

July 9, 2018

New challenges announced by IMII

SASKATOON - The International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII), on behalf of its funding members, is pleased to announce a new set of Diversity & Inclusion Challenges, and is again inviting applications with innovative new approaches to increase the numbers of Indigenous people and women employed in the minerals sector, and to help them thrive in the career opportunities provided by mining and its supply chain in Saskatchewan.

IMII released its first four Diversity and Inclusion Challenges in 2017, and received 26 applications for innovations in education & training. After review by a panel of industry representatives, 9 groups were invited to submit formal proposals and 5 projects were approved worth some \$700,000.

IMII is anticipating a similar reply to the 2018 release of the following three new challenges:

- Challenge 5 – Enhancing workplace cultures in supply chain companies;
- Challenge 6 – Enhancing opportunities for career progression for Indigenous employees; and
- Challenge 7 – Encouraging alternate career choices and success for women in trades, production and technical occupations.

“IMII is pleased to again support its members efforts to build a more diverse and inclusive minerals sector workforce in Saskatchewan with these new challenges,” says IMII Executive Director Al Shpyth. “The industry’s commitment to a representative workforce is indicative of their commitment to the province and the communities that host their operations” he added.

IMII funds of up to \$250,000 will be provided to successful projects over two years, and will be used introduce innovative solutions that have yet to be applied to the challenge areas or implemented in Saskatchewan’s minerals industry. Special consideration will be given to solutions proposed by project teams reflective of the Diversity & Inclusion Challenge program.

With the release of the new challenges, IMII will have committed, on behalf of its funding members, \$1.2 million over three years to fund and support innovative organizations and solutions that will help the minerals industry achieve its employment and sustainability goals.

Information on the projects selected in response to the original four Diversity & Inclusion Challenges can be found here www.imii.ca/communications/news/news-details.

Further information on the 2018 Diversity & Inclusion Challenge program is available on the IMII’s website at www.imii.ca/et/et-programs/. The closing date for applications is August 3, 2018.

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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