



MAC
The Mining Association of Canada
L'Association minière du Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAC AND AFN TO DEVELOP NEW PARTNERSHIP

Ottawa, November 20, 2007: The Assembly of First Nations and The Mining Association of Canada today signed a *Letter of Intent* to enter into a partnership for the purposes of collaborating in such areas as joint advocacy on federal consultation policy and land claims resolution, human resource development and land use planning.

This historic initiative comes after months of discussion between the two organizations and builds upon the partnerships between individual companies and communities of both organizations. The *Letter of Intent* will lead to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations and will contribute to increased First Nations participation in Canada's mining industry.

"In resource development, First Nations and the mining community are natural partners," stated Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the AFN. "Developing a new partnership between the AFN and MAC will complement and enhance the growing relationships between First Nations and Canada's major mining companies. We will create a forum for true collaboration towards greater certainty and sustainable mining developments that will contribute significantly to the economic, social and environmental well-being of First Nations."

"Canada's mining industry is the largest private sector employer of Aboriginal people," noted Peter R. Jones, MAC Chairman and President and CEO of HudBay Minerals Inc. "Across Canada, mining companies and First Nations communities have agreements in place that include commitments on hiring, training, business development and environmental practices. But we believe this growing relationship can be strengthened through dialogue and partnership with the AFN."

The Letter of Intent will strengthen the AFN's Corporate Challenge Program and MAC's *Towards Sustainable Mining* initiatives. The AFN Corporate Challenge Program creates partnerships with corporate Canada to increase investments, procurement and employment opportunities for First Nations.

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For more information, see www.mining.ca or www.afn.ca or contact:

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