



Canada's Resource Champion



Charles Fipke

Prospector and pioneer in the mining industry

Charles (Chuck) Fipke is a prospector who discovered the existence of diamonds around Lac de Gras in Canada's Northwest Territories. A joint venture between Fipke's Dia Met Minerals and BHP-Utah in the 1980s and 1990s culminated in the establishment of Canada's first diamond mine, Ekati Diamond Mine, in 1998. During the span of his career, he has received numerous honors

and awards including his induction into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame (2013).

Highlights from Charles' nomination

Mr. Fipke is a pioneer for the Canadian diamond industry. His exploration efforts led to the opening of the Ekati mine in Northwest Territories which offered employment for thousands of Aboriginal people and northerners. Mr. Fipke has also significantly contributed to the growth of the industry by publishing the first ever guide to diamond exploration using indicator mineral geochemistry.

Moreover, his generous contribution to the University of British Columbia has allowed UBC to expand their advanced research capacity by adding the Charles E. Fipke Centre for Innovative Research which will help the next generation of scientific explorers and researchers thrive.

Nominated by Caroline Grover, Chief Executive Officer, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce