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KL Gold expects to hire 250 more people next year

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-Kirkland Lake Gold is anticipating hiring 250 additional people in 2011 as the company moves to phase two of its expansion plans.

Brian Hinchcliffe, President of Kirkland Lake Gold made a presentation to Kirkland Lake council during which he outlined how the company has been successful in recruiting young people to work at the gold mine. Currently the company employs about 500 people in Kirkland Lake.

This has been done through a number of initiatives. One of these is the miners' school operated at Macassa Mine, which Hinchcliffe described as one of the best in Canada. Another is the company offers a \$20,000 forgivable relocation loan if the employee signs a five-year contract. Kirkland Lake Gold also has its own doctor who is available to employees and their families three or four days a month.

Hinchcliffe noted that the younger employees have added greatly to the operation. He said they like to hire local people who they can train up and people who are committed to living in Kirkland Lake long-term.

As well Kirkland Lake Gold hired Grenfell Construction, a local company, to do the foundation work for the new hoist. He said they did an awesome job. When the new hoist is installed the company's ability to hoist ore will go from 1,000 tons a day to 3,600 tons a day and is enough capacity to take the company through to phase three of expansion. The new hoist will also bring added efficiencies to the operation as in situations when a mechanic is needed underground. Under the current hoisting arrangement the mechanic may have to wait two hours or two or three to go underground because the hoist is lifting ore or he might have to wait two or three hours underground to get the hoist back to surface. With the new system Hinchcliffe said it will not only be faster but also safer.

This year Kirkland Lake gold has forecast production of about 100,000 ounces of gold this year and that will increase to about 140,000 to 150,000 next year and then up to 180,000 to 200,000 ounces a year.

The company has also invested in its backfill system with the building of a sand storage facility and there are now three delivery systems for getting the backfill underground.

Hinchcliffe said they have serious ambitions to hire and could build another dry after the current one is complete making space for an additional 200 to 300 people.

Kirkland Mayor Bill Enouy explained to Hinchcliffe that the town has been working on the housing situation for about a year and a half with the development of new lots at the former King George School and at Calbeck but it doesn't fill the need for apartment buildings.

Enouy said what they found is people who want to build apartment buildings want a certain return on their investments and they are trying to convince the developers that this is not a boom and bust situation. The town received money from FedNor to conduct a housing needs study that KL Gold and other mining

companies participated in and at the same time the people who are doing the needs study are trying to contact and builders to come to Kirkland Lake.

The mayor said it isn't an easy sell for example North Bay has been booming for 15 years and they haven't seen a new apartment building built since 1984. Enouy at the way Kirkland Lake Gold is paying its employees and has a long-term plan goes a long way to sell this town as place to build.