

The Canadian Mining Story

SPRING 2025

TSM Excellence Awards

Photo: Agnico Eagle



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TSM® EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Each year, the [TSM® Excellence Awards](#) highlight outstanding community engagement and environmental initiatives at facilities that are implementing TSM®.

TSM Excellence Awards acknowledge innovative projects and initiatives that expand and promote sustainable development within the mining sector. Companies, facilities and individuals that have raised the bar for the industry through environmental and social programs will be recognized with TSM

Excellence Awards at the [Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum's \(CIM\) Awards Gala](#).

The awards selection committee, comprised of members of MAC's national [Community of Interest Panel](#), received several excellent nominations for the awards and acknowledged the range of important sustainability initiatives being undertaken by Canadian mining companies. This year, the committee chose to highlight the projects that they felt to be truly innovative and demonstrative of leading practice.



TSM® Environmental Excellence Award

WINNER

Rio Tinto—Diavik—Solar Power Plant

Canada's mining industry is working hard to produce the mined materials necessary for low-carbon technologies while innovating to reduce its own carbon footprint.

Diavik Diamond Mine's solar power plant, installed and activated in 2024, is an innovative example of what is possible with renewable energy infrastructure in remote regions. The 6,600 panel, 3.5 megawatt plant was activated in July 2024 and represents the largest off-grid solar plant in Canada's territories. It will provide 25% of Diavik site's power during closure activities once the mine ends production.

Diavik is currently scheduled to close in 2026, however, its reduced power needs during closure activities mean that the solar plant can take on a large proportion (up to 25%) of power generation needs, reducing Diavik's reliance on non-renewable infrastructure and allowing for it to be decommissioned as closure activities take place. The solar plant itself can then be redeployed elsewhere once it is no longer needed at Diavik.

While the plant has only been operating since July 2024, early data supports an effective output of 4.2

million kWh of energy generation per year.

This amounts to a yearly diesel reduction of about 1.1 million liters – important in a remote site where all diesel fuel is trucked up via winter road – and an annual reduction of 2,900 tonnes of CO2 emissions, equivalent to removing 630 cars from the road.

Bi-facial (double-sided) panels allow for additional energy to be generated not only from direct sunlight, but from the light reflected off the ground in the summer and snow in the winter months, with initial data showing that this reflection accounts for an additional 10% energy generated. In addition, data shows that the cold ambient temperatures increase the efficiency of the panels, with output 15% higher at –25 C than at +25 C. These findings are important in the context of the unique Northern climate in which Diavik operates and are important to communities and other large resource projects who are contemplating renewable infrastructure.

Diavik is currently engaging with community partners and governments to discuss how to redeploy the solar plant in the North following the end of closure activities at the mine site.

TSM® Environmental Excellence Award

RUNNER UP

Eldorado—Hellas Gold —Cleaning and Restoration of the Old Tailings Management Facility

With an interest to protect and conserve vulnerable ecosystems, Hellas Gold is addressing environmental legacies of past operators through one of the largest rehabilitation projects in Greece, demonstrating a replicable model for converting post-mining landscapes into ecological settings.

Built in 1976 and operated until 1995, the Olympias old tailings management facility is located 2 km from Olympias village in Halkidiki, northern Greece.

Eldorado Gold, Hellas Gold's parent company, acquired the property in 2012. Since that time, old tailings have been removed from the Olympias old tailings management facility, with over 70% reprocessed at the adjacent flotation plant.

In collaboration with the Kassandra Mines Business Plan, the approach of removing contaminated tailings and soils, reprocessing waste to recover

valuable resources, and safely disposing of hazardous materials can be applied to other mining sites with similar legacy issues. Techniques such as phytoremediation using native plants for soil restoration can also be adapted to different regions based on local biodiversity.

The creation of an ecological post-industrial setting is a novel solution that repurposes the mining site into a space for public enjoyment, education, and cultural appreciation. The inclusion of industrial sculptural elements bridges the gap between industrial heritage and environmental recovery.

With landscape and soil restoration underway, Hellas Gold endeavors to establish an ecological post-industrial setting featuring industrial sculptural elements by 2026.



Photo: Eldorado Gold



Photo: Agnico Eagle

TSM® Community Engagement Excellence Award

WINNER

Agnico Eagle —All Facilities— Reconciliation Action Plan with Indigenous Peoples

Agnico Eagle has been paving the way and collaborating with Indigenous partners, community members, academics, and organizations to launch its inaugural Reconciliation Plan with Indigenous Peoples (RAP).

While various programs and initiatives to benefit Indigenous peoples have been in place for many years across Agnico Eagle's operations, the RAP represents an important step in weaving these activities into a central, comprehensive strategy. It serves as a tool to enhance Agnico Eagle's efforts toward reconciliation, enabling effective implementation, continuous monitoring, and the flexibility to adapt as needed.

Co-developed by conducting extensive sharing circles and workshops with approximately 250 different rightsholders and stakeholders, the RAP reinforces Agnico Eagle's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous communities through 40 distinct actions, grouped under seven pillars.

Agnico Eagle's goal is to report on the RAP's progress by 2026, recognizing that some actions will require

ongoing efforts. These progress reports will not only showcase successes but will also address the challenges faced and lessons learned, underscoring the company's commitment to open and honest dialogue.

Agnico Eagle's RAP has not only inspired other companies and organizations to embark on their own journeys towards reconciliation and responsible mining, but it is also actively supporting other mining companies in their efforts.

The RAP is available in several languages, including English, French, and Inuktitut to ensure accessibility. They have also published a RAP summary version on their website, available in Anicinabe, Cree, English, Finnish, French, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, and Spanish.

The RAP signifies Agnico Eagle's dedication to ethical resource extraction and contributing positively to the broader reconciliation efforts in Canada and beyond.



Photo: Vicuña Corporation



Photo: Vicuña Corporation

TSM® Community Engagement Excellence Award

RUNNER UP

Vicuña Corporation - Mujeres en Red

Vicuña Corp., a mining company co-owned by BHP and Lundin Mining, has developed an innovative social investment program in the interior of Argentina, aimed at addressing gender equity and fostering the inclusion and development of women entrepreneurs within a community that is traditionally patriarchal and striving to improve its social capital. The Mujeres en Red (The Women's Network) Program, operating since April 2022 in the Department of Iglesia in San Juan, Argentina, has the dual objective of strengthening women-led ventures and empowering businesswomen through the creation and launch of the first formal network of women entrepreneurs in Iglesia. In other words, Mujeres en Red aims to generate a more egalitarian community and an equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem through a gender-sensitive program that supports the emotional security of its participants and strengthens female leadership.

Gradually, Mujeres en Red has become a safe space for social validation and personal and professional development for the participating women, providing them with a sense of community, camaraderie, and collaboration, to advance their entrepreneurial endeavors. More than 70 women have completed technical and professional training courses, received seed-capital and other forms of financial support,

and participated in mentoring programs, as well as innovative workshops on best practices in production and product-development processes, digital skills development, marketing, and branding.

Results so far have been promising: Prior to starting the program in 2022, 46% of participants did not consider themselves entrepreneurs; however, after almost three years of participation, 95% now see themselves as such. Since the launch, 17 beneficiaries have gone on to legally register their businesses, 90% have recorded profits, and 80% have hired employees. Mujeres en Red is an example of how the private sector can contribute to gender equality through taking a holistic approach to develop women entrepreneurs.

For communities looking to implement such a program, essential first steps involve: identifying and characterizing local gender gaps and norms, understanding the role of both women and men in the local economy, their families, and the broader community, and developing an appreciation for the underlying social and cultural structures, beliefs, behaviours, and traditions. Every community is different, so taking an immersive perspective is key to be able to build out a relevant approach that can effect positive change and tangible results.

TSM® Community Engagement Excellence Award

RUNNER UP

Eldorado Gold — Kışladağ—Children's City

The team at Kışladağ Mine adheres to the principle of “environment and people first,” and is highly invested in the wellbeing of the community where Tüprag, a subsidiary of Eldorado Gold operates. After research and community consultations highlighted a shortage of spaces for children to play and learn, Tüprag invested US\$2,000,000 to develop Children's City.

With limited social, cultural and educational opportunities that support children's development, Children's City provides Uşak and the surrounding provinces a diverse and creative space to help children grow into physically, mentally, emotionally and socially healthy individuals.

Located in the city of Uşak, Children's City is a 123,000 square metre site consisting of nearly 40 special activity areas, including playgrounds, adventure parks, social facilities and educational spaces where

children have room to explore, socialize and learn in a safe environment.

Using trees grown in greenhouses at Kışladağ Gold Mine, the Children's City project has turned unused urban space into playgrounds and greenspaces. Workshops are organized for children in areas such as technology, science, arts and crafts to help them gain new skills.

Based on comprehensive research and collaboration with the community and local leaders, the study examined factors related to children's development, existing social activity spaces in the area and the needs and expectations of families in Uşak and the surrounding provinces, which determined the best location for Children's City, the size of the park and what types of materials should be used.



Photo: Eldorado Gold



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