



GNWT welcomes start of Prairie Creek Mine underground program

FORT SIMPSON (October 7, 2014) – New developments at the Prairie Creek Mine will increase employment opportunities and promote economic growth in the Dehcho Region.

Responding to today's announcement by Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) regarding the start-up of the Prairie Creek underground program as it moves towards full production, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay says he is pleased with what the development of a producing mine will mean for the residents of the Dehcho Region.

"This is the first mining project for the Dehcho and I look forward to residents and businesses seeing the benefits of a producing mine in their region," said Minister Ramsay. "Canadian Zinc is committed to maximizing Aboriginal and local employment and creating opportunities for northern businesses."

A <u>socio-economic agreement</u> (SEA) was signed between CZN and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in 2011, which outlines commitments made by CZN for northern employment and procurement.

The GNWT believes that sustainable and environmentally responsible resource development projects will benefit NWT residents by strengthening and diversifying the economy as envisioned by the 17th Legislative Assembly and the Mineral Development Strategy.

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