



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the August 2024 edition of Burgundy’s community newsletter! In this issue, we are pleased to highlight the dynamic activities and many accomplishments across our operations, celebrating the rich cultural heritage, teamwork, and innovative spirit that define our community.

Honouring Indigenous Culture: We reflect on our June celebrations for National Indigenous History Month at Ekati, where we embraced the diverse traditions and histories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, with a series of cultural events and activities.

Showcasing Emergency Skills: Our Emergency Response Team made us proud at the 2024 Northern Mine Rescue Competition, where they demonstrated their expertise in handling challenging scenarios and took home first place awards!

Spotlight on Career Journeys: Meet Priscilla Boline, who shares her inspiring journey from housekeeping to becoming one of our few women Haul Truck Operators at Ekati.

Community Engagement: Read about our recent site visit and engagement workshop with Indigenous community members, where we discussed crucial environmental topics and collaborated on future plans for Ekati.

Leadership Development: Discover how the Northern Leadership Development Program is shaping the leaders of tomorrow, with a special congratulations to our newest graduates.

Innovative Advances: Get the latest update on our groundbreaking underwater remote mining project, which made a significant step forward in sustainable diamond mining.

Community and Industry Events: From sponsoring the Women in Mining Fundraising Golf Tournament to welcoming our Board of Directors at Ekati, we continue to engage with, and support our community and industry partners.

Dive in to explore these stories and more, celebrating the spirit and achievements that make our community strong.

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2024 Mine Rescue Competition

Community Spirit Shines at 2024 Mine Rescue Competition

Left to right: Jason Li, Peter West, Bobby McLean, Logan Andrew, Corinne Kraft-Bailey, Logan Balkwill, and Jake Hutchings, representing Burgundy's Ekati Diamond Mine at the 2024 Northern Mine Rescue Competition.

Emergency Response Teams (ERT) from seven mines across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the United States, gathered in Yellowknife on June 14 and 15, to showcase their skills at the 2024 Northern Mine Rescue Competition.

The event featured simulated emergency response scenarios in surface and underground mining environments, where participants had to work collaboratively under pressure to handle major or prolonged emergency situations that could occur at any of the mine sites. Teams took part in firefighting, first aid, practical bench tests, rope rescue, smoke search, obstacle rescue courses, and written exams probes, showcasing their in-depth skills and knowledge.

This year, participants from Kennecott Mine in Utah and Resolution Copper Project in Arizona joined the event for the first time competing as one team, representing Rio Tinto Copper.

Overall participants included:

Surface Competition

- Agnico Eagle Meadowbank Gold Mine (Nunavut)
- Baffinland Mary River Mine (Nunavut)
- Burgundy Ekati Diamond Mine (NWT)
- De Beers Group/Mountain Province Diamonds Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine (NWT)

Underground Competition

- Rio Tinto Copper (USA)
- Agnico Eagle Meliadine Gold Mine (Nunavut)
- Rio Tinto Diavik Diamond Mine (NWT)

Ekati's team was comprised of seven ERT members who competed in the surface portion of the event: Jason Li, Peter West, Bobby McLean, Logan Andrew, Corinne Kraft-Bailey, Logan Balkwill, and Jake Hutchings.

The team was awarded first place trophies for the practical bench test and the written exam portions of the Surface Mine Rescue Competition. Congratulations team!

De Beers' Gahcho Kué Mine won the overall Surface Mine Rescue Competition champion title, while Agnico Eagle's Meliadine Mine took home first place champion title for the overall Underground Mine Rescue Competition.

Logan Andrew, a first-time competitor for Burgundy Diamond Mines, praised the event for strengthening his emergency response skills and expressed his gratitude towards the guidance he received from his coaches.

"Being part of the ERT team at Ekati is incredibly rewarding. Completing a mission and saving lives or preventing damage to operations is an amazing feeling," Logan said. "The Northern Mine Rescue Competition was a great experience, and I learned a lot in the process."

In addition to inviting competitors to showcase and develop their skills, the mine rescue competition is a forum for relationship building and collaboration as mutual-aid partners between the mines.

"Collaboration is crucial in case we ever have to assist other mine sites during an emergency. It's about building relationships, supporting the North, and ensuring a conduit between the mining industry and surrounding communities," said David English, Superintendent, Health and Safety at Burgundy.

As thousands of spectators gathered over the two days to attend the competition, the Miners' Picnic made a return debut for the first time since 2019. A crowd favourite, the event featured a free BBQ and family-friendly activities including face painting, balloon animals, mascots, a 50/50 draw, door prizes, and mining-related games such as diamond panning.

Over \$1,000 dollars were raised, and 1,000 pounds of food were donated to the Salvation Army, as visitors were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the food bank.

“It was great to see the community come together and cheer on the competing ERT teams. This year’s competition was very successful, and we’ll build on it in 2025 to make it even better,” said Sheila Chernys, Head of Health, Safety, Environment & Communities at Burgundy.



Above: Pamela Strand, Deputy Minister for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment of the Northwest Territories, assisting with the Miners’ Picnic BBQ event.



Left: The Ekati mine rescue ERT performing a vehicle extrication during the Surface Mine Rescue Practical Competition.



Out and About

Women in Mining Fundraising Golf Tournament

Burgundy was proud to be a Gold Sponsor for the 2024 Women in Mining Fundraising Golf Tournament, which was held in Yellowknife in June. All the funds raised went towards programming and events that help educate, elevate, and empower women in our industry. Grace Mackenzie, Mines Liaison Coordinator with the Tłı̨chǫ Government and Mike Yakabuski, Training and Development Advisor with the Government of the Northwest Territories, joined our two Burgundy teams in support of this great cause.

From left to right: Nicholas Ballantyne, Sheila Chernys, Grace Mackenzie, Mike Yakabuski.



Celebrating Indigenous culture

National Indigenous History Month at Ekati Diamond Mine

June was a time of learning, celebration, and reflection, as Burgundy proudly hosted a series of events to honour National Indigenous History Month, inviting everyone at Ekati to immerse themselves in the diverse, vibrant cultures, and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

Burgundy recognizes the traditional land use of our Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) partners: the Tłıchǫ, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, and the Hamlet of Kugluktuk & Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

"The company's commitment to value and respect the diversity and inclusion of all Indigenous peoples by incorporating traditional knowledge and Indigenous history awareness into everyday life at Ekati, has always been something I feel proud about," said Keith Sangris, Site Services Superintendent, who's worked at the mine for 25 years.

Throughout the month, a variety of traditional meals were served at Ekati and Misery camps, providing a taste of Indigenous cuisine and offering opportunities for cultural exchanges and appreciation. The culinary celebrations culminated on June 20th, as everyone celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day with a feast that included pan-fried pickerel, Three Sisters Stew, and elk pie, with every dish conveying a story of heritage and tradition.

Following dinner, open invitations were extended to anyone wishing to attend or participate in The Dene Hand Games. These traditional games have been played for generations, and provide a space for learning, engagement, and mutual respect among friends. Dene drummers, Wilfred Crapeau, Benjamin Hardisty, Sizeh Sangris, and Jonathon Lafferty, created powerful rhythms and brought Indigenous music to life for everyone attending, as they led the games alongside other employees and site guests, who thoroughly enjoyed this immersive cultural experience.

Pictured above: Employees, guests and Dene drummers, participate in The Dene Hand Games held at Ekati in celebration of National Indigenous History Month.

Yellowknives Dene First Nations member Fraser Goulet, who works as a Haul Truck Operator at Ekati, shared the following:

"The Hand Games have a rich history as a form of entertainment among friends and different groups. People would bet on items like bullets, furs, dogs, toboggans, or matches. Nowadays, the Hand Games are a cherished activity in the community at various events throughout Dene country. It is a friendly competition that boosts community pride. The games revolve around the simple idea of hiding and guessing which hand is holding an object, using hand signals and gestures to add to the challenge and fun."

Additionally, activities throughout June included showings of various Indigenous movies and beading workshops for beginners, as well as those more experienced at the craft. Attendees tapped into their creativity, making earrings, necklaces, along with other adornments.

A variety of earrings made by Ekati employees during beading workshops.



Rebecca Plotner, Community Relations Advisor with Burgundy, noted the importance of National Indigenous History Month as, “A time for us to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures and histories of our Indigenous partners. Through these events, we hope to continue to build an environment of understanding and appreciation, where everyone can come together to honor and learn from each other.”

For all at Ekati, beyond enjoying the events, National Indigenous History Month is a celebration of culture, history, and community. By participating, we deepen our collective understanding and our appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous people. The month-long celebrations allow us to express the year-round respect for the contributions and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.



Burgundy Diamond Mines Hosts

Communities site visit and engagement workshop

Elders and representatives from several Indigenous and community organizations, including the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Deninu Kųé First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, and Fort Resolution Métis Government, travelled to Ekati on July 31st to meet with Burgundy's environment and community teams. The visit was followed by an engagement workshop in Yellowknife on August 1st. During these sessions, attendees discussed important topics, such as closure planning for Pigeon Pit and its Waste Rock Storage Area, caribou crossings along the haul roads, and remote camera monitoring of wildlife.

These collaborative discussions continue to be an essential step in ensuring that traditional knowledge informs Burgundy's ongoing environmental strategies.

“The site visit and workshop gave us a valuable opportunity to collaborate directly with community leaders and elders,” said William Liu, Manager, Environmental Reporting and Permitting with Burgundy. “Their insights and traditional knowledge are key to guiding our environmental planning, ensuring that our projects respect the land and the wildlife we share it with.”



For more information about the programs and projects mentioned in this newsletter, please contact **Nicholas Ballantyne** at nicholas.ballantyne@burgundydiamonds.com or **Rebecca Plotner** at rebecca.plotner@burgundydiamonds.com. Information is also available on our website at burgundydiamonds.com.



*Burgundy Diamond Mines Ryan Rickson and Carl Blouw pictured standing in front of the underwater crawler with the Royal IHC team.
Photo credit: IHC Mining/Royal IHC.*

Visit burgundydiamonds.com/underwater-remote-mining/ to learn more about the program.

Out and About

One step closer to underwater remote mining at Ekati

We are thrilled to move one step closer to underwater remote mining (URM) in Canada's Arctic!

Our Royal IHC Blyth partners have been busy at work in August, testing the underwater mining crawler. URM is a technological breakthrough for kimberlite diamond mining. The project began in 2018, with the intention to develop a solution to economically extract kimberlite from marginal kimberlite pipes and from deep extents of completed open pits at Ekati mine.

An important focus was to develop a mining solution that would have a much lower environmental impact than conventional mining methods. As the URM crawler is only mining the kimberlite ore and minimal waste, it significantly reduces the mine's footprint. Well done team!



Locations:

- Behchokǰ - Sportsplex Gym
- Gamètì - Community Hall
- Whatì - Youth Centre
- Wekweètì - Tłıchǰ Government

OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to participate in the Tłıchǰ Business, Career and Post-Secondary Open House held in all four communities

Thursday September 12, 2024

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

You could be just a few steps away from an exciting new beginning!

Everyone is welcome.

For organizations wanting a table, please contact career@tlichoc.ca



In the spotlight

Priscilla Boline, Ekati Diamond Mine Heavy Equipment Operator

Raised in Yellowknife, Priscilla Boline moved to Edmonton after high school. Her journey with Ekati Diamond Mine began at the young age of 18, when she was hired as a housekeeper with DOMCO Group of Canada (DOMCO), a long-standing partner in helping manage catering, housekeeping and maintenance needs, for both Ekati and Misery camps. Priscilla began considering a career in operations through her conversations with various employees at site and did not hesitate to seize the opportunity when it finally presented itself. We met with Priscilla to learn more about her interesting journey to becoming one of Ekati's few women haul truck operators.

How long have you been at Ekati?

I started working at Ekati when I was just 18 years old. I began as a housekeeper with DOMCO and later moved into janitorial services. It was hard work and long hours, but I enjoyed the challenge. Over time, I began thinking about what it would be like to work in operations, as there aren't very many women in mining in these roles, especially haul truck operators. This was something that motivated me, since I wanted to prove to myself that I could do the work and make the transition.

What initially drew you to a career in mining?

I was drawn to Ekati because my late mom used to work here, and I heard many positive things about it from her. I am grateful to DOMCO for giving me my first opportunity in the mining industry. The idea of working at such a well-known mine was appealing, and it gave me a chance to follow in my mom's footsteps.

What motivated you to pursue a position as a haul truck operator?

While working in janitorial services, I frequently interacted with instructors in the training department and superintendents in the truck shop. A few of them encouraged me to explore opportunities to grow my career and suggested that I should start taking lessons on Ekati's in-house truck simulator if I was interested in driving haul trucks. Determined to advance, I spent an hour or two after my janitorial shifts practicing on the simulator. The extra effort paid off, and when a haul truck operator position became available, I had the skills and experience that were needed to apply. I was motivated by the desire to advance my career and embrace new challenges.

What does a day in the life of a haul truck driver look like for you?

My workday starts at 7 a.m. with a safety meeting where we discuss work safe potential hazards we may encounter on the job

and mitigation plans. One of the aspects I appreciate most about being a haul truck operator is the strong sense of camaraderie within our crew. Everyone is supportive and eager to help with any questions. Our daily tasks are always changing as well, which keeps me engaged.

My workday concludes at 7 p.m. with neck and shoulder exercises to alleviate the strain from a long day of driving. I also have access to on-site massage therapists, which are covered through Burgundy's comprehensive employee benefits and help with recovery.

After work, I stay active in the on-site gym or unwind by watching movies in the theatre room with my crew. This balance of work and relaxation is important for maintaining my well-being and mental health while working on site.

What do you like most about working at Ekati?

I love being a haul truck operator. Driving and seeing the beautiful sunrises or sunsets are some of the highlights of my day. The people I work with are great, everyone is like family, and we all look after each other. Safety is always the number one priority, which makes me feel secure and valued. I'm happy and proud of myself for how far I've come.

What advice would you give someone who is looking to pursue a similar career?

I would say to keep trying and don't give up, even when it gets hard. Be reliable, have a positive attitude, and stay focused. Driving skills are essential, but so are the qualities of persistence and determination. If you set your mind to it, you will get there!

**Interested in a career with Burgundy Diamond Mines?
Visit [burgundydiamonds.com/careers](https://www.burgundydiamonds.com/careers) to view available opportunities.**

Northern Leadership Development Program

continues to support emerging northern leaders

For over a decade the Northern Leadership Development Program (NLDP) has been a beacon of inspiration for emerging leaders in workplaces across the Northwest Territories.

The NLDP was designed to help individuals in the mining industry advance to managerial and supervisory roles. Today, the program has expanded beyond the mining industry, empowering over 150 northerners to assume leadership positions across various sectors in the Northwest Territories, over the past 14 years.

Offered through Aurora College in Yellowknife, the NLDP features a unique model that combines personal development skills with traditional leadership training, emphasizing the importance of emotional intelligence and strong ethical standards in leadership roles.

Participants receive training in essential leadership abilities such as interpersonal communication, diversity-conscious leadership, conflict management, and effective team leadership. The program concludes with a mentorship workshop, allowing participants to apply their newly acquired skills in real-life situations.

Mark Steinwand, an alumnus and NLDP mentor, currently working as Team Lead for Electrical and Instrumentation at Burgundy Diamond Mines, praises the program for its versatility and emphasis on leadership inside and outside the workplace.

“The skills you learn don’t just apply to your professional life. They are something you can teach your kids and they in turn can share them with their friends,” said Mark. “Everyone in your circle benefits and this positive impact spreads to others.”

The program is well established at Ekati, having graduated over 14 leaders since the program’s inception in the early 2000s. This year we would like to congratulate our newest graduates Charles Villeneuve, Caitlyn Fraser and Morvan Rowsell, for their hard work and dedication.

For more information on the Northern Development Leadership Program please contact:
ekati.trainingrequests@burgundydiamonds.com.

“The Northern Leadership Development Program is centered around self-development. It is an exploratory, foundational course that challenges you to push past the bounds of your comfort zone and discover who you are as a leader,” said Joey Borkovic, Superintendent of Training Production and Site Services at Burgundy.



Caitlyn Fraser and Charles Villeneuve receive their certificates of achievement for the 2023 Northern Development Leadership Program.



Burgundy Diamond Mine Board of Directors and management staff outside the main camp.

Out and About

Burgundy's Board of Directors visit site

Burgundy's Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team met in June for important strategic engagement sessions, aimed at aligning key business priorities and plans for the remainder of 2024 and the 2025 business year. The sessions included a two-day visit to Ekati mine, which also coincided with National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations. The site visit offered a unique opportunity for leaders and select industry guests to expand firsthand their knowledge of operations at Ekati, while meeting our workforce and immersing themselves in daily life at site. Thank you to everyone who participated and for their support in hosting our Burgundy Board and guests!



EkatiPlus

Burgundy invests in projects that support healthy, vibrant Northern communities through the Ekati Plus Program. Applications to request funding or in-kind support for projects that support people and community development in the Northwest Territories may be submitted to ekatiplus@burgundydiamonds.com. More information about the program can be found on the website at burgundydiamonds.com/sustainability.

Want to be at the forefront of our operations?

Consider a challenging career with unlimited potential and possibility if you are willing to work hard every day. Join our team and work on location at the Ekati Mine – Canada's first surface and underground diamond mine in the Northwest Territories. Visit burgundydiamonds.com/careers to view available opportunities, or send your resume and questions to careers@burgundydiamonds.com.



13TH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Chief Drygeese Conference Centre in Dettah

Contact: Theresa Black, Community Employment Liaison

CE_Liaison@ykdene.com or call 867-873-4307 ext. 1008

Hand out your resume, obtain interview information and tips. Participate in 'hands on' activities and demonstrations. Meet and network with industry professionals, education and training organizations. **THIS IS A FREE EVENT!** We encourage all students and job seekers to attend.