

Beyond the Sea MI trains ERT personnel for Voisey's Bay

The Joint Voisey's Bay Employment and Training Authority (JETA) tapped the Marine Institute to provide Emergency Response Team (ERT) training for 24 of its aboriginal clients in March.. Participants in this training program were provided with the skills necessary to become candidates for the Emergency Response Team at the Voisey's Bay mine site.

JETA is a non-profit organization, providing training opportunities to the Labrador Inuit, Labrador Métis and Innu Nation, in order to prepare individuals for employment at the Voisey's Bay Nickel mine site. The four-week ERT training program was delivered in the Marine Institute's Safety and Emergency and Response Training Centre (SERT Centre).

The Emergency Response Team training program was developed specifically to meet the requirements of JETA. Participants in the program completed training in high angle rescue, fire fighting, first aid, confined space entry and self-contained breathing apparatus. Craig Harnum, one of the instructors in the training program said, "this type of four-week orientation program is an excellent way for an industrial site like Voisey's Bay to introduce new recruits to an Emergency Response Team".

Sherri Russell, training coordinator with JETA, said her organization chose the Marine Institute to do the Emergency Response Team training "because of the Marine Institute's high standards and excellent reputation in providing this kind of training. Marine Institute programs are also accredited and certified. The Marine Institute's SERT Centre in Stephenville has state-of-the-art firefighting facilities and highly qualified staff which will provide the best possible training to JETA clients."

Emergency Response Team training is the third training program that the MI has offered for JETA clients this year. This past summer the Marine Institute offer Stevedoring training (Cargo Handler) in Goose Bay as well as Port Security training in St. John's.