

Erdene's Community Development Programs

Peter Akerley¹

Erdene Resource Development Corporation (“Erdene”) is a diversified mineral exploration company focused on metals, coal and construction material. Headquartered in Nova Scotia since 2002, Erdene manages multiple projects at various stages of maturity in North America and Asia. At each of its project sites, Erdene allocates a portion of its project expenses for community development.

Erdene's community development programs provide resources that support capacity building in the communities within which the company operates. Erdene works to improve the quality of life in these communities through targeted assistance in the areas of education, health and livelihood security. Erdene's community development staff co-ordinate outreach and services in co-operation with local stakeholders. Together, they determine which community-led initiatives stand to be most beneficial.

In Canada, Erdene supports the development of young leaders through the Catapult Camp, a summer program in Nova Scotia designed to help youth to succeed both socially and academically.

Erdene's community development program in Mongolia receives special attention due to Mongolia's relatively high levels of poverty and limited social services. Through a consultative process, local stakeholders help Erdene to design, implement and monitor initiatives that benefit the entire community. In 2009, Erdene has helped to promote science education, improve the working environments of schools, clinics and kindergartens, and ensure that vulnerable herdsmen have access to supplemental fodder and feed.

Success in the community is measured and analyzed over time so as to improve project results and promote lessons learned. Through cooperation, communication and perseverance, Erdene helps communities to make informed, responsible choices about the future development of natural resources.

¹President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Erdene Resource Development Corp., 99 Wyse Road, Suite 1480, Dartmouth, NS