



Union of Northern Workers  
Ste 200 5112 – 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yellowknife NT X1A 3Z5



BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.  
#1102 4920-52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yellowknife NT Canada X1A 3T1  
Tel 867 669 9292 Fax 867 669 9293  
bhpbilliton.com

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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#### **UNW AND BHP BILLITON PROVIDE \$30,000 SUPPORT FOR SENIORS' DEMENTIA FACILITY**

The Union of Northern Workers and BHP Billiton jointly announced today their support for the Aven Cottage Dementia Facility. BHP Billiton has donated, through its Community Partnership Program, \$10,000 to outfit one of the rooms for the new dementia facility. The UNW has agreed to match that donation with \$10,000 to be directed towards the facility's Day Program. At the same time, both UNW Local 3050 and BHP Billiton have agreed to direct \$10,000 from the Northern Social Justice Fund to further support the Dementia Facility's Day Program, once the facility is constructed and operational.

The Northern Social Justice Fund is an annual fund of \$10,000 to be directed towards initiatives supported by the UNW and BHP Billiton as per the Collective Agreement. The Fund is managed and administered jointly by both the UNW and BHP Billiton. It is designed to support worthy social justice causes and to create lasting legacies for the North. Both organizations agreed that the 2008 year's funding of \$10,000 would be directed to the Aven Cottage Day Program.

The Day Program will be a therapeutic and recreational program for individuals suffering from cognitive impairments who live outside the facility. It will provide outreach for the community and include education programs for families and community members on how to deal with cognitive impairments in daily life.

This much needed program will expand the services and assistance available to communities in the north. It extends beyond the boundaries of a capital program and provides operating funding for those most in need of supported care programming.

"The ability to work in partnership on social justice issues is particularly rewarding," said Todd Parsons, President of the Union of Northern Workers. "We know that initiatives such as this one directly assist those most in need, and contribute to the development of healthy communities and a strong Territory."

"We are pleased to work in partnership with the union on this worthy initiative and to demonstrate our appreciation to the seniors who helped build the North", said Ricus Grimbeek, President and Chief Operating Officer of BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. "Being able to support a facility that will aid those seniors and families in need of this type of care is our way of contributing back to our northern community and we're very happy to be involved."

**For more information contact:**

Barbara Wyness  
Public Relations and Research Officer  
Union of Northern Workers

Tel: (867) 873-5668  
Fax: (867) 920-4448

Deana Twissell  
Superintendent of Corporate and Community Affairs  
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.

Tel: (867) 669-6107  
Fax: (867) 669-9293