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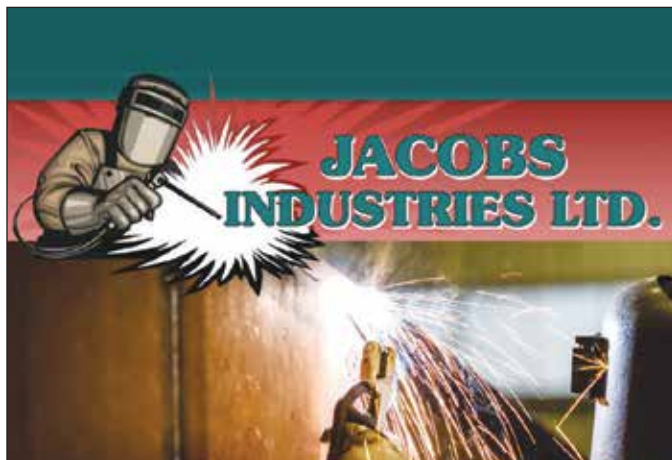
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We are working closely with First Nations and industry to ensure Yukon's regulatory process is clear, effective and reliable.

We are investing in clean energy and resilient infrastructure to support long-term economic growth in an environmentally responsible way.

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YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES
President's Message

THE YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES is proud to present another annual mining directory, a tool seen by many as required reading for working in the Yukon mining industry. We hope you find this directory useful as we enter the 2018 field season.

Looking back, 2017 saw ever increasing interest and activity in the Yukon's mining sector. Building off of the strong relationships we formed in the past and by forging new ones, the Yukon Chamber of Mines has seen increased engagement across the board. Through our dynamic partnerships and the efforts of our membership, the Yukon mining industry has continued to actualize its great potential.

As a non-profit organization, much of the strength of the chamber comes from the incredible support of our members. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, I would like to thank each company, organization, and individual whose time, support, and membership dollars enable us to continue working for you. Be it through our lobbying efforts while at the table with policy and decision makers or through our community outreach programs that highlight the many benefits of a thriving mining sector, the Yukon Chamber of Mines is only able to do what it does because of you. Going into this year, the Yukon Chamber of Mines will continue strengthening its voice as a representative of Yukon's modern, responsible mining industry.

Sincerely,

Sue Craig
President, Yukon Chamber of Mines

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Update from the Yukon Chamber of Mines



THROUGHOUT THE PAGES the pages of the *Yukon Mining and Exploration Directory*, with a distribution across Canada exceeding 12,000 copies, you will find stories and photos which articulate the technology, innovation, and progressive partnerships of our industry. The directory is a testament to the growth of the Yukon mining industry, as well as the Chamber organization that represents it. As we see breakthroughs in collaboration and

innovation, so does our directory, with additional companies listed and enriched content. In 2017, Yukon's mineral exploration and deposit expenditures totalled \$165.1 million, a significant increase over 2016's \$90.4 million. This coming field season promises to be exciting as we see Victoria Gold Corporation (TSX-V: VIT) building its Eagle Gold Mine in the Mayo region after securing \$505 million in construction financing and Alexco Resource Corporation (TSE: AXR) looking to bring its Birmingham property online. Yukon's only operating hardrock mine—Minto, just north of Carmacks and owned by Capstone Mining Corp (TSE: CS)—entered into an agreement of sale to Pembridge Resources (LSE: PERE) for \$37.5 million and a 9.9% stake in the company. All of the aforementioned activity follows Goldcorp, Barrick Gold, Newmont, and Agnico Eagle all setting up shop in Yukon over the last 18 months. Last year was also a significant one for the Yukon Chamber of Mines. We saw success with the Our Yukon (www.ouryukon.ca) communications campaign, with the release of numerous educational videos highlighting the benefits of a healthy mining industry in the areas of innovation, First Nations

collaboration, and environmental sustainability. Over the course of 2017, we also experienced meaningful collaboration with Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon. Together, we will continue working on issues of mutual interest, including improvements to Yukon's assessment and permitting regimes. We are the industry on the front lines of reconciliation, as miners are on the doorstep of every Yukon First Nations' traditional territory. It is incumbent upon us to work collaboratively and respectfully to make Yukon the most successful and progressive jurisdiction to mine in the world. All of us at the Yukon Chamber of Mines would like to thank our members, volunteers, and sister organizations, as well as our many other supporters as we build on Yukon's competitive advantages and reputation as a progressive jurisdiction endowed with significant world-class deposits.

Sincerely,

Samson Hartland
Executive Director
Yukon Chamber of Mines

YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES Board of Directors

SUSAN CRAIG - PRESIDENT

Sue Craig has over 25 years of experience in the Yukon, ranging from mineral exploration and permitting to construction and operation of mines. Craig is currently an appointed member of the Yukon Mineral Advisory and Yukon Energy Corporation boards. She is a Yukon Women in Mining champion and a board member of the Association of Mineral Exploration B.C. Craig was honoured to receive the Yukon Chamber of Mines Member's award in 2012. She served as a director of YCM for many years, and her knowledge and experience in the Yukon, especially during these trying times in our industry, are a tremendous asset to the board.

HEATHER BURRELL - VICE-PRESIDENT

Heather Burrell is a geologist with 15 years of field experience in the Yukon with Archer, Cathro, & Associates (1981) Limited. Burrell is passionate about grassroots exploration and early stage project development and has completed countless drill programs on behalf of clients. She is a professional geologist with Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia and a member of the Society of Economic Geologists. She also sits on the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board, the Technical Advisory Committee for the Yukon Geological Survey,

and the steering committee for the Yukon College's Geological Technology program.

JOHN SMALL - VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER

John Small joined the board as a small business representative. His company, Small's Expediting Services, provides logistical and transportation support to the Yukon's exploration, mining, and oil-and-gas industries. Small believes the Yukon Chamber of Mines has a major role to play in protecting, developing, and advancing the Yukon's aforementioned industries. As a director and representative of small businesses working in the industry, Small can contribute and advance the objectives of the chamber.

MIKE BURKE - PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Burke is a Yukon-based consulting geologist. He was the chief geologist for Golden Predator Mining Corp from 2011 to 2017. Prior to joining Golden Predator, Burke worked with the Government of Yukon for more than 20 years. He was head of mineral services for the Yukon Geological Survey when he left government in 2011. At the Yukon Geological Survey, Burke was responsible for liaising with prospectors and mining and exploration companies, visiting active exploration sites, authoring the annual

Yukon Mining, Development and Exploration Overview, and presenting information on the Yukon to investment bankers, financial institutions, and mining analysts in meetings and conferences around the world.

Burke has worked in the mineral exploration and mining industry in British Columbia and Yukon since 1983. He was fortunate to be part of the exploration team which discovered the Sa Dena Hes lead-zinc mine and the Ketza River mine in the Yukon. Mike worked at the Ketza River mine from exploration through mine development, production, and closure as the mine geologist before joining the Yukon Geological Survey in 1990.

Burke holds a bachelor's of science degree in geology from the University of British Columbia and is a professional geologist with the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia and a member of the Society of Economic Geologists. Burke has been a member of the Yukon College Board of Governors since 2011. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining at Yukon College and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Yukon Geological Survey.

ALLAN DOHERTY – DIRECTOR

Al Doherty, P.Geo, has been a field geologist in the Yukon since 1980. Doherty has been very active with the Yukon Chamber of Mines since 1986 and served as president from 1988 to 1989 and 1991. He was a member of Yukon Minerals Advisory Board from 2003 to 2009 and the Yukon regional director for the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada from 2000 to 2009. Doherty was also involved with the inception of the Yukon Mine Training Association and served as its first board Chair in 2006. He is well known by many First Nation leaders.

BUDDY CRILL – DIRECTOR

Buddy Crill is the mine general manager for Goldcorp's Coffee mine project, located 130 km south of Dawson City. Crill and his family relocated to Whitehorse from Mexico City in August of 2016, immediately following Goldcorp's acquisition of Kaminak Gold and the Coffee mine project. He has a bachelor's of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho, and has 24 years of progressive industry experience in both the mining and electric utility sectors.

Prior to his current role at the Coffee project, Crill was director of operations support for Goldcorp's Latin American region, where he worked with the Latin American mine managers to implement improvements in operations, asset management, maintenance, energy, technology, and supply chain. Prior to joining Goldcorp in early 2015, he worked for Barrick Gold at the jointly owned (60% Barrick, 40% Goldcorp) Pueblo Viejo mine in the Dominican Republic and at Barrick's Cortez mine in Nevada. Crill's roles at the Pueblo Viejo mine included asset manager, energy manager, and he was a member of the commissioning team. He has also worked for UniSource Energy in Arizona, Kennecott Minerals in Alaska, M3 Engineering in Arizona, and Power Engineers in Idaho.

Crill is serving as a director for the Yukon Chamber of Mines and is on the Governing Council for the Yukon College's Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining (CNIM). He enjoys spending his spare time in the great outdoors with his wife and two kids.

JOSH CLARK – DIRECTOR

Josh Clark brings over a decade of experience in business development, marketing and sales, human resources, community engagement, and customer care. He has a passion for achievement gained through strategic planning and a strong work ethic that ensures successful implementation.

Raised in a family of entrepreneurs, Clark gravitated to business and earned a bachelor's of business administration degree from Thompson Rivers University. Following graduation, he honed his skills in the banking industry and was the director of commercial development for Air North, Yukon's Airline, before moving in to the world of digits, packets, and tech gadgets, where he is currently the vice-president of marketing and sales at Total North Communications.

With mining and exploration playing a significant role in Yukon's economy,

Clark has a passion for ensuring the sustainability of the sector through responsible and meaningful engagement with the land and all those who use it.

KENDRA JOHNSTON – DIRECTOR

Kendra Johnston is the president and a director of Independence Gold Corp., a gold exploration company searching for gold primarily in the Yukon. She has been with the company for 10 years, overseeing the Yukon exploration programs, building relationships with various stakeholders, and managing the land, environment, and health and safety programs. Johnston is also an active member and volunteer of the mineral-exploration community.

In addition to her position with the Yukon Chamber of Mines, she is also the vice-chair of the board of directors of the Association for Mineral Exploration B.C., a co-founder and director of Below B.C., and past chair of AME's Roundup conference. Johnston is a registered professional geologist in B.C. and holds a master's of business administration degree from Queen's University.

MARY MIOSKA – DIRECTOR

Mary Mioska brings 10 years of expertise in managing the environmental aspects of Yukon mining projects, from exploration through to operational-mine-site monitoring. She has a technical background in water-quality protection and permitting and direct Yukon experience in leading permit applications and compliance of local mining operations with territorial and federal regulations. Mioska has an environmental engineering degree from the University of British Columbia. Her master's thesis examined passive bioremediation of contaminated groundwater at a mine in the Yukon, with a focus on selenium and heavy metal removal. Mioska also sits on the board of Yukon Women in Mining and the environment committees of both the Mining Association of B.C. and the Mining Association of Canada.

MICHAEL C. MCDOUGALL – DIRECTOR

Mike McDougall has over 35 years of experience in the Yukon placer fields, ranging from exploration, permitting, and management of large placer operations to construction and operation of his own family operation in the Sixtymile placer camp. McDougall is currently the president of the Klondike Placer Miners Association (KPMA). He has also been an appointed member of the Yukon Mineral Advisory Board and is on the board of the Yukon Mine Training Association. McDougall and his wife, Kim, were honoured to receive the Mr. and Mrs. Miner Award of Recognition from the Klondike Placer Miners Association in 1999. He has served as a director of KPMA since 1990. His knowledge and experience in the Yukon placer industry is a tremendous resource to the boards.

YVES BROUILLETTE – DIRECTOR

Yves Brouillette is the current general manager of Capstone's Minto operations in the Yukon. He is a mechanical engineer with more than 25 years of operations experience in various roles and organizations throughout Canada and Australia. Prior to joining Capstone, Brouillette spent three years with Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium operations as general manager in Havre-Saint-Pierre, Quebec. Previously, Brouillette worked six years with Xstrata Copper, managing the Kidd Met zinc operations in Timmins, Ontario, before moving to Brisbane, Australia, to take on the role of general manager of asset management. Earlier in his career, Brouillette worked with steel producer Ispat Sidbec as production and maintenance coordinator in Montreal, Quebec, and later with Tembec as maintenance and services manager at a pulp mill in Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario. He holds a master's of business administration degree from the University of British Columbia and a bachelor's degree in engineering from McGill University.



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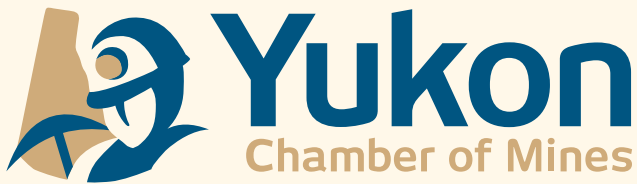


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THE YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES

represents a dynamic membership and, since its creation almost 70 years ago, has worked to serve its valued members and advance the interests of all those involved in the Yukon mining industry.

As the trusted voice of mining, the Yukon Chamber of Mines thrives on the government, community, First Nations, and individual partnerships it forges to help facilitate an environment of responsible development—one in which its members can continue to contribute and prosper.

YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES

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» Sharon Busby works by a stream with another Geological Technology student, sampling water.



Photo: Joel Chabrey

BY THE NORTH, FOR THE NORTH: THE NEXT GENERATION OF GEOLOGISTS ARE HERE

**Centre for Innovation in Mining
prepares tomorrow's leaders.**

Sharon Busby remembers the moment she found Yukon College's Geological Technology program while researching post-secondary programs across Canada.

"I was looking for earth-sciences programs," she explains. "The geotechnical program caught my attention, and I thought, *Yup, that's it. I want to do rocks.*"

Now an environmental technician, Busby has worked in the hydrogeology field since graduating in 2017.

"I have been working throughout Yukon and B.C. doing soil sampling and soil remediation, testing monitoring wells, and developing and installing monitoring wells," she says. "I've been involved in a lot of soil-remediation projects to clean up commercial properties."

Busby says the program taught her the fundamentals of geoscience, which gave her a better understanding of the technical side of her job.

"For me to just do the basics of it, it's mechanical, she says. "You do ABC to get the water sample, but the reasoning behind it and the science behind it, how groundwater flows and the impacts of it, and how a monitoring well is created, I learned all of that in my program."

The Geological Technology program is offered as a one-year certificate or two-year diploma program at Yukon College. It gives students a strong foundation in geology, geophysics, and mineral-exploration techniques, preparing them for geoscience jobs with mining or mineral-exploration companies or environmental or geology-based consulting firms.

Busby says she was interested in hydrogeology from the start, but it wasn't until her second year in the program that she saw her career path.

"It was just like the light bulb went off," she says. "I was learning a whole bunch of other stuff along the way. We finally got



“It was just like the light bulb went off. I was learning a whole bunch of other stuff along the way. We finally got to that course, and everything else that I learned in the other courses seemed to be incorporated into this course.”

to that course, and everything else that I learned in the other courses seemed to be incorporated into this course.”

Shelagh Rowles is the Executive Director of the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining (CNIM). She says the centre was created to prepare students, like Busby, for emerging job opportunities and bridge the gap between educational training and employment needs for industry.

“[CNIM] responds to the needs articulated by industry and Yukon First Nations, who say where the training priorities are and how we can assist with the human-resource gaps in industry,” says Rowles.

A governing council, made of representatives from the mining and mineral industry and First Nations governments, meet four times a year to determine the centre’s priorities and strategic direction.

One of CNIM’s current priorities is getting the Geological Technology program accredited with a technical designation.

Rowles says the designation will ensure the program is recognized by industry across the country and helps graduates find work, both in and outside of the Yukon.

“It means a lot more mobility for our grads,” says Rowles, “but also if some of the larger companies come in [to the Yukon] with more rigorous technical requirements, students don’t have to leave the territory in order to achieve that.”

Another priority for CNIM is improving environmental-monitoring training for students.

The centre has had requests from Yukon First Nations as well as industry to deliver environmental monitoring that meets legal requirements for industry, but also considers First Nations spiritual and cultural elements and species using the land.

Rowles says a mining company developing a closure plan for its mine brought a group of students and an Elder to the site. The company wanted to use a plant indigenous to the Yukon to help with remediation until the Elder advised against it.

“The Elder said, ‘You know, if you use these particular plant species for remediation they’ll attract moose and this historically is a caribou ground, so you’ll actually really disrupt the caribou-migration cycle and our hunting patterns,’” she explains.

In the end, the company chose a different plant for the remediation plan. Rowles says it’s a recent example of how environmental monitoring can meet the needs of industry and First Nations communities.

Busby says it’s fieldwork that sets the college’s program apart from others and gave her the skills she needed for her career.

“There’s a lot of hands-on work that we did, a lot of fieldwork, a lot of experiential work as well as theory, classroom-based work,” she says. “It opens your eyes, too, to a lot of different areas in the industry,

and it gives you such a good background and good solid experience.”

Busby recommends anyone interested in a geoscience career should look for programs that pair a strong theoretical background with practical skills, like the two-year diploma program at Yukon College.

Rowles says CNIM is unique because of its focus on the North.

“What we want to do is to highlight training and programs that are specific to the needs of the people that we’re trying to serve,” she says. “We really want to be at the forefront of harnessing those opportunities to enhance the labour market.”

As Yukon College begins its transition to a university, the post-secondary institution will be eligible for more research funding. It’s also possible they’ll develop a degree in geology or introduce engineering programs, which Rowles says will grow local expertise and benefit industry, communities, and the territory.

“The more programs we introduce, the more expertise we draw, which is not only valuable to our students, but it’s invaluable to our industry and to our communities broadly,” says Rowles.

The transition from college to university could be finished as early as the spring of 2020. Until then, CNIM will continue working with industry leaders and First Nations groups in identifying employment and educational opportunities for a sector heading into an upswing. □





DIG IN: MINERS STRIKE MORE THAN GOLD IN THE KLONDIKE

Klondike placer miners have put the Yukon on the map as a leader in ice-age paleontology



» Fossils found in the field are sorted before they are cleaned and catalogued.

There's a plaque at the entrance of the Beringia Centre that explains how the centre was created. It's easily overlooked thanks to the three-metre tall, ice-age mammal that greets visitors to the Whitehorse museum.

"It was largely because of the lobby of the placer-mining industry," says Jonas Smith, executive director of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, explaining the unique greeter. "People felt very passionately that they were finding all this neat stuff and it was just sitting in a warehouse, and it was a shame that it wasn't being shared with Yukoners and the world."

Placer miners have been unearthing fossils in the Yukon for more than a 120 years. Pictures of miners posing with fossils discovered in the Klondike quickly circulated during the gold rush, and institutions around the world took note.

Dr. Grant Zazula, a Yukon-based paleontologist, says the relationship between gold mining in the Yukon and ice-age paleontology began almost immediately.

"Within only two, three, four, five years of the Klondike Gold Rush, major museums around the world—such as the American Museum of Natural History from New York and the Paris Natural History Museum, the Smithsonian, the British Museum in London—they all sent expeditions of scientists to come to the Yukon to look for and collect these bones that were being uncovered by the gold miners," says Zazula.

While most of Canada was covered by a giant glacier during the ice age 20,000 years ago, the northwestern part of the Yukon and the entire interior of Alaska were too cold and dry to support glaciers. Instead, the area was inhabited by mammals.

Zazula explains that the organic-rich silt sediment and soil in the region, which placer miners call "black muck," is an important record of the environmental history of the ice age. The black muck is essentially ice-age dust that accumulated over tens of thousands of years and has preserved the remains of ancient animals.

Ice-age fossils could be found anywhere in the region, but Zazula attributes the fossil discoveries in the Klondike to industrial development.

"The fact that there are gold miners moving all the ground is why we find them," says Zazula. "Those bones and fossils will be found in many other places; it's just that there's no industrial development, like gold mining, to expose them."

He says the relationship between mining and paleontology works well because it's based on mutual interest and respect.

Smith agrees. He says it's a relationship that has long been celebrated.

"Placer miners are usually pretty excited when they dig up something neat, and the paleontologists realize that none of these discoveries would ever have been made were it not for the labours of the miners," says Smith.

From June to September, Zazula and his team move to Dawson City, set up camp, and make daily drives down mining roads to meet with gold miners.

"[We] find what they're unearthing, collect it, and bring it back for scientific study," says Zazula.

In 2004, Stuart Schmidt found a horse bone at his placer mine near Thistle Creek. Scientists dated the bone at 750,000 years old, and geneticists were able to extract DNA from it, which is the oldest DNA sequence ever produced.



» **Above:** Assistant Palaeontologist Elizabeth Hall cleans fossils in the field tent before bringing them back to Whitehorse. **Below:** Grant Zazula examines the helmeted muskox skull and horns, a rare discovery of an extinct species. The fossils were found by Stuart Schmidt at a mining operation south of Dawson City, Yukon.





Photos: archbould.com

» **Above:** After fossils are cleaned, they're catalogued by field staff in the Klondike. **Below:** Greer Vanderbyl returns a fossil to storage. Fossils are stored in a Whitehorse-based facility, known as 'the bone lab'.



“None of this stuff would even be known to us if it weren’t for mining.”

Zazula says 90 percent of the discoveries made in the Klondike are common species—woolly mammoth, ice-age horses, and steppe bison—but 10 percent are the “really cool things,” like Schmidt’s horse bone.

“Every summer we might find one bone from an ice-age camel and one bone from a giant ground sloth or a sabre-toothed cat, and that’s what we’re really excited about,” he says.

Since 2012, Zazula and his team have been conducting more intensive fieldwork in the Klondike. He says the work is paying off.

“We’re starting to now amass collections of some of those rare things and actually starting to learn more about them, and that’s been a lot of fun,” says Zazula.

He says the team always recognizes the placer miners work clearing the ground, which leads to the discoveries.

“Without them it wouldn’t be possible,” he says. “To me the gold miner is just as important as the geneticists at making the study happen.”

Schmidt is one of those miners. Last September, he discovered a helmeted muskox skull, a rare discovery of an extinct species, and he has contributed many fossils to the Yukon palaeontology program collection over the years. For his efforts, he was given the Yukon Beringia Research Award at the Yukon Placer Forum for his contributions to Yukon palaeontology and Beringia research.

Smith says the fossil discoveries made in the Klondike are valuable resources for Yukoners and the international academic community.

“There’s just literally cutting-edge, world-class science that’s come out of little, old Yukon as a result of discoveries made by placer miners,” says Smith. “None of this stuff would even be known to us if it weren’t for mining.”

As placer miners dig into another season in the Klondike, Zazula and his team prepare to join them in June. They’ll spend the summer travelling mining roads, talking with miners, and collecting this year’s fossils. □



Photos: Grant Zazula



» At left: Aisling Farrell holds a frozen, mummified ancient horse leg with freeze dried flesh and hair attached. At right: Gisli Balzer and Susan Hewitson hoist up a mammoth skull to place it inside a wooden crate.

EXTINCT MUSKOX SKULL FOUND AT PLACER MINE NEAR DAWSON CITY

The helmeted muskox once lived in most parts of North America but has long been extinct.

On September 11, 2017, Stuart Schmidt, a Klondike placer miner, discovered a helmeted muskox skull while working on his property in the Indian River valley, south of Dawson City.

The skull was fully intact, making it the second discovery of its kind in northern Canada. The last known discovery was made in the 1920s near Fairbanks, Alaska. Since then, only a few of their bones have been found in the North.

Buried in permafrost, the skull was preserved for thousands of

years. The fossil will be carbon dated to determine its precise age, but Yukon paleontologist Grant Zazula’s initial guess puts it around 25,000 years old.

All fossils found in the Yukon belong to the government. They are cleaned, catalogued, and stored in “the bone lab,” based in Whitehorse, for both Yukon and visiting scientists to study.

Schmidt’s discovery will help scientists learn more about the extinct species—its size, diet, and general life. The skull may even offer a hint on why the helmeted muskox went extinct.



Illustration: Wikimedia



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» Judy Gingell, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Elder and a lead consultant on the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

“It’s just an ever evolving [process]. I think we’re always learning from each other.”

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Yukon Chamber of Mines builds Canada’s first interactive engagement guide to bring industry and First Nations together.

This year marked the 45th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, a document that paved the road to Yukon First Nations self-government and land-claims agreements.

The Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Peter Johnston says the agreements give First Nations a voice in every aspect of its traditional territory. It’s a voice not all Indigenous people have.

“We’re very advanced here [in the Yukon] compared to the other parts of the world in the sense of governance and our involvement in the territory,” says Johnston.

Over the last year, the Yukon Chamber of Mines worked with the 17 First Nations with land ties in the Yukon to develop an engagement tool for the mineral industry. It’s the first of its kind in Canada.

The guide, *Yukon First Nation Engagement & Consultation Guidebook for the Mineral Exploration Industry*, was a collaborative project with the 11 First Nations with final agreements and the three non-settled First Nations in the Yukon, as well as three transboundary First Nations—two in the Northwest Territories and one in northern British Columbia.

Judy Gingell, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Elder and a lead consultant on the Yukon Chamber of Mines project team, was drawn to the project because it reflected the intention of the First Nations final agreements.

“The whole [Umbrella Final Agreement] is about building a relationship and partnership and working collectively for the better of all people,” says Gingell. “We need to start working together and talking to each other. Every little bit helps.”

ENGAGEMENT GUIDEBOOK

The project built on work completed in 2012, when the Yukon Chamber of Mines, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, and Nacho Nyäk Dun First Nation developed a pamphlet that provided an overview of Yukon First Nations and communities for mineral exploration companies interested in working in the Yukon.

“There’s always been a hope to build on that,” says Sue Craig, president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines. “I have to give Samson [Hartland, executive director of the Yukon Chamber of Mines] credit. He wrote a pretty amazing proposal and managed to get a fair bit of funding [for the project].”

The renewed guide, funded by the Yukon Government and CanNor, expands on how Yukon First Nations would like to be engaged by the mineral industry. It’s a comprehensive resource for mineral and exploration companies working in the Yukon. The guide covers best engagement practices and provides profiles of the 17 First Nations with ties to the Yukon and an overview of Aboriginal law and modern treaties in the Yukon context. It also includes a directory of suppliers, government departments, and agencies, as well as profiles of mineral and exploration companies working in First Nations traditional territories.

Gingell says the response from the communities has been positive.

“They liked the idea,” she says. “A lot of them were willing to share some of the successes they had in this area [working with industry] and were willing to share how things went and what didn’t go right.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT THAT EVERYBODY ADVANCES TOGETHER.”

Grand Chief Johnston says First Nations communities understand how

"It now tells our story from a different point of view. I think it's important we reflect that value system back out to the mining company."

important the mining industry is to the territory's economy.

"When the mining industry is down it's a tough life for a lot of people here, but when it's up and all the boats are afloat, everyone's having a good time."

He says decision making needs to be a three-pronged approach; the mining industry, First Nations governments, and the territorial government need to work together.

"For many years it's been one or the other or none of the three [moving forward], and nobody benefits from that," says Johnston. "It's important that everybody advances together."

Johnston says the engagement guidebook is a step forward.

"It now tells our story from a different point of view," says Johnston. "I think it's important we reflect that value system back out to the mining company."

The Yukon Chamber of Mines saw the gap in engagement resources for industry and thought it was an opportunity to work with First Nations to build better relationships between First Nations and industry, but also help locals and people new to the Yukon learn about First Nations and their traditional territories.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Craig says engagement is critical for any project.

"If you don't have support from the local community, and usually the local community is a First Nation community, your projects won't go ahead," she says.

The goal of the project was to create a tool for industry that outlines how each First Nations government and community want to be engaged, as well as the process for mineral and exploration work in traditional territories, established by the First Nations government.

Engagement is changing, and not just in the Yukon. Engagement is being used in projects all around the world.

Craig recently attended Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. She says one presentation from a company talking about their engagement with communities in the jungles of Africa just made sense.

"They're engaging and they have agreements," she explains. "You want the community to be supporting what you're doing, to understand what you're doing. The only way to do that is to engage and talk to them."

But she admits there's no recipe for engagement.

"Each First Nation is different, and each project is different," says Craig. "It's just an ever evolving [process]. I think we're always learning from each other."

The Yukon Chamber of Mines' Yukon First Nation Engagement & Consultation Guidebook for the Mineral Exploration Industry will be available online, as well as in print, in spring 2018. □



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2017 YUKON GEOSCIENCE TRADESHOW AND FORUM

The crowd was packed tight on the tradeshow floor for opening day of the Yukon Geoscience Tradeshow and Forum. People shuffled from booth to booth, while the line at Goldcorp's exhibit spilled over to its neighbours as attendees waited to test the company's virtual-reality mine tour.

There was a renewed sense of growth at the conference for the territory's mineral and exploration industry, which had been curbed by a prolonged downturn.

Restaurants and bars were overflowing and hotel rooms sold out as Whitehorse welcomed more than 600 delegates to the 45th annual conference, held in late November.

Sue Craig, president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, says there was plenty of enthusiasm and a general upbeat feeling at this year's conference.

Several majors coming into the territory in 2017 was a promising signal, but Craig says that was just part of the growth. There were 150 exploration programs in the Yukon last year.

"I was surprised when I saw the number [of exploration programs]," says Craig. "So, yes, you have the majors on one side, which is wonderful, but the fact that there's still a lot of these other, smaller

scale projects being undertaken is significant as well."

People are optimistic and the numbers show it. The tradeshow booths were sold out at the four-day conference. Close to 60 exhibitors, including mineral and exploration companies, industry suppliers and contractors, government departments, and non-profit organizations were represented at the tradeshow.

This year's core shack had more than 20 participants, and 21 authors presented in the poster program.


Craig says another highlight of this year's conference was partnering with the Yukon Mining Alliance on the Investment Forum.

"In the past, [the Yukon Mining Alliance] did a Sunday feature about investment and investment in Yukon exploration companies or mining companies, so this year it was kind of pulled all under one roof," she says. "It worked out very well."

The Investment Forum included remarks from Energy, Mines, and Resources Minister Ranj Pillai, highlights from roundtables with junior explorers, a panel discussion on changes to the sector and its effects on the region, and corporate updates.



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“Overall, [the conference] is a chance to come together, share ideas and industry successes.”

The conference also offered a full program of technical and non-technical talks, which ranged from innovations in technology and infrastructure to project and regional overviews, community partnerships, and environmental-impact assessments.

Craig says the technical program has always been an anchor for the conference, but the non-technical presentations offer an opportunity to learn about research and best practices.

“Everybody that’s in exploration these days realizes that there’s a technical aspect, but there’s a social and environmental aspect, as well,” she says. “You have to have all of those working for projects to go forward.”

Craig says there are a lot of companies who come to the Yukon that want to respect what’s important to Yukoners.

“Overall, [the conference] is a chance to come together, share ideas and industry successes, learn from each other, and learn what’s important to Yukoners, especially for companies not based in the territory,” she says.

Planning for next year’s conference has already begun. The committee hopes to build on the momentum of last year’s success and capitalize on the upward swing in the industry.

The 46th annual Yukon Geoscience Tradeshow and Forum will be held in Whitehorse on Nov. 17–20, 2018. □



» **Top:** Delegates listen to the First Nations Joint Venture Partnerships Panel discussion.
Middle: Trade Show Floor at Geoscience.
Bottom: Selkirk Dancers perform at the opening reception of the conference.



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» **At left:** Capstone Mining Corporation's Ryan Herbert and Jane-Marie Glynn accept the Robert E. Leckie Award for responsible and innovative exploration and mining practices. **Centre:** Members of the Triumph Gold team accept the Robert E Leckie award for environmental stewardship. Pictured L-R: (TBC). **At right:** Mike Langtry and Mike Cawood of M2 Mining receive the Robert E. Leckie Award for excellence in environmental stewardship

2017 YUKON YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES GEOSCIENCE FORUM AWARDS

Yukon's mineral and exploration industry came together in November at the annual Yukon Geoscience Trade Show and Forum to honour industry leaders across the territory. Handed out every year, the awards showcase the industry's best sustainable, environmental, and community-development projects.

Granted by the Government of Yukon, Yukon Chamber of Mines, and Yukon Prospectors Association, awards are presented to individuals and mineral exploration companies for their contributions to improving industry standards.

Each year, the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources honours three notable quartz- or placer-mining operations for their environmental stewardship or innovative leadership in responsible exploration and mining practices with the **Robert E. Leckie Awards**.

A mining inspector based in Mayo, Leckie was a leading voice in strengthen-

ing working relationships between industry and government and setting standards for placer-mine waste.

The Yukon government created the awards in 1999 as a tribute to Leckie's career and to recognize industry leaders in environmental stewardship.

Minto Explorations Limited earned the **Leckie Award for Responsible and Innovative Exploration and Mining Practices** for the Constructed Wetland Treatment System (CWTS) it built at its copper mine in the Dawson Range.

The award honours an exceptional quartz- or placer-mining operation that demonstrates excellence in environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and leadership and innovation in overall processes.

The Minto team designed a CWTS as part of its Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) to minimize the effect of the mine's activity on surface and groundwater. The

CWTS is a self-sustaining ecosystem that use biofilters to clean water.

The CWTS has created an ecosystem, using native plants to the region, that is naturally treating water at the Minto mine. The ecosystem requires minimal maintenance while the mine is in operation and will continue treating water after it closes.

The **Leckie Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship** honours one quartz- and one placer-mining operation that demonstrates excellence in environmental stewardship and social responsibility or leadership and innovation in overall processes.

Triumph Gold Corporation was given the **Leckie Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship in Quartz Mining** for cleaning up historical disturbances within its operating areas. The reclamation work included sloping old trenches, filling in drill holes, and relocating core left by previous operators.



» At top (left to right): The team from Alkan Air accepts the Yukon Chamber of Mines Member Award. Pictured here L-R: Lorealee Johnstone William Koehn of JDS Energy & Mining presenting Alkan Air President & CEO Wendy Tayler, John Faulkner, Adam Scheck, Ron Limoges, and YCM Executive Director Samson Hartland. Sally Howson (2nd from right) accepts the Yukon Chamber of Mines Member Award from William Koehn, Lorealee Johnstone and Samson Hartland (L-R).



» At bottom (left to right): Hardy Hibbing receiving the Yukon Prospector of the Year award from YPA President Bill Mann. Dr. Timothy Liverton receiving the Yukon Prospector of the Year award from YPA President Bill Mann.

The company was also acknowledged for its efforts to provide employment opportunities to First Nations communities, as well as its support to local events and community groups in the area.

M2 Gold Mines Ltd. earned the **Leckie Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship in Placer Mining** for its reclamation work along the Indian River. The company's approach improved fish habitats by strategically designing and placing boulder piles to create eddies. The team also contoured soils and spread a vegetative mat over the land to promote regrowth.

Two awards are presented by the Yukon Chamber of Mines during the Yukon Geoscience Tradeshow and Forum: the **Community Award** and the **Member Award**.

The **Community Award** honours an individual, corporation, or government

department (federal, First Nations, territorial, or municipal) that contributes to advancing sustainable and responsible practices in Yukon's mining industry.

Alkan Air was given the **Yukon Chamber of Mines' Community Award** for its continued support of the Yukon Hospital Foundation and Yukon Imagination Library. The company also launched a flight academy last year to foster interest in the aviation industry among northern youth and offer training and work opportunities in the North.

The **Member Award** honours an individual or corporate member of the Yukon Chamber of Mines that demonstrates development of healthier communities, protecting the natural environment, and contributing to a vibrant economy for present and future generations.

Sally Howson was presented with the **Yukon Chamber of Mines' Member Award** for her work setting higher standards for respectful and early engagement with communities and First Nation governments, as well as environmental best practices.

The Yukon Prospectors Association named **Tim Liverton** and **Hardy Hibbing** the **2017 Yukon Prospectors of the Year** for investing more than four decades of work in the southeastern Yukon and Swift River area. The pair have made significant social and economic contributions to their community, Watson Lake.

The 46th annual Yukon Geoscience Tradeshow and Forum will be held in Whitehorse on November 17-20, 2018.

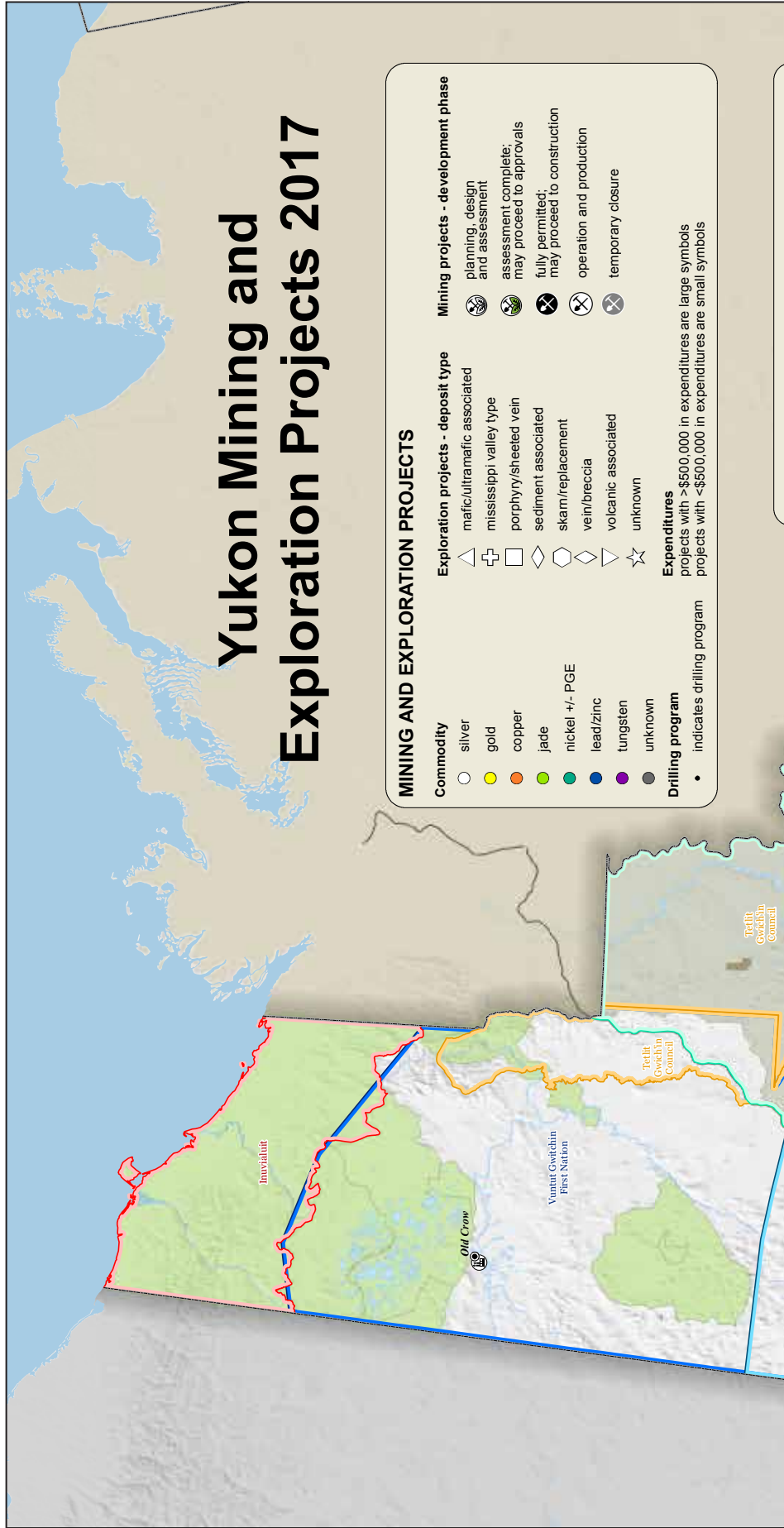


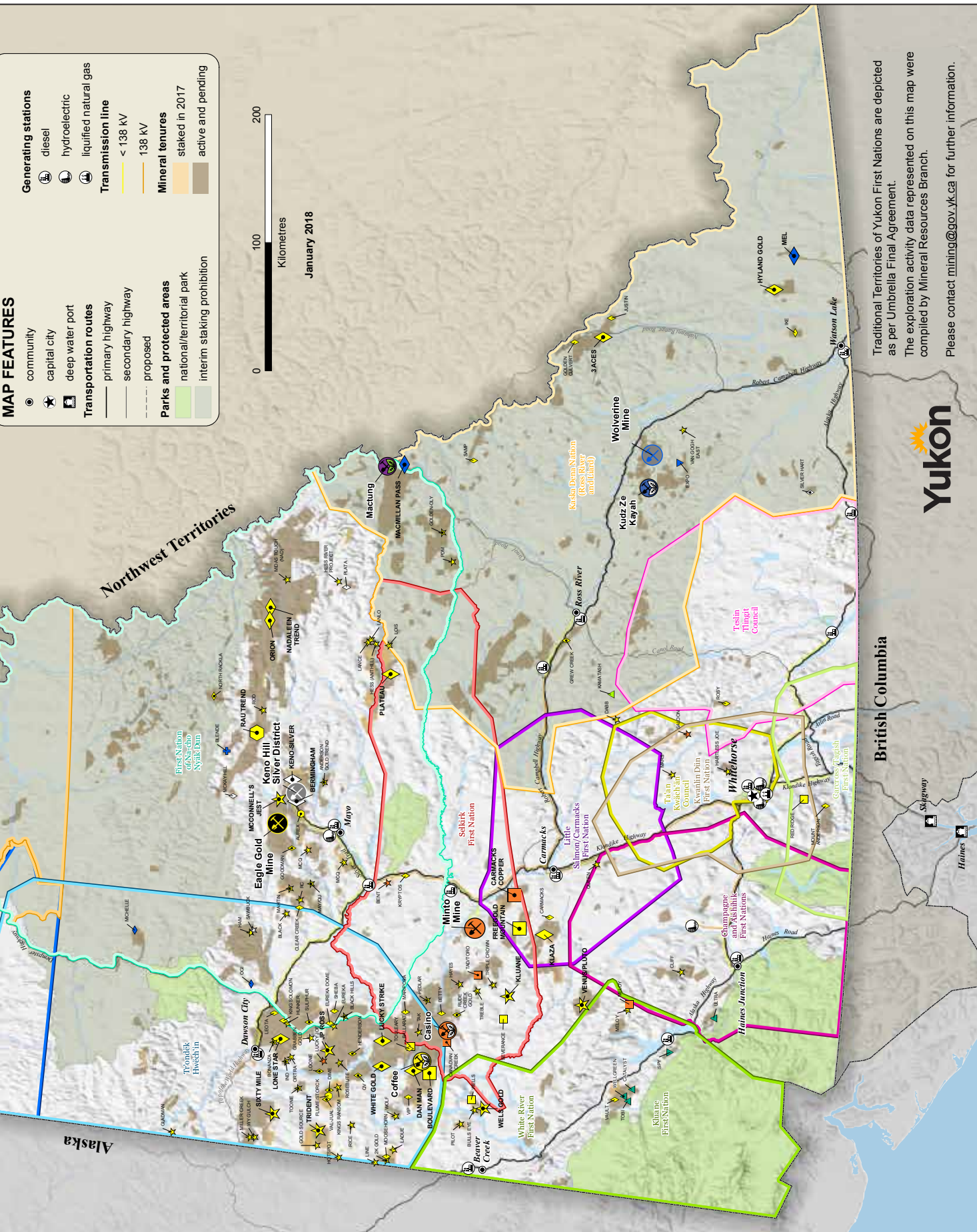
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» **Left:** The Ground Truth team builds low-impact exploration equipment in an assembly line in the company workshop.

WITHOUT A TRACE: LOW-IMPACT EXPLORATION IS CHANGING AN INDUSTRY

“Leaner and meaner” methods will open new doors for exploration companies

The GTProbe stops every five metres and pounds a five-centimetre hole into the bedrock. Two geologists, who have been guiding the remote-control vehicle through the bush, stop and take a sample from the new hole. The GTProbe continues on, leaving little to no trace it was ever there.

Mounted on low-impact rubber tracks, the GTProbe, a lightweight track machine, leaves moss undisturbed. The new technique is part of Ground Truth’s Drones to Drills program. Its revolutionizing the mineral industry.

Yukon prospector Shawn Ryan leads the research and development arm of Ground Truth. He likens the exploration company’s approach to commando operatives.

“The idea is that 95 percent of the time when you drill there’s nothing economic,” Ryan explains. “So what we’re trying to say is, why go in with the big heavy system when you could move around with this lightweight system, kind of ‘leaner and meaner’? It’s kind of like the commando team of exploration.”

Becoming “leaner and meaner” has also improved the time it takes a team to map and sample large areas of land.

“We can do in a month what would take two or three years, normally,” says Ryan.

He explains that with the low-impact method, using lightweight geophysical tools, teams can go into the bush in one pass and sample in a relatively straight line, while hardly cutting any trees.

“We wander around the bush taking our samples, and then if there’s something there, well, there’s something there. If not, well, we haven’t disturbed anything,” he says. “You don’t even see a line in the bush.”

Ground Truth wasn’t initially designed to be a low-impact exploration company but ended up becoming one.

Ryan says the industry had to “smarten up” because of the up and down nature of the mineral cycle, which led to low-impact exploration.

He points to examples of companies abandoning stakes part way through exploration, during downward cycles, as the catalyst for change.

“We have people going on big staking rushes, [then] they go broke and run away,” he explains. “Some of us have been up here for over 25 years and that’s our bread and butter. We see the waves coming and going, but we’re not going. We’re here.”

After the market crashed in 2011, Ryan and the team at Ground Truth re-evaluated.

“We just said let’s try to invent a better system here,” Ryan says.

That’s when Ground Truth turned toward low impact.

“If you take the cost [benefit] out of it, low impact theoretically gives you the social license to go to the bush,” he says.

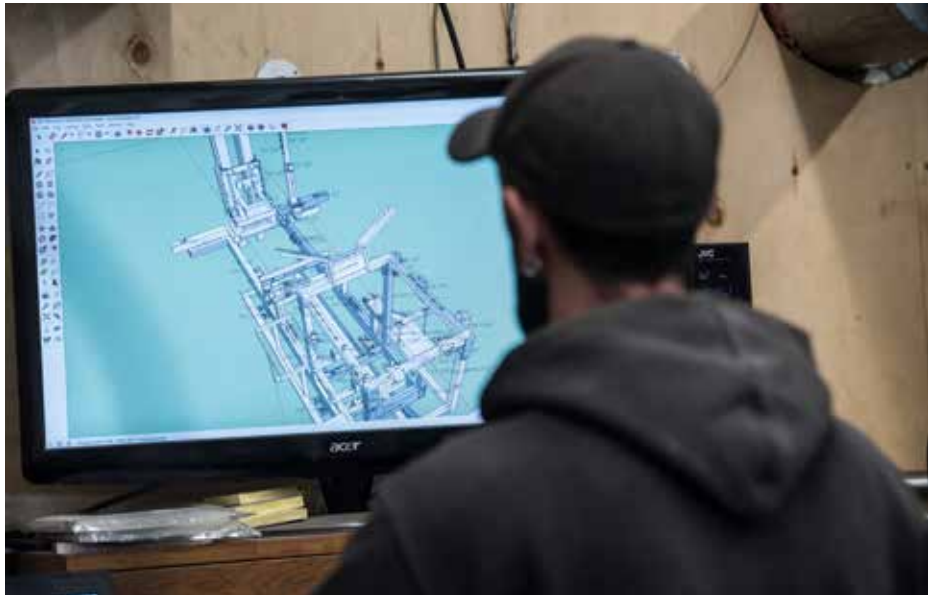
A lot of Ground Truth’s work is in the White Gold district, south of Dawson City.

Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Chief Roberta Joseph admits she’s not an expert in mineral exploration, but says traditional exploration methods, like trenching, don’t consider impacts to the environment, including wildlife.

She says low-impact exploration is a significant improvement on standard exploration practices.

“From the example that I’ve seen there is practically no trace of disturbance with low-impact methods, compared to conventional way,” she explains.

» **Right:** A team member works on a technical drawing of a low-impact drill.



“It’s better to teach the market that there are better tools in the toolbox now.”

The new and innovative technology Ground Truth is using in the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory optimizes sustainable low-impact exploration, creates efficiencies, and saves money.

Chief Joseph says delivering environmentally sustainable activities on the land is important to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in.

“Low-impact-exploration operations practically leave no trace for finding resources and are the way to go for the future,” she says.

Chief Joseph understands change won’t happen overnight, but knows low-impact exploration is a step forward in improving industry standards.

“Change always takes time with new and innovative ways of doing things,” she admits. “In today’s society, communities are much adaptive to accepting better ways of doing business.”

The industry is starting to see the value in low-impact exploration.

“It saves time, saves money, and it’s low impact,” explains Ryan.

He says industry is starting to catch on and companies are trying to replicate Ground Truth’s methods.

And he welcomes it.

“It’s better to teach the market that there are better tools in the toolbox now. You don’t have to use that that old computer. There’s a high-tech computer now,” he jokes. □

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INDUSTRY SAYS PARTNERSHIP SENDS A “VERY, VERY POWERFUL MESSAGE.”

Shovels won't break ground in 2018 on the Yukon Resource Gateway Project, but industry leaders say a project this size can't be rushed.

The Yukon Resource Gateway Project, announced last fall, is a partnership between industry and government to upgrade 650 kilometres of road in the Dawson Range and Nahanni Range.

Paul West-Sells, president and CEO of Western Copper and Gold, says government initially thought construction would start this summer, but deferring it a year is understandable.

“Any project that has a multiple number of partners is going to move more slowly because you've got people with different interests at play, and so I think you've seen that [here],” says West-Sells.

One of the challenges of large projects involving many partners is the speed of progress, but West-Sells says the positives outweigh any negatives.

“A project such as Gateway sends a message to resource companies and the investment community that government welcomes responsible mining development and responsible mining projects,” says West-Sells.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed up to \$247,381,000 in federal funding from the Building Canada Fund – National Infrastructure Component for the project.

The Government of Yukon and industry will pitch in \$112,802,000 and \$108,662,000 respectively, bringing the project's total budget to just shy of \$500 million.

Energy, Mines, and Resources Minister Ranj Pillai says the project will have substantial economic benefits for the Yukon.

“We anticipate significant employment opportunities during the construction phase, as well as opportunities for maintenance of the road and economic benefits from the projects along the route,” says Pillai.

West-Sells says all levels of government coming together on the project is a “very, very powerful message.”

“When you can have Yukon's territorial government, the federal government, and First Nations governments come together and recommend a major infrastructure project goes forward, that shows the Yukon is friendly to mining, understands the importance of mining, and that is a good place to invest,” explains West-Sells.

Maurice Albert, vice president of external affairs for Selwyn Chihong, says partnerships are necessary for mining projects today.

“The only way we can effectively, efficiently develop projects is to have these partnerships where the three levels of government—federal, territorial, and First Nations—come together with resource companies and really work at defining solutions that will be win-win solutions,” he explains.

The proposed Yukon Resource Gateway Project will upgrade existing infrastructure, including replacement of numerous bridges, culverts, and stream crossings.

In the Dawson Range, four individual road systems will be upgraded to improve

» **Left:** Nahanni Range Road is part of the Nahanni Range portion of the Yukon Resource Gateway Project. The existing road will be upgraded from its junction with Campbell Highway to the Yukon/NWT border.

access to the mineral-rich region of central Yukon. Portions of the goldfield roads will be enhanced, as will the Indian River Road to Coffee Creek, in the north. In the south, upgrades will be made to Freegold Road and a bypass route will be built around Carmacks. Casino Road will also be upgraded, with new road constructed between the Casino and Coffee terminus points.

Upgrades in the Nahanni Range will be made to Nahanni Range Road from its junction with the Campbell Highway to the Yukon-N.W.T. border.

The proposed project will go through an environmental and socio-economic review, as the government needs to understand the implications of the project before moving forward.

"The parties must take the time to fully understand each other's interests and perspectives on approach, and that's not an easy task," Albert explains. "It's all levels of government moving forward together to find solutions."

Project agreements with affected First Nations that aim to provide economic

opportunities and long-term benefits for First Nations will also be developed before construction begins.

"The first part of the Gateway project is to develop project agreements between Yukon government and the affected First Nations in whose respective traditional territories the roads will span," adds Pillai. "Absolutely no components of the project will proceed without the agreements of the affected First Nations."

Albert says working together has its challenges, but in the end it's the best way to satisfy everyone's needs and concerns.

"Only when the parties are working together can we move away from a zero-sum game to a positive-sum game," he explains.

The Yukon Resource Gateway Project has an eight-year timeline, from start to finish. The territory says federal funding is allocated to the project for its entire duration, and it's projected to be completed on schedule in 2025. □

Photo: Jabe Krainin/Yukon News

» **Below:** Yukon MP Larry Bagnell, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Yukon Premier Sandy Silver leave the podium after Trudeau announced joint funding for the Yukon Resource Gateway Project.



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MINING & GEOLOGY WEEK

Geology, exploration, and mining are a large part of Yukon's past, present, and future. Each year, the Yukon Chamber of Mines collaborates with the Government of Yukon to host Yukon Geology and Mining Week. The week-long celebration brought hands-on mining experience to Yukoners and included a Discovery Camp at the SS Klondike in Whitehorse and a Copper Belt tour with the Yukon Geological Survey. The Discovery Camp displayed heavy mining machinery and had educational exploration activities for kids, like gold panning. While the camp brought mining to the city, the Copper Belt tour took Yukoners to the field and the old Copper King mine. It was the first mine to ship ore from the Yukon and one of nine underground mines active in the territory from 1899-1920. Mining Week was a chance for families to learn about how mining and geology are a part of our everyday lives. □



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YUKON NIGHT AT ROUNDUP 2018

The Yukon Chamber of Mines held its annual Yukon Night at the Association of Mineral Exploration Roundup, in January. The popular night, hosted in partnership with the Government of Yukon, celebrated the region's mineral history and culture and showcased new innovations in the territory's mining and exploration industry.

The 35th annual conference, held in Vancouver, brought together more than 6,500 delegates from 39 countries. "A New Generation of Discoveries" was the theme of this year's four-day conference, which focussed on renewed growth in the industry. Political and industry leaders from across the territory and First Nations communities travelled to Vancouver as part of the Yukon delegation to attract interest and investment in the region. □



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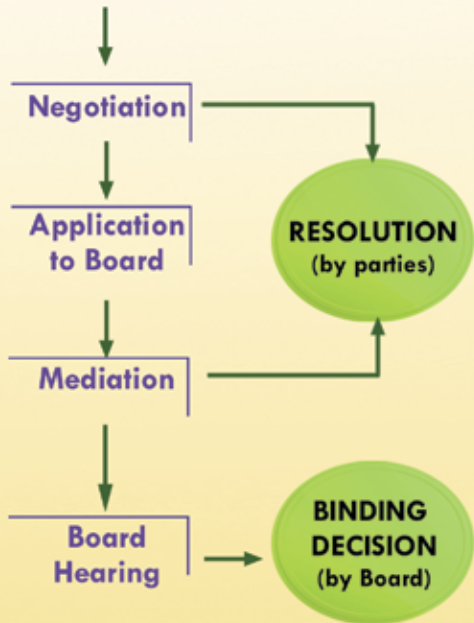
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The Board's primary responsibility is to hear and decide disputes related to accessing or using Yukon First Nation settlement land and, in certain circumstances, disputes involving access to or use of non-settlement land. The Board's process starts when the parties are unable to reach an agreement and a party applies to the Board. The Board's jurisdiction is derived from several statutes. The primary authority for the Board is set out in the *Yukon Surface Rights Board Act* (Canada).

Additional responsibilities of the Board are set out in other laws and agreements including the *Quartz Mining Act* (Yukon), *Placer Mining Act* (Yukon), *Oil and Gas Act* (Yukon), *Expropriation Act* (Canada), *Radiocommunications Act* (Canada), and individual Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

To learn more about the Board and its process visit yukonsurfacerights.ca or contact the Board's office.



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(f) 604-669-1620
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