and improved recruitment activities in 2023.

This year, additional apprenticeship opportunities are available, post-secondary scholarships have been awarded, recruitment for a variety of positions has increased through in-person community career fairs and community collaboration for the Point Lake Project continues. We are excited to share all these updates and more, in this issue of our community newsletter.

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Join us at our  
next career fair!

**Northwest Territories  
Career Fair & Training Expo**  
The Yellowknife Explorer Hotel  
April 27, 2023  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



[www.arcticcanadian.ca/careers](http://www.arcticcanadian.ca/careers)



## Trade Upwards

*The Arctic Canadian Apprenticeship Program offers a combination of on-the-job training, work experience, and technical training from some of the most knowledgeable journeypersons in the mining industry.*

### Frank Betsina graduates from the Arctic Canadian Apprenticeship Program

From job security to upwards mobility in a company, a career in the trades offers great advantages and a foot in the door to a wide number of industries. More specifically, in the Northwest Territories trade workers make up a large portion of the workforce at the mines in the area.

The Arctic Canadian Apprenticeship Program offers a combination of on-the-job training, work experience, and technical training from some of the most knowledgeable journeypersons in the mining industry. The program contributes to the Arctic Canadian mission of creating a brilliant and prosperous future in the North by providing opportunities to learn a skilled trade.

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*“I would advise anyone interested in a career in trades to keep an open mind and remain teachable. This will benefit your career overall and it’s a big part of becoming a master of your craft.”*

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Frank Betsina is a graduate of the Arctic Canadian Apprenticeship Program, having completed his journeyperson powerline technician ticket in 2022. He went back to school in January 2023 for another four years, as an electrician apprentice, to complete his second trade ticket.

Betsina grew up in Ndilq̄ (‘di:lou), a small Yellowknife Dene First Nations community. His father, his brother and uncles, all work at Ekati Diamond Mine. Having started in the powerline technician trade very young, Betsina was looking for an opportunity to expand his knowledge and skills when he saw an electrical apprentice position advertised with Arctic Canadian.

“Although I already had prior work experience to rely on, the journeypersons and management team at Ekati Mine were always willing to help and teach me. They made sure I was safe, prepared and had what I needed to get the job done,” said Betsina. “I would advise anyone interested in a career in

trades to keep an open mind and remain teachable. This will benefit your career overall and it’s a big part of becoming a master of your craft.”

Arctic Canadian apprentices are given the opportunity to work closely with their selected mentor or journeyperson who supports their continued practical education when not at school. The program also enables participation in skills competitions, when viable, which helps the apprentices develop knowledge and confidence in their abilities.

In 2023, Arctic Canadian is committed to hiring up to eight apprentices over the next two years in the following trades: heavy equipment technician, millwright, electrician, plumber and carpenter. Preference will be given to Indigenous Business Agreement (IBA) communities and permanent residents of the Northwest Territories.

If you would like more information on the Arctic Canadian Apprenticeship Program or to learn more about careers at Ekati Mine, please contact [careers@arcticcanadian.ca](mailto:careers@arcticcanadian.ca).

[www.arcticcanadian.ca/careers](http://www.arcticcanadian.ca/careers)



## Building Stronger Connections

### Skye Ekendia joins Arctic Canadian as Recruitment and Development Coordinator

Skye Ekendia joined Arctic Canadian in September 2022, as Recruitment and Development Coordinator, to help Arctic Canadian increase the hiring and development of workers from Northern communities.

“Acquiring the right talent is the most important key to growth for a company. Being able to work with Northerners to ensure they are informed and prepared to apply for jobs at Ekati is meaningful for me and has a direct impact on building a prosperous future for the North,” said Ekendia.

She has attended several career fairs and continues to meet with community leaders, members and various organizations to provide greater understanding about the job opportunities available at Ekati

Mine. This includes providing support for community members with the application process and the educational requirements needed to work at the mine, and fostering relationships with educational and training providers such as Aurora College and other community organizations that support Northern recruitment. Skye can be reached at **867-686-8405** or by e-mail [skye.ekendia@arcticcanadian.ca](mailto:skye.ekendia@arcticcanadian.ca).



Cultivating a skilled workforce is critical to Arctic Canadian’s growth and success, and to advancing our mission of creating a brilliant and prosperous future in the North by providing employment opportunities for Northerners and communities to prosper and thrive.

In the second half on 2022, as soon as COVID-19 public health measures were lifted in Northern communities, Arctic Canadian kicked off its recruitment outreach efforts with two career fairs held in conjunction with the Tłı̨chǫ Government in Wekweètì and Gamètì.

## Community Career Fairs

### Arctic Canadian relaunches in-person recruitment

*The Gamètì Career Fair drew local high school students who had a lot of question about the education necessary to work in mining.*

The career fairs were well attended and provided community members with an opportunity to meet with the Arctic Canadian recruitment team, who assisted attendees with resume writing and career planning information, such as explaining the educational qualifications needed to work at Ekati Mine and which schools in the Northwest Territories offer the required courses or training.

In Gamètì, students from the local high school received a presentation on careers in mining, the benefits of considering a career in trades, and an overview of what it’s like to work at Ekati Mine.

“The event had a great turnout and the students had a lot of questions about Ekati Mine and the education necessary to work in the industry,” said Wally Schumann, Arctic Canadian’s Senior Advisor Indigenous and Northern Affairs and Board Member, who was also in attendance. “It was great to see all the enthusiasm and I think we can expect a couple of applications from them.”

Join us at our next career fair!

**Northwest Territories Career Fair & Training Expo**  
The Yellowknife Explorer Hotel  
April 27, 2023

*Pictured (left to right) are Wally Schumann, Angie Brar and Skye Ekendia, in attendance March 15, 2023 at the Whati Cultural Centre.*



## Post-Secondary Scholarship Program

Four scholarships awarded to northern post-secondary students

Arctic Canadian is proud to fund the Ekati Plus Post-Secondary Scholarship created to provide people living in the North an opportunity to make a positive difference in their communities.

The scholarships support students with their education costs to develop the next generation of leaders in the Northwest Territories.

This year scholarships were awarded to four recipients: Jennifer Lalonde, Janelle Pierrot, Jada Beck and Hansika Jhankur, who are all active in their communities of Yellowknife, Fort Good Hope and the Northwest Territories Métis Nation.

The passion that the students have for improving life in the North and the diversity of studies and skills is inspiring. As part of the students’ scholarship applications, each student wrote about their vision for the North and how their education would help them provide valuable contributions to their communities.



**Jennifer Lalonde**  
Criminal Justice Student

*“I’m aiming to create a restorative justice program that would work as an independent entity of the criminal justice system to help individuals struggling with societal challenges and intergenerational trauma talk about their experiences and find a place for healing.”*

**Jada Beck**  
Medical Education Student

*“I strive to become an open-minded physician, that is educated and determined to make a positive impact on the decolonization of the health care system through representation and advocating for my people.”*



**Janelle Pierrot**  
Business Student

*“My vision for the future of the North is to work with my Indigenous Organization such as the Kasho Gotine Self-Government and collaborate to build relationships with the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the federal government as part of the move to reconciliation.”*



**Hansika Jhankur**  
Business Student

*“My vision for the future of the North is to drive innovations forward for the betterment of all Northerners.”*



For questions regarding applications for the 2023 Ekati Plus Scholarship Program email [ekatiplus@arcticcanadian.ca](mailto:ekatiplus@arcticcanadian.ca) or visit [www.arcticcanadian.ca/social-impact](http://www.arcticcanadian.ca/social-impact) to download an application.



# Point Lake Project

Collaborating with communities to extend the mine life of Ekati

Significant progress has been made on the Point Lake Project since the previous community newsletter. Arctic Canadian has been collaborating with community members to collect their input to gain support for the project and address any outstanding concerns.

The Point Lake open pit project is important because it is a critical bridge to the future of Ekati, with mining at Sable and Misery expected to end within the next two years.

To continue mining operations beyond 2029, Point Lake will support continued production, while Arctic Canadian explores innovations like underwater remote mining (URM).

Arctic Canadian employees, joined by community members, removed the fish from Point Lake so that the lake could be dewatered and prepared for the next stage of the project. The group also worked together to complete scientific research during the fish-out that

provided valuable information on Lake Trout ecology in the North.

In addition, this was the first time these specific data collection methods have been used in the Arctic and our combined efforts have shown these methods to be more efficient and effective than what has been used in the past. Ekati Diamond Mine continues to offer unique opportunities for communities to provide valuable Traditional Knowledge and partner with Arctic Canadian as we gain important new knowledge about the Arctic environment.

The upcoming stage of the project involves implementing the plan for the Point Lake Waste Rock Storage Area as outlined in the design report.

The report is currently being reviewed, and specifies the layout of the rock

pile, which was designed in collaboration with community members to ensure minimal impact on caribou moving through the area. Once reviewed and approved, the report will include important details about how the rock pile will be constructed, how water seeping through the rock pile will be collected and tested, and how the rock pile will be handled at final closure of Ekati mine.

*Arctic Canadian is committed to developing the Point Lake Project in the most environmentally responsible and sustainable way. The company will continue to collaborate with communities and regulators to ensure that all questions and potential concerns are addressed.*

*Pictures from the Point Lake fish-out. The fish-out provided valuable information on Lake Trout ecology in the North.*



## CONTACT US:

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