

## **12.0 BENEFITS TO CANADIANS**

### **12.1 Benefits of the Project**

Through all consultation activities to date, Rainy River Resources (RRR) have consistently received inquiries and comments regarding employment, business and training opportunities. The region around the Rainy River Project (RRP) site has experienced recent declines in both employment and population in large part related to a sustained downturn in the forestry industry. Development of the RRP has received support to date from the Municipal and Provincial governments, as well as local Aboriginal Groups (Section 3.6).

The construction and operation phases are expected to have the positive effect of reversing the structural downturn in the regional economy that have adversely affected employment prospects for many in human environment regional study area communities and encouraging modest population growth in the region (Section 7.20.1). Employment opportunities arising from the RRP may also encourage skilled trades people to return and youth to stay in the region, and attract new working age migrants. The RRP is not expected to result in a large change in regional or local population baseline conditions; rather it will contribute to modest growth in the base population. The effect will be felt most within commuting distance from the site (estimated 100 km driving distance).

The overall effect of the RRP on the Provincial economy is positive since expenditures during construction and operation will stimulate the economy, creating jobs and income in industries throughout Ontario. The potential impact of the RRP on the Provincial economy can be best measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product which represents the sum total of all final goods and services produced each year. The cumulative life of mine effect on Gross Domestic Product (direct, indirect and induced) is estimated at \$5.5 billion (Section 7.19.1).

The effects of the RRP on the regional economy are expected to be large and highly valued in an area facing prolonged economic difficulties (Section 7.19.1). The economic assessment indicates that the RRP is expected to contribute on average \$107 million annually in direct labour compensation during the operation phase. Thus, the RRP will make a very sizeable positive long term contribution to the mining sector in northwestern Ontario.

This effect to both regional and Provincial economies is continuous during the construction and operation phases of the RRP, and will continue to a lesser extent during the decommissioning and closure phase. Therefore the effect on Provincial and regional economies is considered positive and significant.

Training, work experience and business participated skills gained through involvement in the RRP are expected to result in capabilities that are transferable to other economic sectors, thereby increasing the ability of the region's economic base to take advantage of other future employment and business opportunities well beyond the life of the RRP. There is also the

potential that development of the RRP will help to encourage other mineral development in the region.

At a local level, the RRP will upgrade the road infrastructure through the re-alignment of a portion of the gravel-surfaced, Highway 600 which will remain in place after mine closure. The Highway 600 re-alignment will be designed and constructed to modern standards. As a result, it is expected to improve the usability of the road at all times of the year and provide a safer route having better sight lines for the long term. The East Access Road will allow continued access for the northern properties to the regional road network.