

Media Release

Mining Companies Taking Action to Increase the Number of Women and Indigenous People in Workforce through IMII

“IMII Executive Director to Discuss Plan at CIM Conference, 3:30 p.m. Monday, September 25, 2017”

Date: Monday, September 25, 2017

Release: Immediate

(Saskatoon SK:) Increasing the number of women and Indigenous people in the mining industry workforce is a common goal that cuts across virtually all minerals companies, as well as many of their suppliers, in Saskatchewan.

The issue is a long standing one and the International Minerals Innovation Institute, which represents the six largest minerals companies operating in Saskatchewan, is already tackling the issue head on, through a focused approach that has been developed through the guidance of these major mining interests.

IMII began the development of its Diversity & Inclusion Challenge Program in early 2017. In January, industry members identified the issue as its top education and training priority. In March, IMII members refined the topics that are to be addressed. In May, IMII released four Diversity & Inclusion Challenges:

- #1: Improving Access to Employment Opportunities in the Minerals Sector Supply Chain for Indigenous Peoples
- #2: Creating New Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in the Minerals Sector Workforce
- #3: Promoting Mining Careers to Young Women and Girls by Connecting Earlier in the Talent Pipeline
- #4: Increasing the Number of Women in Key Occupations in the Minerals Sector

From the May “Call for Proposals” that was issued to more than 100 potential training sources, 26 preliminary project proposals were received. From those 26 proposals, 9 shortlisted projects were approved for further development. As of September, IMII is refining the 9 detailed projects and plans to finalize the selection by December 2017. From that point the approved programs will be ready for immediate implementation early in 2018.

IMII Executive Director Al Shpyth will review the focused selection process during the Canadian Institute of Mining Conference, at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2017 in the Regal B Room at TCU Place in Saskatoon. He will cover the process to date, the plan for final program refinements, and the planned implementation, with a continued focus on increasing, for the long term, the number of women and Indigenous people in the Saskatchewan mining industry workforce.

IMII, by virtue of being driven by the province's largest minerals companies, has a history of being able to address workforce issues with accuracy and efficiency. In its first three years, at a time when the industry was in significant need of additional workforce entrants, IMII acted quickly, investing over \$5 million in 13 education and training programs offered at 9 locations around the province. Typically, it takes up to five years for post-secondary education institutions to evaluate and implement new programs in response to industry demand. IMII accomplished this in five months with several regional colleges.

-30-

Contact:

Al Shpyth, Executive Director

IMII at (306) 250-4991 (mobile)

or al.shpyth@imii.ca