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Minister Kuptana delivers keynote address at WME NT 2025 AGM



Congratulating Women in Mining and Energy Northwest Territories (WME NT) for its accomplishments and continued growth, Minister Lucy Kuptana delivered the keynote address during the NWT organization's Annual General Meeting at the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum.

"Working in these industries is not always easy, but your presence here is powerful. Representation matters. It shapes decision-making, drives innovation, and creates long-term change," she said. "When women are at the table, the outcomes are better for everyone."

Kuptana, the NWT Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, said WME NT's mandate aligns closely with her role, with the shared goal of promoting equality and empowerment. "Women's economic independence is one of the most important factors for improving outcomes for women and families," she said. "Across the GNWT, the Gender Equity Division supports this through offering community-based grants, leadership development initiatives, and work to advance economic empowerment."

The MLA for Nunakput, who is also the NWT's housing minister, highlighted efforts to promote mining and energy careers to women, along with initiatives that continue support women as they progress up the ladder. She recognized De Beers Canada, for example, for its leadership in advancing gender representation and supporting women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through mentorship and scholarships.

Closing her speech, Kuptana told the room of political leaders, and mining and energy professionals to seek out the WME NT board members to move talks on empowerment and representation forward. "This ... is not just a one-day discussion, it is an advisory forum that helps shape GNWT policy and advance meaningful change for northern women," she said. "Their leadership strengthens this sector and ensures women's voices remain central to its growth. As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to continue championing women's leadership at every level of the mining and energy sector."