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## **The Yukon Soars to World's Top 10 for Mining and Exploration Industry**

**Whitehorse, Yukon** – The Yukon is the 10<sup>th</sup> most attractive jurisdiction for mineral exploration and development in the world and the first Canadian territory to ever reach the top 10 according to the annual Fraser Institute's *Survey of Mining Companies*.

"This is an incredibly historic achievement for the Yukon, for the north and for our mining and exploration industry members," said Yukon Chamber of Mines Executive Director Michael Kokiw. "This recognition has been earned through the diligence, commitment and cooperation of our industry and our governments and undeniably places the territory on the global stage as a leader in responsible development."

The survey, conducted by the Fraser Institute each year since 1997, assesses how mineral endowments and public policy factors, such as taxation and regulation, affect exploration investment in 93 jurisdictions around the world.

"Our industry's adherence to Best Management practices and early, effective engagement with First Nations and communities, paired with the relative certainty and transparent regulatory and permitting processes we have here in the territory allow our industry to be globally competitive, to benefit our economy and to elevate the quality of life of all Yukon residents," continued Kokiw.

In 2011, exploration expenditures in the territory surpassed \$300 million and mineral production is estimated to reach \$485 million compared to \$46 million in 2006. In addition, the territory's exploration sector directly employs 1,000 to 1,500 and the Yukon's three operating mines directly employ 750 employees at the mine sites alone.

Canadian jurisdictions claimed five of the top 10 spots this year. New Brunswick rose to first place from 23<sup>rd</sup> last year, surpassing Alberta, which is in third place. Quebec, which was first from 2007 to 2010 ranked fifth this year and Saskatchewan joined the Yukon in the top 10 placing sixth.

The survey can be downloaded from the Fraser Institute at [www.fraserinstitute.org](http://www.fraserinstitute.org).

"On behalf of the Yukon Chamber of Mines Board of Directors, I congratulate our members, our industry and our policy makers on this significant recognition," said Kokiw.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines works on behalf of its 500 members to promote a healthy, safe and responsible mining and exploration industry in the territory. For more information about the Yukon Chamber of Mines, please visit [www.yukonminers.ca](http://www.yukonminers.ca).

-30-

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