



September 4, 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE – BHP Billiton

Contract talks involving mine workers at the BHP Billiton Ekati Diamond Mine open on positive note

Yellowknife – Negotiations for a second collective agreement for unionized workers at the Ekati diamond mine got underway last week, and union leaders are encouraged by the “constructive” progress made so far at the bargaining table.

“I’m happy to see that negotiations are off to a much better start than the last round,” said PSAC North Regional Executive Vice-President Jean François Des Lauriers. “We are looking forward to reaching a deal with Ekati.”

The Public Service Alliance of Canada and its Union of Northern Workers component met face-to-face for the first time with mine owner BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc on August 29th and 30th in Yellowknife. UNW President Todd Parsons says the talks took on a positive tone right from the start, with the company agreeing to provide an on-site Union office at the Ekati mine. “I think this shows some good will on the Employer’s part, and bodes well for improved labour relations between both parties in the future.”

More negotiating dates have been set for October. The old contract settlement expired at the end of last month.

PSAC and the UNW represent about 400 diamond mine workers at Ekati. BHP Billiton operates the Ekati diamond mine located 200 kilometres south of the Arctic Circle.

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For more information: PSAC North Regional Executive Vice-President Jean-François Des Lauriers 867-669-0991 or UNW President Todd Parsons 867-873-5668.

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