

Corporate Communications and Protocol
Department of the Executive
Government of the NWT

If you require assistance, please contact
Carmen_Moore@gov.nt.ca

Trade Mission to China
CBC Radio, Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

CBC: Aboriginal leaders are taking the initiative when it comes to generating revenue from their natural resources and they are looking to China for capital. The largest ever delegation of aboriginal business people will be going to China in November. CBC's Angel Dubois explores that this trip could mean for the NWT.

BEAULIEU: There is approximately 500 aboriginal businesses in the NWT. Twenty years ago, you could just count them on one hand.

DUBOIS: Darrel Beaulieu is a Yellowknife business leader eager to partner with China. He's the CEO of Denendeh Investments and he would like to see Chinese investors spend some of their trillions of dollars in cash reserves in the NWT. Among his goals, to attract investment in mineral exploration.

BEAULIEU: In the Slave Geological Province approximately only 15 to 20 percent has been explored. In that time, you have diamond mines, you have gold mines, uranium mines, silver mines, etcetera, so what is in the other 80 percent?

DUBOIS: So Beaulieu is off to China on a trade mission next month with 100 other aboriginal business people across the country. Calvin Helin is organizing the trip as president of the Native Investment and Trade Association. Helin says partnership are the next step for aboriginal communities.

HELIN: If we are going to move forward, we have to have our own source revenues and we have to defining ourselves as we had previously.

DUBOIS: Beaulieu and Helin both say a partnership with China is a business venture and not political meaning it will have no impact on Arctic sovereignty. Angel Dubois, CBC News, Yellowknife.

CBC Radio, October 7, 7:30 a.m.

CBC: From the Western Arctic to the East Coast of China, next month aboriginal business

leaders from the NWT will cross the Pacific Ocean in search of investors. The RCI Capital Group and the Native Investment and Trade Association are organizing the largest ever trade mission for aboriginal business leaders. Their goal is to meet with potential Chinese investors. Darrel Beaulieu is CEO of Denendeh Investments in Yellowknife. He plans to attend next month's junket.

BEAULIEU: Aboriginal people in Canada probably control close to one-third of the land and the possible resources that's under that. So aboriginal people in Canada are in an excellent position to be able to start discussions with potential investors because they have the access to the resources, but they don't have capital to take advantage to go explore and/or develop.

CBC: Beaulieu says having China invest in Canada's resources is good for everyone, not just aboriginal business.