



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Bathurst, New Brunswick, February 17, 2010

### **BRUNSWICK MINE REACHES AGREEMENT WITH UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES**

Xstrata Zinc Canada, owner of Brunswick Mine, today announces that employees at the Brunswick Mine, members of United Steelworkers local 5385, have voted in favour of an extension of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement which will expire in February 2011.

The Agreement provides for a three-year extension that will surpass the expected closure of the mine.

Highlights of the Agreement include a wage increase in 2011, an increase in pension benefits as well as an extension of the terms and conditions applicable upon closure of the mining operations.

"We are very pleased that our employees continue to work constructively with us as we continue to prepare ourselves for the eventual closure of the mine. This extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement allows us to better plan our work well into next year," said Greg Ashe, General Manager, Brunswick Mine. "Once the diamond drilling program is completed later this year, we'll know with certainty how much ore there is left to mine, where it's at and what it will cost to mine it, enabling us to establish a more precise date for the closure of the mine."

Brunswick Mine, which is located outside of Bathurst, has been in operation since 1964.

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#### **About Xstrata Zinc**

Xstrata Zinc is the owner of Brunswick Mine and Brunswick Smelter and is one of five global commodity businesses within the Xstrata Group. Xstrata plc is a major global diversified mining group with operations and projects spanning 19 countries, including Canada. Its mission is to grow and manage a diversified portfolio of metals and mining businesses through genuine partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including employees, customers, shareholders, and local communities.