NEWS RELEASE

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# UCN and Vale Sign Letter of Intent on Corporate Training

University College of the North (UCN) and Vale Canada Limited are today announcing the signing of a Letter of Intent that establishes a framework for UCN's new Northern Workforce Development Centre to offer corporate training opportunities for new Vale employees as well as re-certification for Vale's existing employees.

"Vale is very pleased to work with UCN and its new Northern Workforce Development Centre to help meet our training and workforce development needs," said Ryan Land, Manager, Corporate Affairs, Organizational Design and Human Resources at Vale. "We are confident that UCN is the right partner to help us meet effectively and efficiently support these needs and our Northern Employment Strategy."

The training that will be offered through UCN's Northern Workforce Development Centre (NWDC) will include new and renewed certification training in areas such as fall arrest, working in confined spaces, WHMIS, and other critical safety skills. Additionally, leadership development, communications, and other management training will be coordinated through the NWDC. Considering anticipated new hires, and the re-certifications that are required on different skills for each employee, it is anticipated that this Letter of Intent could support 1,000 trainees in 2018/19. Additionally, the Letter of Intent signed today is expected to offer this training at a cost to Vale that is 20% less than Vale offering this training in-house.

"This Letter of Intent is good for Vale and good for UCN. I know that both organizations are very excited about this development," said Doug Lauvstad, President and Vice-Chancellor of UCN. "Our partnership with Vale reflects UCN's very strong commitment to contributing to strengthening the economy in Thompson. We believe that this kind of framework could serve as a model to help support the training needs of other industries in northern Manitoba. We know that they will be watching with interest!"

Vale has been working closely with Thompson 2020 and with UCN on economic development initiatives in the Thompson region. Vale collaborated on the development of the Northern Workforce Development Centre, and has contributed $50,000 to UCN to support associated training needs. This Letter of Intent reflects the continuing commitment of Vale to development and training in the Thompson region.

The Letter of Intent between Vale and UCN was facilitated by Tim Gibson, a Project Manager at Thompson 2020, and it reflects recommendations made in the Education and Training Action Plan (Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group). UCN and Vale are expected to jointly develop a training scheduled in the near future and training will begin as early as July 2018.

For more information, please contact:

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