

# Team Work

HELENA KUIKKA & JUSTINE KNOX

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**AS VICTORIA GOLD ADVANCES ITS EAGLE GOLD MINE THROUGH CONSTRUCTION TO THE SITE FACILITIES' COMMISSIONING AND OPERATIONS,** the team involved to bring the Yukon's next and largest operating gold mine to fruition is diverse and brings a wealth of varied skills and experiences.

Such as Project Geologist, Helena Kuikka, who has been an integral part of the Victoria Gold team since 2011 and on the ground as the future mine advances toward its first gold pour later this year.

Prior to joining the company, Helena worked with various exploration companies in the Yukon going back to 2009 and her experience ranges from grassroots to development stage projects and remote mapping to infill drill programs. She is a Professional Geoscientist, with a BSc in Geology; driven by what she calls "the gold fever."



Victoria Gold Project Geologist Helena Kuikka at the Eagle Gold Mine site.

"Mineral exploration in the Yukon gives me the opportunity to work in some amazing places. It really makes me appreciate the lands that provide these rich resources and the people that work together to make it all happen," says Kuikka. "I'm proud to work for a company that instills strong ties to the community and the environment, as a geologist, it's very exciting to see Eagle Gold progress from an exploration project to a mine and I'm looking forward to the next chapter with Victoria Gold."

Helena knows the geological region in which the Eagle Gold Mine is located well. It is considered part of the Tintina Gold Belt within the mineral-rich Selwyn Basin. The area was mined on a small scale from shallow shafts and adits in the early 1900s and via placer mining in creeks draining the area. Now 115 years later, once operational, Eagle Gold Mine will employ 350 to 400 people; many of them Yukoners.

Another key element to the future mine's success is responsible environmental assessment and permitting processes to ensure the project is in compliance throughout its mine life.

Justine Knox is part of the company's Lands and Permitting team to help ensure the activities at Eagle Gold Mine comply with conditions of its Water Use License, Quartz Mining License and Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) requirements.

"Environmental assessment requires us to balance seemingly impossible trade-offs; the environment and the economy, and our livelihoods depend on sustaining both," says Knox. "Exploring this challenge and working with such a knowledgeable and experienced team of mining and environmental experts toward successful outcomes motivates me every day."

Prior to joining Victoria Gold in 2017, Justine worked as an environmental consultant to prepare environmental assessment applications for large projects in BC and across different



Victoria Gold's Justine Knox with Hugh Coyle, Victoria's Manager-Lands and Permitting, atop one of Eagle Gold Mine's two Cat 6040 shovels.

Canadian jurisdictions. More recently, she held positions with the federal government Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. She holds a B.Sc. focused on natural resource management from the University of British Columbia.

When not at work, Justine can be found on the ski slopes or on the Great Lakes with her family during the summer.

"I love being a part of the Victoria Gold team, who are committed to creating jobs in the territory and improving local communities," continues Knox. "I look forward to being involved in the company's growth and continually learning something new from the team."



## ABOUT VICTORIA GOLD AND THE EAGLE GOLD MINE

The Eagle Gold Mine, currently under construction, is part of Victoria's 100 per cent-owned Dublin Gulch gold property located approximately 375 kilometres north of Whitehorse and 85 kilometres north, northeast of the Village of Mayo within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun. The property is accessible by road year-round and is within Yukon Energy's electrical grid.

The Eagle Gold Mine has received all major permits for construction and operations, completed the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) process and mutually created and implements the *Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement* with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun.