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Message from the CEO

As one year comes to an end, and a new year begins, we are optimistic about the future, thanks to the hard work of our people, the strength of our business, and the support of our partners.

We have reduced our operating costs and found efficiencies that will ensure an extended Ekati mine life and support the long-term strength of the company.

Dominion Diamond remains committed to the people and the communities of the North. The Ekati mine is a pillar of the NWT economy, and we will continue to provide northern employment opportunities and benefits well into the future.

A few months ago we announced the approved Jay Project, which along with the Sable Project means we will have a significant presence in the NWT for a further 17 years.

Dominion employs over 1,800 people at the Ekati mine, both employees and contractors. Of our employees, 65% are Northern and 38% are Northern Aboriginal.

The highest proportion of the company's Northern Aboriginal staff work at the mine site, and will continue to be employed there.

Dominion was pleased to fund a number of important community programs and continue our community engagement program. We hope you enjoy the photos of these activities on the following pages.

Sincerely,



Brendan Bell, CEO

Jay Project Update

Water Licence / Land Use Permit

The permitting and licensing process for the Jay Project through the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board is proceeding well. Following the technical sessions in Behchokq in October, public hearings are taking place in Yellowknife from December 13-15, 2016.

Jay Crusher

An exciting milestone was achieved in October, with the commissioning of the Jay crusher near the Misery site. The crusher will break down larger material from the Lynx pit into smaller particles to provide material for the construction of the road and dike for the Jay Project.



Jay Water Licence Public Sessions

The public hearings for the Water Licence and Land Use Permit applications for Dominion Diamond's Jay Project are taking place in Yellowknife from **Tuesday, December 13 to Thursday, December 15** at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife. Visit www.mvlwb.ca for more information.



Environmental Update

Sable Lake and Two Rock Lake Fish Salvage

As one of the steps in the development of the Sable Project, Dominion Diamond conducted a fish salvage of Sable Lake and Two Rock Lake during the summer.

The salvage of Sable Lake took place over 8 weeks, while the Two Rock Salvage took 11 weeks.

The project could not have been completed without help from community members. The crews came from Kugluktuk, Behchokò, Łutsel K'e, Dettah, N'dilo, Yellowknife, Gamèti, and Fort Resolution.

Approximately 38 kilograms of fish were caught in Sable Lake, with 430 kilograms from Two Rock Lake.

The species, weight, length, and age of the fish that were caught were recorded. The species included Lake Trout, Burbot, Slimy Sculpin, and Round Whitefish.

The fish were gutted and frozen for storage. The communities of Dettah, N'dilo, Yellowknife (NSMA), Wekweèti, Whati, Gamèti, Behchokò, Łutsel K'e, Fort Resolution, and Kugluktuk received a total of 320 kg of fish for consumption.



Kristy Lafferty measuring Lake Trout.



(left to right) Edward Chocolate, Patrick Sangris, Gerald Zoe, and Alan Taylor.

On the Land Cultural Camp

Dominion Diamond purchased a camp with sturdy, heated sleeping tents to accommodate 20 people, a kitchen, and a separate change

area with sinks and showers. The facility, which is staffed with a cook and a camp manager when in use, is intended for local community

members to use as a cultural camp at the Ekati mine site.

During the summer of 2016, the camp was set up between Sable Lake and Two Rock Lake in order to allow community members to participate in the fish salvage (*see article above*). The fish salvage teams lived at the camp on two-week rotations.

The camp has now been removed from the Sable Lake area and we are in discussions with the communities regarding the future use of the cultural camp.

We plan to set up the camp next summer around the Jay Project area, and are engaging with the communities, including Elders, on the best location for the camp.



Camp used for the Sable Lake and Two Rock Lake fish salvage, which will be used as a cultural camp in the future.

Community Engagement

Grand Opening of Behchokò Complex

Dominion Diamond would like to congratulate the Tłı̨chq̨ Government and the Community Government of Behchokò on the grand opening of the recreation complex on Saturday, November 26.

Along with other partners, Dominion was pleased to provide funding for the building, which will have a positive impact on the region. Not only will this facility benefit Behchokò, but it will also serve the broader Tłı̨chq̨ communities, for example during regional sports and cultural events.

Recreational facilities have a significant impact on the well-being of a community, offering opportunities for children, youth, adults and Elders to stay active and interact with one another in a positive setting.

We were particularly honoured to visit the newly-named **Dominion Diamond Arena**, which was the venue for the inaugural Ekati Hockey Challenge Cup! Both the Dominion team and the Tłı̨chq̨ Warriors played enthusiastically, with the Tłı̨chq̨ Warriors taking home the trophy after a final score of 9 to 6. Thank you for hosting us in your community.



Dominion Diamond CEO Brendan Bell presented a framed picture to Chief Clifford Daniels and Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus.



CEO Brendan Bell and Chief Clifford Daniels at the new Dominion Diamond Arena.

Employment Opportunities

Dominion Diamond is looking for qualified people to join our team. That could be you! Please visit www.ddcorp.ca/careers regularly to find out what job opportunities are available. The postings at the time of publication are:

- Road Train Operator (closing Dec 15)
- Team Leader - Road Services (closing Dec 20)
- Team Leader - Site Services (closing Dec 20)
- Equipment Operator, Production Loader (closing Dec 21)

 We also post jobs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DominionDiamondCorporation.



The Tłı̨chq̨ Warriors and the Dominion Diamond team after the exhibition game.

Community Engagement

Traditional Knowledge (TK) Elders Group

Dominion Diamond has established a Traditional Knowledge (TK) Elders Group to gather information that will be aligned in planning and decision-making at the Ekati mine. This was one of the measures in the Report on the Environmental Assessment for the Jay Project.

First Meeting - June 2016

The first TK Elders Group meeting took place on June 17, during which the group discussed the following Terms of Reference:

- Members will come from each IBA group and Fort Resolution, chosen by the Aboriginal groups.



- The Elders Group is independent of Dominion Diamond, with a facilitator chosen by members.
- The Elders Group will provide advice on the Jay road, esker crossing, and waste rock storage area ramps to reduce impacts on caribou; the On the Land Cultural Camp; and other matters such as water, land, fish, air, closure, and post-closure.
- Intellectual Property rights in TK will remain with the member Aboriginal groups; member TK protocols will be respected.

Second Meeting - October 2016

During the second meeting held at the Ekati mine on October 11-13, the group finalized and approved the Terms of Reference and selected two co-facilitators – Iris Catholique and John Bekale.

The group also discussed the Caribou and Roads Management Plan and the location of the cultural camp.

The Elders participated in a bus tour of the new Sable road and a helicopter tour of the proposed Jay Project, as well as the Lynx Pit, Beartooth Pit, and Misery Road.



Boots on the Ground Caribou Monitoring

Dominion Diamond is proud to support the Boots on the Ground program, which is an indigenous-driven environmental monitoring program. According to the organizers, “The program is based on the Traditional Knowledge of Elders and harvesters, and relies on their ways of traveling the land and assessing the conditions on the land, instead of scientific methods of monitoring.”

The program’s purpose is to monitor current conditions of the Bathurst caribou herd, its habitat, and the cumulative impacts on the herd from natural factors and human activity.

The initiative was led by the Tłı̄ch̄q and the group included a monitor from Kugluktuk, incorporating both Inuit and Tłı̄ch̄q knowledge.

The program runs four to six weeks during July and August. The monitors use boats to access the areas where

the caribou are. Two teams of four people then monitor the caribou on foot, hiking between 5 km and 15 km a day, returning to base camp in the evening.

The organizers explain, “From the pilot season, conducted at Contwoyto Lake this summer, we

developed a ‘do as hunters do’ methodology and TK framework based on the Elders’ indicators of a healthy environment.

“The coming years of the project will elaborate this methodology to develop a long-term TK monitoring program.”



Participants in the Boots on the Ground Caribou Monitoring Program.

Community Programs



Community Caribou Engagement Program: Dominion Diamond hosted representatives from DKFN, FRMC, LKDFN, and YKDFN on October 18-19, and representatives from KIA/Kugluktuk, NSMA, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government on October 19-20. To acknowledge and address local community questions about caribou while on or migrating through the Ekati site, Dominion invites local TK holders to engage with our Environment Department on site-based caribou monitoring programs. This has provided a valuable opportunity for participants to share their local knowledge, hold discussions around caribou, and recommend how TK can be aligned with scientific monitoring of caribou.



YKDFN Chiefs' Site Tour: On October 26, Chief Ernest Betsina, Chief Edward Sangris, and other representatives from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation visited the Ekati mine. Following a discussion about the Jay and Sable projects at the main camp, the group had a tour of the Sable Project with Keith Sangris, Dominion Diamond's Superintendent of Sable Construction Operations.



Learning the Way of the Drum: Dominion Diamond is proud to support the Northern Youth Leadership program, which held a week-long drum-making workshop in October at a camp near Fort Simpson. Seven youth from across the North learned how to make their own drums, fish, hunt, and develop leadership skills such as goal-setting and identifying positive traits in themselves. The program connects young men and women with the outdoors and builds their self-esteem. Dominion supports the program because it teaches future leaders, through traditional and non-traditional methods, to build confidence and become mentors in their communities. *(photos by Natalie Heiberg-Harrison)*

Activities and Events

Activity / Event	Date
WLWB Public Hearings for Jay Project Water Licence in Yellowknife	Dec 13-15, 2016
Water Licence draft distributed for public review and comment	Jan 19, 2017
TK Elders Group meeting	Jan 23-24, 2017 (tbd)
Community Engagement meetings in all IBA communities and Fort Resolution	Winter 2017

Note: All forward-looking dates are subject to change.



Caribou at the Ekati mine, November 2016



Dominion Diamond is on Facebook!

Please visit and “like” our Facebook page. You can find us at www.facebook.com/DominionDiamondCorporation.

We are excited to provide information about the company, our operations at the Ekati mine, and our contributions to the community. We hope you enjoy it!

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