

What is a Canadian Diamond?

- 1) A diamond should be considered a diamond when it is cut. The cutting releases the beauty of a diamond. Without cutting and polishing, a diamond is a relatively unattractive crystal and lacks the identity of its mining source.
- 2) When consumers are looking for a Canadian diamond, I believe they are looking for a diamond that is mined in Canada. My concern with a "Canadian" diamond is being able to provide provenance of the diamond, from the mine, through the cutter, polisher and distributor to the customer. Until we can determine the pedigree, is a Canadian diamond?
- 3) I feel purchasers are seeking a diamond that is mined in Canada. The fact that some Canadian diamonds are also cut in Canada is a bonus feature. Most people are attracted to the fact that some Canadian diamonds are also cut by Canadians.... It seems to be added value that these diamond enterprises are supporting other Canadians. As a jeweller, I feel that the cutting of the diamond is the most important and value added process in the life of the diamond. Therefore, we look for a diamond that is also cut in Canada to call it Canadian.
- 4) Industry practice dictates that a gem is referred to as the place where the gem is mined; for example, a sapphire may be Sri Lankan or a ruby may be Burmese although polished in Thailand. Conversely, diamonds differ from gems in that they are refer to the place they are polished; for example a "Belgium" denotes diamond polished in Belgium, or "Indian" denotes a diamond polished but not mined in India.

John Van de Kamer
Guelph, Ontario
519-821-7982

