

Our File: EA1314-01

October 9, 2015

## Note to File

To: Parties

**Re: EA1314-01 – Jay Project – Dominion Diamond Community Newsletter**

The Review Board is on the distribution list for the Dominion Diamond Community Newsletter and received the attached document on October 9.

The Newsletter is posted to the Review Board's public registry, but parties are not asked to comment on the document at this time. Parties may comment on the Newsletter as part of closing submissions due October 23.

October 23 – closing submissions from parties  
October 30 – closing submission from Dominion Diamond

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## Dominion Diamond Update

Welcome to the third edition of the Dominion Community Newsletter. The last couple of months have been very busy for our company and we are pleased to be able to share some updates with you.

### Jay Project

The Public Hearings for the Jay Project took place between September 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, and we were pleased with the active participation from community representatives.

We would like to thank all community members and interested parties who came out to listen to the presentations and ask questions.

### Sable Project

I am also pleased to note that in September, Dominion Diamond announced the positive results of the preliminary economic assessment for the Sable pipe.

Sable is an undeveloped deposit located 17 kilometres north of the Ekati mine. It is permitted under existing Land Use Permits, a Water License, and a Fisheries Act Authorization.

We will continue to provide you with updates as the projects progress.



*Brendan Bell, CEO*



*Drummers from the YKDFN open the Jay Public Hearings in Yellowknife.*

We want to hear from you! Please email [laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca](mailto:laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca) with any questions you may have.

## Jay Project: Caribou Workshops

As part of the Jay Project, Dominion Diamond arranged a number of workshops for communities and other interested parties to discuss the Caribou and Roads Mitigation Plan (CRMP). These workshops were intended to ensure that mitigation measures will be put in place to protect caribou near the Jay Project.

The workshops were held on:

- May 22, 2015: To finalize the draft plan based on suggestions from participants
- June 25-26, 2015: To present management plans for discussion

The objectives of the CRMP are to:

- Minimize the risk to caribou from traffic
- Minimize the barrier effect of roads to caribou movement and migration
- Limit the disturbance from roads and traffic on caribou behaviour

## Jay Project Update

September was an exciting month for the Jay Project, as the Public Hearings were held as part of the environmental assessment process.

There was a good turnout at the meetings, and the level of interest in the proceedings was high.

The first day of the Yellowknife sessions dealt with socio-economic effects and air quality.



*The third day of the Jay Public Hearings took place at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.*

The second day dealt with caribou and other wildlife, while the third day discussed water quality.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board also arranged Community Hearings in Behchokq, Łutsel K'e, and Kugluktuk.

The next steps are to respond to the follow-up items from the hearings and present closing submissions. Then the Review Board will develop their Environmental Assessment Report.



# Environmental Updates

## Lynx Lake Fish-Out

As one of the steps in the development of the Lynx pit, Dominion Diamond conducted a fish-out of Lynx Lake this summer.

The company worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the IBA communities to determine the best way to collect the fish in the lake.

### Fishing Methods Used

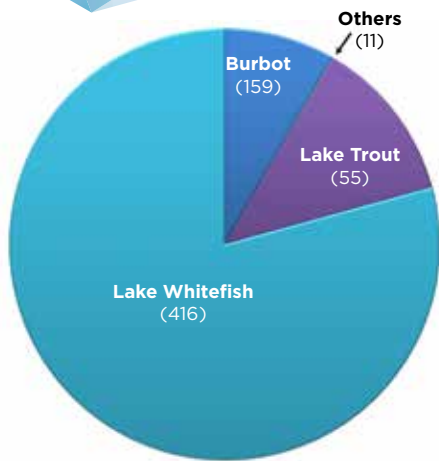
The fish-out was completed in 37 days through a combination of nets, fishing lines, and minnow traps. The lake was dewatered during fishing to concentrate the fish in a smaller area. A total of 641 fish were caught (see chart at top left for details).

The Lynx Lake fish-out was carried out with help from community members. The fish-out crews came from Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN), North Slave M tis Alliance (NSMA), Tłı̄cho Government, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN).

The species, weight, length, and age of the fish were recorded. They were

then flash-frozen and sent to the IBA communities.

More than 50 pounds of fish were sent to each IBA community: Dettah, Ndilo, Yellowknife (NSMA), Wekwe ti, Whati, Gam ti, Behchok , Łutsel K'e, and Kugluktuk.



One of the fish-out crews at Lynx Lake getting ready for a busy day.



Angus Martin returning with the morning catch.



Kevin Ongahak weighing a Lake Whitefish.

### Fun Fish Facts

The largest fish from each of the three main species found in Lynx Lake were:

#### Lake Whitefish

Length = 19.5 inches  
Weight = 3.25 lbs

#### Lake Trout

Length = 17.5 inches  
Weight = 2 lbs

#### Burbot

Length = 18 inches  
Weight = 1.25 lbs

## Community Caribou Engagement Program

Over the past several years, Dominion Diamond has invited community Traditional Knowledge (TK) holders to be part of our site-based monitoring programs while the caribou are migrating through the Ekati mine.

From August 17 to 27, Dominion held its annual Community Caribou Engagement Program with twenty-two IBA community participants from the KIA/Hamlet of Kugluktuk, LKDFN, NSMA, Tłı̄cho Government, and the YKDFN. The participants also included youth, who worked with the Elders.

This year, the focus of the program was on how caribou interact with roads at the mine site. Dominion has built on existing successful mitigation methods and also incorporated new mitigation methods to reduce the risk to wildlife.

The community participants had the opportunity to view first-hand the new Ekati Caribou Roads Mitigation Plan, the established and future caribou crossings, and the proposed Jay Project Esker Road Crossing.

In recognition of their traditional use of the area and knowledge of the caribou and their habitat, the participants were flown by helicopter to the potential Sable Road to select suitable areas for caribou crossings.



Participants in the Caribou Engagement Program from Kugluktuk observing caribou protection measures (August 17-20).



Participants in the Caribou Engagement Program from NSMA, LKDFN, and YKDFN observing a constructed Lynx caribou crossing (August 24-27).

# Community Engagement

## Community Liaison Positions

Dominion Diamond is committed to improving the numbers of IBA community members who are hired at the mine.

One way we do this is through contributions to liaison officer positions in Kugluktuk and Łutsel K'e.

The Community Career Liaison Officer in Kugluktuk and the Community Liaison Officer in Łutsel K'e each assist members in the following ways:

- Providing pre-employment assistance, including helping with writing resumes, filling in online application forms, and practicing interviews
- Identifying members who are interested in working; maintaining the labor force inventory for the mine
- Finding information on security screening and medical clearance processes, as well as other qualifications necessary for employment at the mines

- Assessing training opportunities available in the community
- Promoting job postings so members are aware of the job openings
- Ensuring members are aware of apprenticeship opportunities
- Assisting with job fairs and educational trips for students to the mine

The liaison officers help members find employment in general, not just employment at the mines.



*Kugluktuk's Community Career Liaison Officer, Janet Kadlun.*

### Employment Opportunities

Dominion Diamond is looking for qualified people to join our team. That could be you!

Please visit [www.ddcorp.ca/careers](http://www.ddcorp.ca/careers) regularly to find out what job opportunities are available. The postings at the time of publication are:

- Accounts Payable Administrator (deadline October 13)
- Administrative Specialist (deadline October 15)
- Team Leader - Mine Planning (deadline October 19)
- Finance Coop Student - Disbursements, 4-8 months (deadline October 20)
- Finance Coop Student - Accounting, 4-8 months (deadline October 20)
- Recruiter, 6 month temporary (deadline October 20)
- Journeyman Scaffolder (deadline October 26)
- Superintendent Human Resources, Operations (deadline October 27)
- Procurement Specialist - Contracts (deadline October 27)
- Procurement Specialist - Contracts, 2 year term (deadline October 28)

## Aligning Traditional Knowledge

Dominion Diamond respects the importance of Traditional Knowledge (TK) to Northern Aboriginal people, and values the information that is shared by community members.

For this reason, we actively seek out ways to align TK in our operations at the Ekati mine.

Below are highlights of some TK projects we have undertaken with the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN).

### LKDFN TK Digital Archives

Recognizing the importance of TK as an integral part of the First Nation's culture, Dominion provided funding to LKDFN to document and preserve TK.

This included collecting, digitizing, cataloguing and sharing knowledge, including traditional place names,

hunting and trapping trails, and many of the stories passed down by Elders pertaining to the use of the land and traditional practices on it.

The funding enabled LKDFN to hire two community members to perform this work.

### LKDFN Caribou Monitoring

As part of efforts to preserve and support traditional livelihoods, Dominion has approved funding for the LKDFN caribou monitoring program, in partnership with the GNWT's Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) department.

The Bathurst caribou herd hunting ban means that Aboriginal groups that normally hunted that herd must travel to hunt other herds such as the Beverly herd.

Because LKDFN hunts primarily the Beverly herd, they have requested support to monitor the health of the caribou and ensure that hunters are acting responsibly when out on the land, and are not wasting meat by taking only the most desirable parts of the caribou.



*Caribou at the Ekati mine.*



# Activities and Events

## Events

Ekati Community Caribou Engagement Program	August 17-27, 2015
Student Seed Reclamation Program	August 19-26, 2015
Appreciation BBQ in Gamèti	August 18, 2015
Jay Project Public Hearings	September 14-21, 2015

Students conducting soil sampling at Cell B.



## Aligning Traditional Knowledge (continued)

### Tłjcho What'aa Eskers TK Project

Another way that Dominion Diamond is aligning Traditional Knowledge (TK) into our operations is by gathering the advice of Tłjcho elders regarding the properties of natural eskers that may be used in the planning and construction of mine waste rock piles.

The concept is that if waste rock piles are designed strategically, the risks to wildlife can be reduced. Caribou are drawn to the eskers because of their high altitudes, and the natural landscape of eskers is non-threatening to the animal's safety.

Waste rock piles that are designed to avoid dangerous conditions will be safer for wildlife and allow the people

to carry out their traditional activities on the land. The What'aa Eskers project involved taking Elders and other community members to study a historic, culturally-significant esker. What'aa means "esker" in the Tłjcho language.

The Elders studied the design, structure, rock placement, and topography of the esker to determine the key characteristics of the esker in the landscape and transfer these principles to the waste rock pile.

The Elders and other community members traveled to the Ekati mine to observe the landscape around the existing mine site and the proposed Jay Project.



Tłjcho elders providing advice on the design of waste rock piles.



## Do you have any questions?

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If you have ideas for what you would like to see in a future newsletter, please email [laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca](mailto:laura.worsley-brown@ekati.ddcorp.ca).

