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## **Casino – Building our Future Together**

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

#### **Overview**

Since 2008, Casino Mining Corp. (Casino or CMC) has worked diligently to engage with Yukon First Nations and local communities, inform them about the Casino Project, create a channel of open communication for feedback, and support initiatives that make a tangible and positive difference.

Casino’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program continues to evolve and is focused on developing effective working relationships and understanding community needs and priorities. Procedures and systems are now in place for identifying and understanding the concerns and expectations of First Nations, local communities and other parties interested in and affected by the project. The objective is to develop a program using a measured approach and with a view to fully implement it once the proposed mine is operational.

Casino will continue to develop its CSR program based on feedback from ongoing discussions with First Nations and communities. Program plans and procedures will address the needs of affected communities and incorporate the company’s high standard of excellence and leadership in sustainability practices.

#### **Towards Sustainable Mining**

Casino’s parent company, Western Copper and Gold Corporation, is proud to be a member of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC)<sup>1</sup>. As a member of MAC, we are committed to adhering to the guiding principles of Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM), MAC’S commitment to responsible mining. Adhering to the principles of TSM, members demonstrate leadership by:

- Engaging with Communities
- Driving world-leading environmental practices
- Committing to the safety and health of employees and surrounding communities

We are committed to developing the project in a manner that respects and protects the environment, while enhancing benefits to Yukon individuals and communities, using sound and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.mining.ca](http://www.mining.ca)

proven technologies and industry best practices. In that respect, Casino will strive to meet or exceed MAC's *Towards Sustainable Mining Guiding Principles*<sup>2</sup>, which include:

- Protecting the health and safety of our employees, contractors and communities;
- Practicing continuous improvement through the application of new technology, innovation and best practices in all facets of our operations; and
- Being responsive to community priorities, needs, and interests through all stages of mineral exploration, mine development, operations and closure.

## **Our Vision and Approach to CSR**

Casino defines CSR as:

*'The sustainable economic, environmental and social practices that improve the quality of life of employees, families, communities and society at-large in ways that are good for business and consistent with modern responsible mining practices.'*

We understand that we can only move forward and advance the Casino Project with the cooperation and blessing of our *Community of Interest* (COI) – the people and organizations surrounding us, including Yukon First Nations and local communities affected by the Casino Project. We strive to hold the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our neighbours at the utmost level of importance. We will do this by building open and trusting relationships based on respect for cultural differences, local traditions and lifestyles.

## **Where We are At**

After submitting our Project Proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in January 2014, the Casino Project was referred to a Panel Review<sup>3</sup> in February of this year. Panel Review is the highest level of environmental and socio-economic assessment under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (YESAA). We look forward to this opportunity to engage with the broader community, in addition to Federal, Territorial and First Nation governments, and to demonstrate that the Casino mine can be built without significant adverse effects.

To date, during the Casino Project's environmental assessment, we have focused on community engagement by providing information about the project and supporting a wide range of programs and events in the communities. Our goal is to continue to strengthen trust and relationships, and foster open, transparent two-way communication between the Casino Project team and the community. This helps us better understand the needs and expectations of our

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<sup>2</sup> [www.mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining](http://www.mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining)

<sup>3</sup> <http://casinomine.panelreview.ca/>

*Community of Interest*, find grassroots opportunities for collaboration, and identify mechanisms to manage how the Casino Project will affect Yukon residents in the short- and long-term.

## Making a Difference: Our Actions

A priority for Casino is establishing positive relationships with the *Community of Interest*. Casino is continuously working towards achieving this goal by identifying relevant and material issues, evaluating outcomes, and performing activities in Yukon that support CSR objectives, as described below:

Material Issues	Activities
<p><b>Community and society:</b> Identify Community of Interest (COI)</p>	<p>Casino has developed its COI to be inclusive and representative of a broad range of interests on the Project. The COI includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yukon First Nations: primarily Selkirk First Nation; Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation; and Tr’öndek Hwëch’in.</li> <li>• Yukon communities: primarily Whitehorse; Pelly Crossing; Carmacks, and Dawson City.</li> <li>• Yukon Government: primarily the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Environment; Education; Health and Social Services, and Executive Council Office.</li> <li>• Yukon College: primarily the CNIM<sup>4</sup> and Yukon Research Centre.</li> <li>• Yukon media.</li> </ul>
<p>Understand and address the concerns and expectations of the COI</p>	<p>Casino engages with the COI through a range of tools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking opportunities to listen and learn through active participation in community events and at meetings when opportunities arise.</li> <li>• Considering the feedback we receive and proposing timely actions and solutions to emerging issues for further discussions with community leaders and governments.</li> <li>• Proposing specific actions and commitments as part of the mine development to community leaders and governments.</li> <li>• Maintaining clear communication about project developments through the Casino website, community meetings, newsletter, media releases and social media.</li> </ul>
<p>Establish quality relationships with the COI</p>	<p>Casino develops and maintains lasting relationships with individuals and organizations that reflect company values and foster community wellness, , environmental stewardship and a spirit of cooperation through financial and in-kind contributions:</p> <p><i>Meaningful and on-going engagement partnerships through active participation and direct financial support – examples include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carmacks Cubs and Scouts</li> <li>• Selkirk Spirit Dancers</li> <li>• Every Student Every Day student attendance fund</li> <li>• LSCFN Food System Feasibility Study, including expansion of greenhouse and garden operation and creation of two new community gardens</li> <li>• Stick Gamblers of Pelly Crossing - Yukon Hand Games</li> </ul>

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<sup>4</sup> Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining (CNIM) [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/cnim/about\\_cnim](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/cnim/about_cnim).

- Pacific Salmon Foundation – Directing awareness and funds to Yukon Chinook conservation
- Tr’öndek Hwëch’in Traditional First Fish Camp
- Mining Rocks
- Dawson Moosehide Gatherins
- SFN School (Eliza Van Bibber School) wetlands/bioreactor project
- Sponsorship of a SFN citizen to attend wetlands workshop
- Casino Student Achievement Awards and student sponsorships
- Tr’öndek Hwëch’in Moosehide Gathering
- Yukon Skills Canada, Territorial Skills Competition
- Yukon Chamber of Mines mining/geology week, Procurement Forum; and Geoscience Forum/Trade Show

*Partnerships through contributing direct financial support – examples include:*

- Yukon First Nation Resource Conference
- Geological Association of Canada/Mining Association of Canada Conference
- Yukon Chamber of Mines
- Yukon Chamber of Commerce
- Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Women in Mining

*Transformational partnerships through active participation and direct financial support – examples include:*

- Applied research projects that will inform sustainability practices in collaboration with the Yukon Research Centre. ‘Casino Discovery Camp Champion Initiative’ that will inspire and motivate youth to make healthy choices and improve their chances for employment, training, and success in life.

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**Local content:**

Align Casino with government goals for building local capacity

Casino manages the anticipated local employment requirements and the provision of economic development opportunities by:

- Hiring local residents including youth to gain experience in environmental testing and mineral exploration.
- Actively informing the Yukon College’s CINM on the project’s projected human resource needs at industry advisory group meetings and participation on the CNIM Governing Council.
- Actively informing Yukon Education’s CSTTS<sup>5</sup> on the project’s projected workforce needs at committee meetings and ensuring Yukon’s labour market information planning needs are being met.

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<sup>5</sup> Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy (CSTTS) [www.labourmarketframeworkyukon.com](http://www.labourmarketframeworkyukon.com).

## Performance – How We Measure Up

Following receipt of the *Yukon Chamber of Mines Membership Award* in 2014 in recognition for its exceptional contribution to the Yukon mineral industry, Casino was nominated for the *Yukon Chamber of Mines Community Award* in 2015. This award and nomination reflects the company's achievements thus far, with its ongoing effort to make a positive difference in Yukon. Based on industry standards<sup>6</sup>, Casino's CSR performance results since 2008 are as follows:

- ✓ Casino is working on improvements to encourage feedback and invite contributions. As the project advances, our objective is to ensure we have a comprehensive understanding of concerns about the project so that we can be in a better position to address them throughout the assessment and licensing processes.
- ✓ Casino has made significant effort to actively understand and incorporate the concerns and expectations of Community of Interest groups into project plans. As the project advances, the company plans to improve its understanding of concerns and expectations of the Community of Interest groups through direct dialogue and discussions, and by further developing its system for monitoring and following up on issues and feedback.
- ✓ The selection and delivery of financial and in-kind contributions in Yukon is made with priority given to programs and events that foster collaboration and lasting partnerships. Many new partnership opportunities arose to reflect community need. As the project advances, Casino plans to develop a formal social investment system and process with a clear criteria, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms. Through its applied research projects and 'Discovery Camp Champion Initiative', Casino will improve its 'transformational' partnerships that bring significant value to both the company and its partners.
- ✓ Casino is engaging with the Yukon College, bringing value to the partnerships and their programming by providing relevant and industry-driven information on workforce projections for the proposed Casino mine. Casino plans to develop a formal system, process and approach for local content that enables local sourcing of goods, services, and labour. Casino will increase dialogue on the anticipated workforce requirements and create new partnerships with other COI groups on the provision of economic development opportunities.

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<sup>6</sup> Mining Association of Canada's Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Assessment Protocol, A Tool for Assessing Aboriginal and Community Outreach Performance, 2012; Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G3) and Mining and Metals Sector Supplement developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), 2006; IPIECA, API and OGP Report No. 437, Oil and gas industry guidance on voluntary sustainability reporting, 2010.

## **A Look Ahead**

Since 2008, Casino has worked and will continue to work with great effort, to make a positive difference in Yukon with the Casino Project. Casino will continue to strengthen relationships with First Nations, local communities and other interested and affected parties by engaging in lasting partnerships and building local capacity. Casino aims to seek feedback on the Casino Mine Project as it prepares its application for the YESAB Panel Review through open houses, community meetings, and virtual open houses throughout 2016 and 2017. The Panel Review also provides opportunities for public review and comments throughout the process. At any time, Casino can be contacted with your ideas and opinions through the website at [www.casinomining.com](http://www.casinomining.com).

