

Xstrata Nickel's Raglan Mine Receives Awards for Safety Performance

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Xstrata Nickel is pleased to announce that its Raglan operation in Northern Quebec has been awarded the 2008 F.J. O'Connell trophy for excellence in safety for the tenth time in the last eleven years. The F.J. O'Connell award is presented each year by the Mining Association of Quebec to the Quebec mine that has recorded the most improvements in mine safety and accident prevention.

Xstrata Nickel Raglan Mine also received the 2008 John T. Ryan trophy (Eastern region). The John T. Ryan trophies are awarded by Mine Safety Appliances Canada Limited as a memorial to the founder of the company and given to the mines that experience the lowest accident frequencies during the previous year in all of Canada.

"Raglan's total recordable injury frequency rate improved by 21% in 2008 over the previous year," said Michel Boucher, General Manager of the Raglan Mine. "Continuous improvement in safety performance has become a way of life at Raglan. In 2008, we introduced a new safety training program called Prevention Response. The program focuses on engraining an injury prevention mentality, so that each person automatically makes the right choice, at the right moment, whatever the situation. Safety training is conducted at all levels of the organization, with programs tailored to the role."

Ian Pearce, Chief Executive Officer of Xstrata Nickel, added "We are delighted to accept this recognition of our commitment to strong sustainable development policies for the tenth time. We are proud of our record of achievement and thank our employees for their dedication in putting safety first."

The Raglan mining camp is producing 1.3 million tonnes of ore annually. Through the course of the current year, the concentrator will reach the 600 million pound mark of nickel produced since the operation began in 1997. In 2009, Raglan Mine is spending Cdn\$95 million to upgrade its civil infrastructures and power plant. Since 2007, more than Cdn\$300 million has been invested in infrastructure modernization. Xstrata Nickel Raglan Mine has an enviable reputation throughout the mining industry as a sustainable development leader and participates in several research programs and activities in Quebec's Nunavik territory.

Representatives of Xstrata Nickel's Raglan mine - Francis Beauvais, Coordinator Communication and Community Relations; Gilles Ferlatte, Mine Director; Joel Page, Director, Sustainable Development; Sophie Bergeron, Mine Engineer; Mario Julien, Director, Human Resources; Pierre Barrette, Director, Surface Operations; Yvon

Pronovost, Director, Administrative Services; and Terry Mallinson, Director Exploration - accept the John T. Ryan trophy at the Mining Association of Quebec annual meeting in Bromont, Quebec, June 14, 2009.

NOTE: To view the photo associated with the above caption, please visit the following link - <http://media3.marketwire.com/docs/xstrataaward.jpg>

Xstrata Nickel

Xstrata Nickel, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, is one of Xstrata Group's global commodity businesses. Xstrata Nickel's operations include mines and processing facilities in Canada, the Dominican Republic and Australia, and a refinery in Norway. Xstrata Nickel has a promising portfolio of growth projects in Canada, New Caledonia, Tanzania and Brazil. Xstrata Nickel is the world's fifth largest nickel producer, with annual managed production of more than 107,000 tonnes of refined nickel.

Xstrata plc

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 19 countries.

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