# nevgie ld Rainy River

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Industry Leader In Health & Safety

Welcome Supply Chain Manager

**Underground Mine** 

Developing our Employees

Sharing Traditional Knowledge

Enhancing Workforce Readiness

Indigenous Peoples Day

Production Highlights - Q2

Who's Working at Rainy River



## **INDUSTRY LEADER IN HEALTH & SAFETY**

In April 2020, New Gold connected with Dr. Mario Thomas from Precision Biomonitoring (PBI). Dr. Mario and his team developed a mobile rapid COVID-19 test that proved promising for accuracy and speed. New Gold worked together with PBI and the Indigenous leadership of Treaty Three to lobby Health Canada for approval and use of the device at the mine site.

In July, New Gold was advised that Rainy River would be the first mine site to test the new mobile COVID-19 testing device. Two machines were designated for use at the mine site. Each device can run up to nine COVID-19 tests simultaneously and provide test results within two hours. Our Medical Centre nurse practitioners and laboratory technicians have been trained by PBI professionals on machine use and interpretation of results. Prior to the roll out for operational use, our team developed an identification system and testing strategy to be able to achieve the best possible detection rate.

In August, New Gold was featured on CBC's "The National" as a leader in industry for adopting on-site testing. We are proud of this accomplishment and of our employees for continuing to follow all site COVID-19 protocols.



Mobile COVID-19 Test

Our top priority is the health and well-being of our employees and keeping the mine and local and Indigenous communities COVID-free. The addition of the rapid testing devices into our screening protocol has added another layer of protection that will help prevent the transmission of COVID-19. It is because our undertaking of such individual responsibility that we have been successful so far and we should all be proud of our accomplishments.

## WELCOME SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER



Claude Cloutier, Supply Chain Manager

Claude Cloutier recently joined the New Gold Rainy River team as the new Supply Chain Manager. Claude began his career in mining 15 years ago working in a warehouse, which he refers to as a "leather boot" experience. Since then, he worked primarily in underground mining operations. More recently, he was Supply Chain Superintendent for Kirkland Gold. He is a member of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) and has acquired his professional designation. Claude has worked with Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) within Indigenous communities and has a keen interest in learning about Indigenous culture and traditions. Claude and his family have purchased a home in Rainy River and are settling in and enjoying the "small-town feel". When not at work, you can find Claude out fishing and enjoying the outdoors. We welcome Claude to our team!

#### **UNDERGROUND MINE**

n 2018 ramp development of the underground mine was suspended, however following the release of a technical report earlier this year, development of the underground mine is resuming. The NI 43-101 technical report considered alternative open pit and underground mining scenarios in order to create a profitable mine plan that generates sustainable free cash flow at a gold price of US\$1,275 per ounce.

Included in the technical report was a revised underground mine plan that currently only incorporates approximately 5% of the mine's total reserves. Underground mining is expected to begin in 2022 and will be accessed via four inpit portals as well as via the Intrepid zone portal utilizing a longhole mining methodology. With our disciplined focus on creating a profitable underground mine plan, which is based on a lower gold price, means that should higher gold prices continue to prevail, we have the potential to include additional mining areas into our mine plan and thereby extend the life of the underground mine beyond current estimates. Our underground



**Underground Mine** 

contractor is currently mobilizing on site to launch Phase 1 of the Intrepid zone ramp development. The key objectives of Phase 1 include the inspection of the main underground workings, the reinstallation of ventilation and pumping systems and the development of the Intrepid zone ramp decline to Level 275 in order to enter and assess the ore zone. Phase 1 is expected to take approximately five to seven months and be completed in Q1 2021. Phase 2 is currently under review with the objective of lowering the main ramp to Level 75 and we expect this work to be incorporated in our 2021 plan.

#### **DEVELOPING OUR EMPLOYEES**



From Left: Aiden Carey, Program Facilitator, Darrol VanDeventer, Mine Manager

his August, New Gold Rainy River kicked off its' first classes of the Queens University Professional Supervisor program. This course has been provided in many countries, different languages and over the years has graduated over 5000 participants. The training program is three days in length and covered the following Leadership Principles, topics: Health and Safety, Communication, Doing the Job of a Supervisor and Coaching. Three sessions were held over the course of the nine days. We successfully graduated 60 participants. Participants found

the program to be mining focussed and interactive with many practical applications, new ideas and refreshers. New Gold is now considering further training based on the feedback received, as well as hosting more sessions to capture more participants. This furthers our commitment to teamwork and investing in our employees through development.

"Thank you to each of the departments for supporting the training and to all participants; your commitment and engagement in the training helped contribute to its' success".



Aileen Pajunen, Human Resources Manager

#### SHARING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



From Left: Renée Boucher, Anne Marie Rousseau, Marina Greenwood, Caron Cridland, Ginger Bragg, Cassandra Cochrane (Workshop Facilitator), Gabrielle Falk, Kamryn Watson, Aileen Pajunen

On July 17th, New Gold Rainy River's Community Relations team held a Traditional Ribbon Skirt Making workshop for employees. This was an opportunity to learn about the importance of Ribbon Skirts in Indigenous culture and how to create a skirt. Cassandra Cochrane, a local artist and workshop facilitator from Rainy River First Nations, shared her knowledge and guided participants through the steps of sewing a skirt. Historically, ribbon skirts were made of soft, durable hide and have since evolved to what you see above. Early on, the ribbon colours were chosen based on the clan (descent group) one belongs to and the gap between ribbons indicated marital status. Colors are now chosen by personal preference. Though there are different teachings about ribbon skirts, the common theme is that they symbolize womanhood, strength and survival and are a way to connect and show honor and respect. Ribbon Skirts are worn during traditional ceremonies, Pow Wows, traditional dances and other cultural events. All attendees of the workshop were proud of their creations. This workshop was the first in a series that will be offered over the course of this year and into 2021. We are excited to continue to share traditional knowledge and teachings with our employees.

#### **ENHANCING WORKFORCE READINESS**

n August 11th, New Gold Rainy River's Community Relations team partnered with ORIGIN to host a CAT Machine Simulator screenings program. The screening provided an opportunity for participants to determine if a career in heavy equipment operations was suitable for them and predetermined if they were a good fit for employment at the mine. Eighteen individuals from eight different First Nation communities completed the training. For the first part of the training, participants learned about themselves, their personality type and abilities. Then they had the opportunity to practice operating a Rock Truck, Front End Wheel Loader and Excavator in the simulator. Finally, participants were provided with a 360° interactive video experience using ORIGIN's ImmersiveLink headsets. Results of the training were captured in a final exam. Overall participants had fun and enjoyed the experience.



Jeffery Johnson, Seine River First Nation "The experience was good. It was an easy learning environment and I received good instructions from the instructors. The machines were very comfortable".



ORIGIN works with job seekers, employers, professional recruiting firms, and Indigenous communities to enhance workforce readiness, build capacity and create culturally-safe long-term employment pathways. Companies that have an interest in increasing their Indigenous participation are encouraged to contact ORIGIN by visiting www.immersivelink.ca.



## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Each year on June 21st, we celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day. This day recognizes the history, culture and contributions made by Indigenous people. To celebrate this day, Fraser Greene, Mine Trainer for New Gold Rainy River, shared his knowledge and teachings with management and employees, about the importance of tobacco (Asemmaa). Tobacco is sacred and is to be respected and valued. Whenever you ask for knowledge, guidance or advice or take from the land, Asemmaa is offered first. Fraser shared his teachings on how to present an offering. First you hold Asemmaa in your left hand close to your heart (as this is the spiritual connection to the creator), then offer your prayer and place the tobacco in the offering place. This act releases your prayers to the spirit world. There are three wooden offering stations on the mine site available for employees to have a safe place to offer personal prayers and requests.



Hans Prinselaar, offering tobacco

# **PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS - Q2**

- On April 3, the mine resumed operations following a two-week voluntary suspension at the Rainy River Mine due to Covid-19.
- Production increased from approximately 100,000 tonnes per day in April to 140,000 tonnes per day in June.
- 2.1 million ore tonnes and 9.4 million waste tonnes were mined from the open pit.
- Gold equivalent production was 49,633 ounces (48,800 oz gold and 70,394 oz silver).



Marina Greenwood, Payroll Coordinator

# WHO'S WORKING AT RAINY RIVER

(as of August 31, 2020)	
Total number of employees	847
Employees from the Rainy River District	67%
Indigenous Employees	22%
Female Employees	16%

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

For information on upcoming job opportunities, please keep visiting our website at newgold.com/careers

#### We welcome and encourage your feedback!

If you're in the Emo area, please stop by our office to speak with one of our Community Relations Team members, call or email (contact info below):

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### **Emo Community Office**

P.O. Box 5 5967 Highway 11/71 Emo, Ontario POW 1E0



**8** 1 (855) 482-0900 rrcomments@newgold.com

newg

