



TRUE CANADIAN TREASURES

FROM MINE TO FINGER:
BRENT'S TRIP TO YELLOWKNIFE
MARCH 2024



"I would love to take you on a real adventure to the Ekati diamond mine! Flying from Ottawa to Yellowknife was the trip of a lifetime. Join me on this voyage to discover these TRUE CANADIAN TREASURES!"

But Harder



CANADIAN DIAMONDS: A BRIEF HISTORY

The first Canadian Diamond mine, Diavik, opened in 1998. The three biggest mines are located in the Northwest Territories and are considered to be some of the most technologically innovative and environmentally conscious mines in the world.

Their combined production ensures Canada's current position as the third largest diamond producer in the world. The Gahcho Kué mine is the newest and opened in 2016.



Canadian diamonds formed somewhere between 900 million and 3.2 billion years ago. These diamonds were formed 150 - 200 kilometres below the earth's surface under extreme pressure and high temperatures.



DIAMOND RECOVERY



“I am happy to be one of only 25 jewellers worldwide who have been inside both the Ekati diamond mine and it’s sorting facility in Yellowknife.” ~Brent

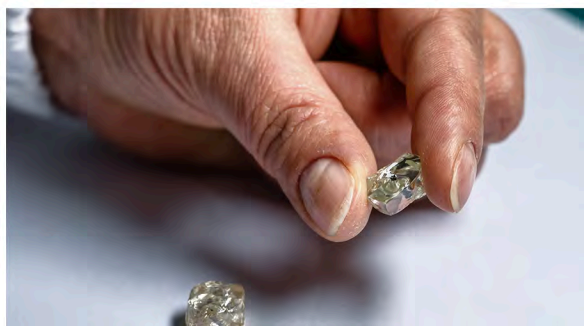
The ore is collected using state of the art heavy machinery including some underground drills run remotely. The ore is then further processed & cleaned using water.



The rough diamonds are sorted at a large facility in Yellowknife, then sent to Belgium to be cut. Brent was also lucky enough to be in Belgium in the late 90s when the first ever shipment of rough diamonds arrived & got to hold the whole package!



“I’ll never forget my first time at the sorting facility in Yellowknife, I spotted & picked up the most beautiful rough yellow Canadian diamond. Months later, I saw the most gorgeous ring at a jewellery show & it turned out to be the same diamond! I immediately had to have it for my store!” ~Brent



INDIGENOUS EMPOWERMENT

“I got to speak with business leaders in Yellowknife whose companies focus on developing education, opportunity & wealth for the Indigenous people in this area. It’s amazing to see how they take the benefits of the diamond mines & create even more from it!” -Brent

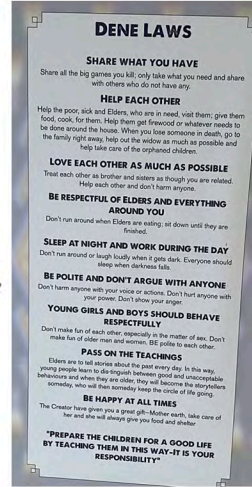


Mark Lewis
President and CEO of
Det'on Cho Management.

Det'on Cho Group of Companies was started in 1988 & its goal is to grow and support Indigenous wealth for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation of the NWT.

Brent asked Mark: What is the value of Indigenous run businesses?

Our people can develop their own wealth and stand on their own two feet. They create value, not only to the Indigenous people but also to the NWT and Canada as a whole. Our approach to business is based on Dene Laws, which means we measure our success not just on a financial level but also counting the environmental and socio-economic impacts of our companies.”
Please see the Dene Laws we follow.



The Tlichio Investment Group was founded in August 2005 by the council of the Behchoko Gameti, Wekweeti and Wha Ti, and the Treaty of Businesses. Their goal is to enhance self reliance, prosperity and sustainable economic development.



Brent Asked Paul Gruner, CEO of Tlichio Investment Group: What have been the positive social and economic benefits of the mine?

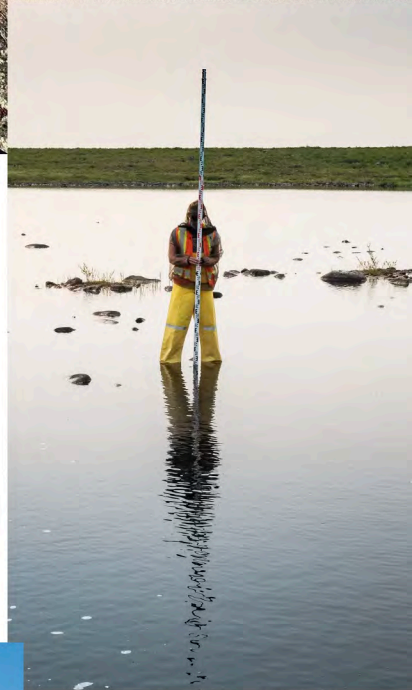
Our community has the highest income in Canada! The diamond mine has helped us reach six-figure salaries. Also, it has supported local organizations and so much more. The team members have given their time and energy back into the community. The mines have expanded to millions being spent in services, owned fully (or in partnership) with our Indigenous & Metis community.

INDIGENOUS VOICES & IMPACT



Indigenous representatives surveying land near the Gahcho Kué diamond mine. (Courtesy of De Beers Canada and Rio Tinto)

“One reason Canada’s diamond mines have been so successful in mitigating environmental impact is an eco-partnership once thought impossible, between Indigenous knowledge and modern science. One such organization, the Ni Hadi Xa, comprising six Indigenous Nations, is responsible for monitoring the impact of the Gahcho Kue diamond mine[. Working hand in hand with the mining companies, their goal, according to their mission statement, is “to ensure that the mine’s operation does not compromise the ability of the land to support those who rely on it.” Grant Mobley, “Unearthing Prosperity: The Remarkable Tale of Canadian Diamonds”



Water testing at Gahcho Kué diamond mine (Courtesy of De Beers Canada & Rio Tinto)



Did you know?

Almost 50% of employees at the Diavik Mine are Indigenous. Since the mine opened in 1998, diamond mines have totalled \$26 billion, \$18 billion went to NWT & \$8 billion of this went to Indigenous owned businesses.

Participants in the Gahcho Kué fish tasting ceremony. (Courtesy of De Beers Canada and Rio Tinto)

ENVIRONMENT & DIAMOND RECOVERY COEXISTENCE

Everything we have that is not grown is mined, and diamond mines are leaders in mitigating environmental impacts & sustainable mining.



From the beginning, diamond mining was the first industry to come to socio-economic agreements with the multiple Indigenous nations of the area & both federal and territorial governments. Through these efforts animals & the land are put first, sometimes halting mine operations altogether.



While all mining operations involve excavation, earth-moving, and landscape alteration, northern diamond mining distinguishes itself through its approach to land restoration. Before the mines open, a contractual agreement requires the allocation of funds into escrow each year, resulting in the accumulation of hundreds of millions of dollars reserved for reclamation purposes.

Did you know?

The Diavik mine installed a wind farm that currently provides 10% of all its energy needs. They have started the process of designing & building a solar farm to have even more sustainable energy, and all mines pay both gas & carbon taxes to offset some of their carbon footprint.



YELLOWKNIFE: CITY OF OPPORTUNITY



Brent met with Yellowknife's mayor, Rebecca Alty, and asked: How would you like the city of Yellowknife portrayed to Canada and the world?

In a few words: vibrant, creative, hardworking and resilient! Open for business in developing tourism! Culturally very diverse with over 130 countries uniting here last year.



"I had such a wonderful time meeting Yellowknife's residents & representatives. It is amazing to see such a shining example of what happens when everyone is working together for a better future! I can't wait to visit again!"

Bret Harder

