



# TRUE NORTH GEMS INC. (TSX-V:TGX)

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## News Release

### TRUE NORTH GEMS AND ROSS RIVER DENA FIRST NATION SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENT

**VANCOUVER, March 19, 2003** –True North Gems Inc. [TSX-V:TGX] and the Ross River Dena Council on behalf of the Kaska Nation have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that confirms the Kaska support for True North’s ongoing exploration of the company staked properties in the Finlayson District of the Yukon, within the Kaska Traditional Territory.

The MOU acknowledges that True North Gems holds 100 percent of the Regal Ridge property and establishes a framework for creating economic partnerships with the Kaska in support of ongoing mineral exploration.

“We believe that the MOU guarantees a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between True North Gem shareholders and the Kaska people. In the discussions leading up to signing the MOU we were encouraged by the goodwill shown by the Kaska Nation and respect their desire to protect their traditional land,” says Andrew Lee Smith, CEO of True North Gems.

The agreement also acknowledges that the Kaska have unsundered aboriginal rights and titles within the Kaska Traditional Territory and commits True North Gems to negotiate an impact-benefit agreement with the Kaska upon completing a positive bankable feasibility study on True North’s Regal Ridge emerald discovery.

“No mining company has ever negotiated an agreement like this before,” said Chief Jack Caesar of the Ross River Dena Council, praising True North’s leadership. “By recognizing our aboriginal rights and titles, True North has helped open a new era in the relationship between the Kaska and the mining industry and pointed the way for a reconciliation that will benefit all Yukoners.”

“The Kaska are open for business,” said Chief Caesar. “This MOU proves what we have always said: The Kaska will support mining as long as we have an opportunity for meaningful participation.” He also said that he was pleased that True North has given job and contract preferences to the Kaska and noted that the Kaska have a number of joint ventures that stand to benefit from the MOU.

(MORE)

True North Gems is a public company, listed on the TSX-Venture Exchange and is engaged in the exploration and development of North American gemstone deposits.

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