

Board of Directors

We have a Board of Directors with seven members appointed by:

- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation

Our Directors are independent of the appointing parties.



Emery Paquin, Ron Allen, Tim Byers, Jaida Ohokannoak, Marc Casas (Executive Director), Kim Poole, and Jesse Jasper.



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

PUBLIC WATCHDOG OF EKATI DIAMOND MINE

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency was set up in 1997 as a public watchdog for environmental management at Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation's Ekati Diamond Mine. We work in the best interests of the people and the environment affected by Ekati mine.

We review Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation's environmental reports and plans for Ekati, visit the mine site and listen to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to the company, governments, and regulators on how best to protect the environment at Ekati. We tell the company and governments about community concerns and make recommendations on the use of Traditional Knowledge in environmental programs.

Contact

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Community Visit: What We Heard

Kugluktuk, NU
May 8-12, 2017



Top: Agency Directors going out on the land.
Middle: Agency Directors with KIA staff, Jared and Helen.
Bottom: Cliff near Kugluktuk.

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Meet-and-Greets



Agency Directors meeting with Hamlet.

The Agency met with staff from Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and for the first time, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk (Mayor and council). The Agency heard a lot about local concerns, including water quality and shifting wildlife patterns.

A lot of topics were discussed during these meetings, such as water quality of the Coppermine River, dust at the mine site, the role of the Agency, and what residents thought of the mine when they visited.

School Visit

The Agency visited the school in Kugluktuk. Because it was the last week of classes and most students were writing exams, we set up a booth in the hallway and greeted students with cupcakes and our new video. Director Tim Byers also demonstrated fish tagging and the importance of fish monitoring.

Director Tim Byers demonstrating fish tagging.



Community Information Session



Jaida Ohokannoak, at Community Information Session

The Agency hosted a Community Information Session on Thursday May 11 at the Recreation Complex.

The evening started with a meal at 6:30 pm. There were approximately 20 people who attended. Many people in the community took

advantage of the warm weather and went geese hunting, but we were still impressed with the number of people who joined us.

After an opening prayer, the discussion started with a screening of the Agency's new video that describes the Agency's mandate and shows footage of the mine and its operations. Jaida Ohokannoak, the Agency's Chairperson, then gave a presentation that focused on current conditions of the mine.



Community Information Session

What the Agency Heard

Making sure water downstream of the mine remains clean is the top priority for the community. The Lac de Gras area, where Ekati mine is located, is the headwaters for the Coppermine River and the source for the community drinking water.

Overall, we heard that the community is glad there is an independent group who monitors the mine to ensure the mine is environmentally sound and looks to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into mining operations.

One Elder, made the point that Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation is making efforts to listen to Elders, citing the caribou crossings and traffic management plans at the mine. He also mentioned that Ekati mine is a relatively clean mine because you never see leaked fuel or seepage from rock piles.

There were concerns expressed over new developments with Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, such as the relocation of their head office to Calgary.

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