



Corner Brook Port Corporation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Corner Brook Port Corporation supports Thomas Resources Exploration

CORNER BROOK – Corner Brook Port Corporation supports Thomas Resources and its plans to explore for the non-toxic minerals garnet and kyanite in the area around Corner Brook Lake. CBPC is confident that Thomas Resources has taken the appropriate steps to ensure that this exploration activity will occur in an environmentally responsible manner.

At this point, Thomas Resources has not committed that there will be any mining activity in the Corner Brook Lake area as the development of a mine site and quarry will depend on the results of the proposed drilling program. Should the exploratory work, which involves drilling 21 holes at 9 different locations, prove that there is a viable mine site, further consultation and environmental assessment will occur. The company has already indicated that, should it be determined that setting up a quarry at the site is feasible, the city's intake pipe could be moved to Eastern Lakes Brook, effectively removing the project from the watershed area. CBPC is confident that Thomas Resources will follow municipal, provincial and federal regulations (as it has thus far) and will perform due diligence at each phase of development.

Part of the Corner Brook Port Corporation's mandate is to create and support economic activity which is beneficial to the region. CBPC feels that it is prudent to determine whether there is a viable garnet and kyanite mining project given the potential economic benefits such a development could bring to the Corner Brook region. The company has indicated that potential economic impacts include the construction of a \$50 Million processing facility in Corner Brook and the creation of 45-55 jobs. It is expected that the operation, if feasible, would run for thirty years. The City of Corner Brook has not seen a private sector investment of this magnitude in many years. The exploration phase itself will also create economic activity on a smaller scale, including the use of supplies and services from local companies and accommodations for the drill crew and support staff. If the site is deemed not to be viable, the currently proposed exploration phase will not have caused any damage to vegetation or adversely affected animals or humans in the area.

Thomas Resources has clearly demonstrated that activity in the Corner Brook Lake area will not be rushed or completed without the proper planning and permits in place. This is evident given that the company began its process of assessing the watershed area in 2003. Now, nearly ten years later, the process has moved to its current stage. The company continues to state that the project must not only be commercially viable, but be environmentally sound in order to proceed.

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