

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 4th, 2016

## YUKON WOMEN IN MINING ANNOUNCES A NEW CHAMPION AS PART OF MINING WEEK

Yukon Women in Mining (YukonWIM) is delighted to announce the appointment of their newest Champion, Chief Math'ieya Alatini of the Kluane First Nation (KFN). As part of Yukon Mining week, we are pleased to recognize industry Champions who are remarkable leaders and use their voice for inclusion and advancement in sectors where women remain under-represented.

Crucial to the continued advancement of women in the minerals sector is their increased representation in decision-making and senior management roles. "I am honored to be selected as a Champion for Yukon Women in Mining. There are so many amazingly talented women in this industry who work tirelessly for their companies, employers and families. I will do my best to represent them with respect and integrity," stated Chief Alatini.

Chief Alatini has long been a strong advocate for business and industry development that works in partnership with local First Nations. Well known for her charismatic presence, incredible enthusiasm and no-nonsense approach, her vision of the future recognizes that strong benefits *can* come from projects that focus on collaboration and cooperation. This vision is the foundation of a progressive, inclusive and modern Yukon mining industry that will encourage young women to seek careers in their own backyards.

"We are very pleased to recognize Chief Alatini as a YukonWIM Champion", says Founder and President Anne Lewis. "She advocates for opportunities in our communities and promotes the benefits that a responsible mining industry creates for all Yukoners. Chief Alatini is a strong, empowering role model for women interested in dynamic, rewarding careers that can have a significant impact on Yukon's economic, cultural and social prosperity. We know trailblazing isn't always easy and we are proud to recognize those who lead the way."

Born and raised in the Kluane Region, Chief Alatini returned in 2010 to run for leadership and was elected on her 37<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since then, she has been dedicated to creating economic strength and social health and well-being for her citizens and community. Chief Alatini and the Kluane First Nation's unique and innovative approach to partnering with local mining companies exemplifies the relationships that are the new norm for doing business in the North.

The diversity of YukonWIM Champions is representative of the roles and opportunities in the mineral exploration and mining sector that exist for women today. Getting involved in your mining community can mean anything from a passion for rocks, to adventures on the land, to capturing mining moments on film to commanding a stage for investment attraction. And if you're Chief Alatini – it's all four and much more.

A YukonWIM Champion is an individual that uses their voice for inclusion and advancement for women in the mining industry. Their main role is to provide an advisory and mentor role to our members, and they must have demonstrated contribution towards the advancement of opportunities for women in the industry. Current YukonWIM Champions also include Eira Thomas, Rob McIntyre, Sue Craig and Ron Light.

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YukonWIM was founded in 2012. Our mandate is to create awareness and attraction to the opportunities for women in the mineral and mining industry. Activities include partnering with mineral sector leaders to advocate, provide career awareness and professional networking opportunities.

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