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A Summer of STEM: Empowering Northern Girls Through Science & Innovation



In July 2023, eight girls from Behchokò, Délı̨nę, Hay River, and Yellowknife took flight — literally and figuratively — to attend a four-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Camp at the University of Calgary.

Sponsored by De Beers as part of its Building Forever initiative, the camp introduced girls aged 11 to 15 to hands-on STEM experiences. Highlights included:

- Stargazing at the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory
- Cryptography and origami lessons that explored math concepts
- Robot building and circuit soldering for budding engineers

This immersive camp was designed to encourage Indigenous girls from the Northwest Territories to explore career paths in STEM — fields where women remain underrepresented.

De Beers' goal is to expose 10,000 girls and women to STEM by 2030.

The July 2023 camp marked the fourth STEM camp in Canada since 2018, and the first hosted in partnership with the University of Calgary.

In addition to the camp, De Beers continues to support women pursuing STEM in higher education. In 2023, five \$4,500 scholarships were awarded to NWT students — four from Yellowknife and one from Hay River.