

# **Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency**



## **Snap Lake Spur Road Inspection and Wildlife Workshop Summary**

February 2007

On February 20<sup>th</sup> 17 members of SLEMA including members of the Traditional Knowledge Panel, board members and SLEMA staff traveled to the mine site and then traveled by bus the length of the spur ice road, that connects the Snap Lake mine to the Tibbit-Contwoyto ice road. Inspecting the ice road had been an important consideration for the SLEMA board. Initially the entire road was to be driven but logistics and safety wouldn't allow this commitment to be fulfilled.

Starting at the Snap Lake Mine Site, the Spur road was driven by bus, starting around 10 am and returning to the mine site around 2pm. Except for one red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) no wildlife was observed. The condition of the road was observed and observations included the snow berms on either side



of the road which averaged about 1.2 meters in height, the width of the road which was approximately 60-80 meters wide and the surface of the road which was smooth and at places where bare ice is exposed very slippery. A number of portages were observed which were approximately 10-15 meters in width. A historic site of significance was also observed alongside a Portage. This site appeared to have been well flagged.



Snap Lake Spur Road



Tibbit-Contwoyto ice road at the junction of the Snap Lake Spur

Following the visit to the Snap lake spur road mine SLEMA conducted a wildlife workshop. This was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Those present were the SLEMA board, the SLEMA Traditional knowledge panel, one member of the science panel, and employees of DeBeers Enviromental Division (For a full list of participants and commentary see the Workshop minutes). During the workshop DeBeers presented their wildlife monitoring programs and data they collected. The information presented Included data from the 1999 to 2004 wildlife baseline study, 2004 Wildlife Effects Monitoring program Report, draft 2005 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program Report, as well as presenting information from their draft Wildlife Safety Plan.



Portage and flagged Archeological site

During the workshop a number of comments were made on a number of issues involving wildlife monitoring as well as various other peripheral issues. These comments will be presented in separate documents for organizational simplicity.