

# Government of the Northwest Territories Socio-Economic Agreements

## Context

In the Northwest Territories (N.W.T.), when an environmental assessment takes place for a major resource development project, the territorial government asks for follow-up programs to be put in place in the form of socio-economic agreements (SEAs). They set out the company's commitments and predictions during its environmental assessment and include the following:

- Employment and business opportunities;
- Cultural well-being and traditional economy;
- Community, family, and individual well-being;
- Net effects on government; and
- Sustainable development.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) oversees the implementation of these agreements and coordinates government efforts under each agreement while monitoring how well each company carries out its respective responsibilities.

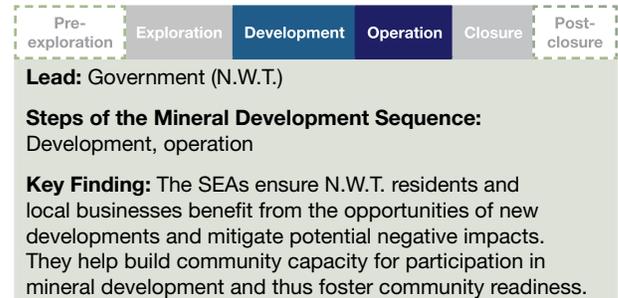
## Description of Measures Implemented

SEAs are currently in place for De Beers' Gahcho Kué project and Snap Lake mine, Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek mine, Dominion Diamond Corporation's Ekati mine, and Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.

The purpose of the agreements is to establish the methods and procedures by which:

- Parties will work together to maximize the beneficial opportunities, identify the impacts, and minimize and mitigate the negative socio-economic impacts arising from the projects;
- Parties will work together to facilitate adaptive management in response to the monitoring data collected and reported by the parties in order to continually improve the implementation of the agreements; and
- The implementation of commitments made regarding socio-economic issues arising from the project and the agreements will be monitored by the GNWT.

For instance, through the terms of its SEAs, De Beers Canada Inc. annually reports on issues such as employment and spending in the territory. The reports outline the mine's activities and include the mine's safety reports (i.e. reportable injuries, time lost), socio-economics (i.e. employment by priority group), the mine's recruitment initiatives, spending (total, northern, Aboriginal people), and its operational and training activities.



Diavik Diamond Mines reports twice a year on employment and spending in the North. The bi-annual reports are submitted to the Diavik Communities Advisory Board (created under the SEA) and to the GNWT. The reports outline the mine's activities with regard to its SEA. The Diavik Project Communities Group Advisory Board reviews and monitors the project's socio-economic impacts and provides recommendations and advice to communities, governments, and the mine operator.

## Results

Since 1996, guided by commitments described in each of their SEAs, mining projects in the N.W.T. have created significant and unprecedented benefits for northern Canada. The three diamond mines have provided over 18 000 person-years of northern employment. They have also purchased approximately \$10 billion in goods and services from northern businesses and have provided millions of dollars in sponsorships and training to support the development of northern workers' skills.

## Lessons Learned

SEAs set out the terms of an effective, ongoing working relationship between the parties in the spirit of cooperation and provide a mechanism for effective communication, consultation, and collaboration. The agreements provide residents with opportunities to undergo training and further education to enhance their existing skills or establish a new career. They are important for the growth of the local economy as the need to match skilled workers to jobs increases. The agreements ensure residents and local businesses benefit from the opportunities of new developments and mitigate potential negative impacts. They help build community capacity for participation in mineral development and thus foster community readiness.

### For more information:

The most recent SEA for the Gahcho Kué mine can be found at [news.exec.gov.nt.ca/wp-content/uploads/GahchoKue\\_SEA\\_June2013.pdf](https://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/wp-content/uploads/GahchoKue_SEA_June2013.pdf).

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