



## Cheetah Resources Recognizes Erasmus Apparel as Nechalacho Rare Earth Mines' 100<sup>th</sup> NWT Supplier, Highlights Benefits of “Sticky Dollars”

**(Yellowknife, NWT):** on August 3, Cheetah Resources recognized Erasmus Apparel as the 100<sup>th</sup> member of the Nechalacho Rare Earth Mine’s community of NWT suppliers. Cheetah is committed to demonstrating the benefits of buying local because these dollars stick to the community.

**“It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a community to build a project.** A community of Indigenous and non-Indigenous suppliers, employees, and not-for-profits. Without this community, the Nechalacho Rare Earth Project could not exist, and the NWT would not host Canada’s first rare earth mine,” said David Connelly, Vice President of Strategy and Corporate Affairs for Cheetah Resources.

Cheetah Resources has purchased from over 110 NWT suppliers since starting work on Nechalacho two years ago. Cheetah Resources believes it can have the most impact by focusing on NWT suppliers. **Each dollar spent with NWT suppliers is a “sticky dollar” because it contributes to additional benefits in the community.** NWT suppliers use the money to pay their NWT employees, buy from other NWT suppliers, rent from NWT landlords, donate to local charities and pay municipal, school, territorial and other taxes and fees. Nechalacho is a small project, but the benefits are multiplied by working to keep these dollars in the NWT.

**Over 90% of Cheetah’s purchases are from NWT suppliers,** excluding machinery not manufactured in the NWT. **Most of these goods and services are purchased from NWT Indigenous suppliers.**

Yanik D’Aigle, President of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, concluded: “That so many NWT suppliers rose to the occasion during Covid and demonstrated that the NWT business community and their dedicated employees could build Canada’s first rare earth mine gives confidence to investors considering investing in the multigenerational expansion of the Nechalacho Rare Earth Mine. Together they demonstrate the resilience of the NWT’s Indigenous and non-Indigenous business sector.”

When Cheetah Resources was looking for a personal protective equipment and swag supplier for our employees and guests, it was natural to turn to Sarah Erasmus and Erasmus Apparel. A Yellowknife home-grown success story, Erasmus apparel sells “must-have” clothing which includes unique elements to the North Slave and is produced locally.

Sarah Kakfwi, Cheetah’s Office Manager, and Jerome Catholique, one of Nechalacho’s new fully trained sensor-based ore sorter operators presented the certificate recognising Erasmus Apparel as Nechalacho’s 100<sup>th</sup> supplier to Sarah Erasmus

Cheetah Resources Corp. is 100% owned by Vital Metals Ltd. (ASX: VML) of Sydney, Australia.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photo and suggested caption below. High-resolution images attached. Photo credit (Courtesy Cheetah Resources Corp./ bill braden photo)

### Background: on Erasmus Apparel

Sarah Erasmus owns Erasmus Apparel. She started the company in 2010 with a mission to create “that must have clothing when you see it”. The company is literally a home-grown success. It began in the family home in Ndilo with a few designs selling at events like Folk on the Rocks. These are not your typical tourist clothing; everything is unique and special to the area and production is done locally. Erasmus Apparel is now located in the heart of downtown Yellowknife and online at [erasmusapparel.com](http://erasmusapparel.com).



Sarah Erasmus receives a certificate from members of the Cheetah Resources team recognizing Erasmus Apparel as the 100<sup>th</sup> NWT supplier to the Nechalacho Rare Earth Project Mine from left to right top row Jeremy Catholique (Sensor-Based Ore Sorter Operator, Cheetah Resources) David Connelly (Vice President of Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Cheetah Resources) Sarah Kakfwi (Office Manager, Cheetah Resources) Sarah Erasmus (Owner, Erasmus Apparel) Mathew Edler, (Executive Vice President, Cheetah Resources) Yanik Daigle, (President, NWT Chamber of Commerce) Cody Drygeese (Environmental Officer, Cheetah Resources) Bottom row Sarah Campbell (Events Manager, Cheetah Resources) Erik Chan (Store Manager, Erasmus Apparel)