

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DEMCo's President Darrell Beaulieu named recipient of the 2016 Skookum Jim Award**

**Yellowknife, NT (10 December 2015)** - Darrell Beaulieu is the 2016 recipient of the Skookum Jim Award and will join six other industry leaders being honored at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) Convention in Toronto, March 6-9, 2016. The Skookum Jim Award is for Aboriginal achievement in the Mineral Industry.

"Darrell Beaulieu is the recipient of this year's Skookum Jim Award for his innovation, hard work and dedication to the mineral industry....Recipients of this award have demonstrated exceptional achievement and/or service in an Aboriginal-run service business for the Canadian mining industry or a Canadian Aboriginal exploration or mining company, or have made a significant individual contribution to the minerals and mining industry", according to a PDAC press release dated 08 December 2015.

Darrell Beaulieu is the President and CEO of DEMCo Ltd., an exploration company owned 100% by Denendeh Investments Incorporated (DII), the general partner for Denendeh Investments Limited Partnership, which is held by the 27 Dene First Nations in the NWT. Beaulieu is also the President and CEO of DII. DEMCo is the NWT's first-ever mining exploration business wholly owned by the territory's First Nations.

John Bekale, Chair of DII and also a DEMCo Board member, is proud to congratulate Beaulieu. "Darrell Beaulieu is a visionary, he has been working very hard to position our new company to participate in the ownership, exploration and operations relating to resource development in our territories. We believe our participation is key to preserving the mining industry in the NWT. This is only the beginning,"

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, who supported Beaulieu's nomination for this award, stated "We thank Mr. Beaulieu for his vision in creating DEMCo. Under his leadership, DEMCo has a competitive edge which will only increase First Nations' participation in the Mining Sector to everyone's benefit".

Avalon Rare Metals President and CEO, Don Bubar, and VP Explorations, Bill Mercer, joined in the congratulations being extended. Don Bubar commented "We are delighted to see Darrell receive this recognition from PDAC. Aboriginal business leaders like Darrell are the future of the mineral industry in northern Canada. We hope this recognition will inspire more young Aboriginal entrepreneurs to follow in his footsteps to create the next generation of northern prospectors and mineral developers".

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