

BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
Operator of the EKATI Diamond Mine



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NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON SUPPORTS “NORTHERNERS HELPING NORTHERNERS”

BHP Billiton is committed to sustainable development and in supporting health, safety, environment and community initiatives. The company supports private public partnerships and is willing to invest the time and money in projects supported by a majority of stakeholders, with a goal to assist those in need.

“Over the years we have supported a number of community projects that promote safety, healthy living and community wellness. We are pleased to announce today, our keen interest in working with the RCMP and other partners to support those that need a place to go when they have nowhere to go,” said Ricus Grimbeek, President and Chief Operating Officer of the EKATI Diamond Mine.

BHP Billiton announced its support of a Project Manager to conduct a feasibility study to look at options for assisting people that need a place to go where support, food and counselling is available to them. Part of this work will include reviewing a social project in Anchorage Alaska as one option for potential application within the NWT.

Through the RCMP, BHP Billiton has learned about the success of the programs in Anchorage, where local street people have been properly housed and encouraged to better their lives. The company is very interested in learning more about that model and how it could benefit local residents and Northerners from other NWT communities.

As part of the feasibility, BHP Billiton’s Project Manager will work cooperatively with the appropriate government agencies and service providers and once the feasibility is complete, the company will be in a better position to assess whether this is the right project to further support.

“This is a collaborative community initiative which will require the participation of many and stands to delivery a legacy project that may have an effect that will reach far into the future,” said Grimbeek. Coined as “Northerners Helping Northerners”, BHP Billiton is proud to lend its support to this review and is committed to building a long term sustainable business that benefits the communities in which it operates.

The feasibility study is expected to take up to four months.

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