

July 20, 2017

IMII announces next steps in its workforce Diversity & Inclusion Challenge Program

SASKATOON - Saskatchewan's principal mining industry members have taken the next step to new investments in the development of innovative education and training solutions that are essential to closing the diversity and inclusion gaps for women and Indigenous peoples in the minerals sector.

On May 2, 2017, the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) released four calls for focused, actionable innovations in education and training to mobilize minds and resources to support its industry members and their workforce diversity and inclusion targets. Twenty-six preliminary project proposals were submitted from a wide range of applicants, many new to the IMII, and 9 have been shortlisted by IMII's funding members for further consideration under this \$1 million program.

"We are thrilled by the response to this open innovation call, and look forward to receiving final proposals from the shortlisted applicants," said IMII Executive Director Al Shpyth. "Each brings the possibility of a new approach to encouraging and assisting more Indigenous peoples and women in entering the minerals workforce."

IMII is making \$1 million available this year for **Diversity & Inclusion Challenge Program** projects. Each selected project may be supported for a maximum of two years and may receive up to \$250,000 in funding. It is the intent of IMII to share the results from any innovative solution it funds so that others can build on what is learned and further help address the minerals industry's diversity & inclusion needs.

IMII member companies have identified improving diversity & inclusion in the minerals sectors' workforce for Indigenous peoples and women as their education & training priorities for 2017. IMII will review all final proposals to ensure they are aligned with these priorities, represent innovations in education & training, and would result in practical outcomes for the minerals industry. It is IMII's expectation that proposals will be received in the fall, and decisions made on project approvals by year's end.

IMII's industry members supporting the Diversity & Inclusion Challenges Program are:



About IMII:

The International Minerals Innovation Institute is a unique innovation supporting network of mining companies, government departments and agencies, post-secondary institutions, research institutions, supply chain companies and others who share the industry's commitment to innovation and sustainability. It is jointly funded by industry and the Government of Saskatchewan, through Innovation Saskatchewan. It exists to deliver innovations that matter to mining in Saskatchewan.

For more information about the Diversity & Inclusion Challenges or the IMII, please contact:

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