

## **Ontario Invests in Minodahmun's RESET Program to Boost Indigenous Workforce in Mining and Construction Industry**

Minodahmun Development LP is pleased to announce the receipt of funding from the Ontario Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development to support the Readiness and Essential Skills for Employment Training (RESET) Program. The RESET Program aims to prepare First Nation citizens for employment in the mining and construction sectors by providing work readiness training to members of Aroland First Nation, Animiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek and Ginoogaming First Nation.

Minodahmun is a partnership owned by the three Northern Ontario First Nations that was created to advance business, employment and training opportunities related to the Greenstone Gold Mines Hardrock Project. An approved \$1.3 billion open pit gold mine located in Geraldton, Ontario which will create 1200 construction jobs and 550 operations jobs. The First Nations signed a Long Term Relationship Agreement with Greenstone Gold Mines in November 2019 which provides the communities with priority employment and training opportunities, environmental oversight, business opportunities and financial benefits.

"This mine is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our people to access good jobs close to our First Nations. Our people will be able to live and work in their homelands rather than migrate to cities for employment." said AZA Chief Theresa Nelson. "The RESET Program will help to get our people ready for employment and select the career path that is right for them through culturally appropriate and jobs focused training" said Chief Dorothy Towedo from Aroland. "For our First Nations to truly benefit from this project, our people need to be the ones building and working at this mine. This starts with providing quality training and education to our members and putting them in a position seize these job opportunities" said Ginoogaming First Nation Deputy Chief Maurice Waboose/Sheri Taylor

The funding will be used for a community-based training program that provides work readiness, career planning, construction trades, heavy equipment, and trucking training to community members. This is the first phase of a multi-year training program that is designed to prepare the local First Nations for opportunities related to the mine and provide access to apprenticeship, college, and university programs.

"The goal of RESET it to remove barriers and put community members in a position to succeed in the local workforce. It does not make sense to bring workers from other parts of Canada when jobs are needed locally. The region is set to experience unprecedented growth and investment related to mineral development. It is crucial that governments and mining companies make the same investment in helping to create a strong First Nation workforce. This will keep benefits from mineral development in the North and help to address unemployment in First Nations" said Minodahmun CEO John Glover.

The Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development has provided \$500,000 to support Minodahmun with the RESET Program to increase Indigenous representation in skilled trades and mining in Northern Ontario. (Insert quote from Minister McNaughton or MPP)

The RESET Program is set to kick off in-class deliveries on September 28<sup>th</sup> in Aroland and November 9<sup>th</sup> in Ginoogaming and Thunder Bay. Construction Craft Worker and AZ Licence programs will begin in January 2021. Minodahmun has partnered Ontario, Confederation College and Greenstone Gold Mines

on this initiative with the intention of creating quality, high paying local employment for community members.