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**MINES MINISTERS' FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK
FOR ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2006-07**

INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Regulatory Issues Related to Minerals and Metals

Proposal:

Improve the regulatory framework so that it is consistent, timely, predictable, early staged, effective in protecting the environment, and coordinated with all levels of government by:

1. Better defining the issues and challenges associated with the current regulatory system for mining in Canada;
2. Determining what regulatory streamlining efforts are currently being undertaken by the federal, provincial and territorial governments;
3. Developing a consensus on what issues are most significant and can be effectively dealt with through the Mines Ministers' forum; and
4. Developing proposals for specific projects to be considered at Mines Ministers' Conference 2007.

As part of the work plan, an Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry (IGWG) committee would be formed and a workshop would be held in early 2007.

Lead:

Saskatchewan/Ontario.

Partners:

Including as key partners: Natural Resources Canada; British Columbia.

Potential Partners:

Energy Ministers; Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Environment Canada; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; Transport Canada.

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Deliverables:

1. Define the issues and challenges associated with the current regulatory system for mining in Canada.
2. Determine what regulatory streamlining efforts are currently being undertaken by the federal, provincial and territorial governments.
3. Develop a consensus on what issues are most significant and can be effectively dealt with through the Mines Ministers' forum.
4. Develop proposals for projects to be considered at Mines Ministers' Conference 2007.

Timeline:

To report to Mines Ministers' Conference 2007.

Status of Resources/Funding:

Within current governments' resource levels or cost shared.

Provincial/Territorial Engagement:

Likely high.

Next Steps/Approval:

Mines Ministers' endorsement of committee and workshop.

CAPACITY AND SKILLS

Pilot Information Sessions on Exploration and Mining for Aboriginal Communities

Proposal:

The purpose of this proposal is to improve Aboriginal peoples' and communities' understanding of mining activities and help them build their capacity to fully participate in and take advantage of the economic opportunities available.

The proposal involves organizing and delivering information sessions on mining and exploration to interested Aboriginal communities across Canada (e.g., British

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Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Manitoba) in partnership with provincial/territorial governments, mining associations, Aboriginal representatives, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Lead:

Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Partners:

Participating provinces and territories (e.g., British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, etc.); national and provincial/territorial mining associations; and the IGWG Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Participation in the Mineral Industry.

Potential Partners:

Other relevant provincial/territorial departments, Aboriginal organizations/associations; Aboriginal communities.

Deliverables:

1. One session on exploration and mining delivered in a targeted Aboriginal community in British Columbia.
2. One session on exploration and mining delivered in a targeted Aboriginal community in the North (e.g., Northwest Territories).

Timeline:

2006-2007.

Status of Support Resources/Funding:

Within current Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada resource levels for their involvement.

Provincial/Territorial Engagement:

Seek provincial/territorial support and engagement in delivery of joint information sessions.

Next Steps/Approval:

Confirm engagement of participating jurisdictions. Requires the support and participation of the IGWG Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Participation in the Mineral Industry.

INNOVATION

Sharing Information on Mine Reclamation and Closure Standards, Best Practices and Guidelines

Proposal:

The intent of this proposal is to prepare a Web-accessible information resource of standards, guidelines and best practices used by industry and recognized by provincial, territorial and the federal governments for the reclamation and closure of mines in Canada.

Background:

There exists throughout the mining industry and within the provincial, territorial and federal government jurisdictions of Canada a variety of standards, guidelines and best practices pertaining to the reclamation and closure of Canadian mines. The methods and procedures used for mine reclamation and closure can be varied, depending on site-specific conditions and local legislation and policies. Many common issues related to reclamation and closure arise across the country. A reference of recognized mine reclamation and closure practices across Canada would be beneficial for industry, First Nations and governments.

This reference is not intended to be a document of written procedures, nor is it intended to lead toward universal standards or guidelines. The information resource is intended to share information on standards, guidelines and best practices across Canada. The web site portal would provide access to individual jurisdictions and industry sites in an organized manner to facilitate the retrieval of relevant information on aspects of mine reclamation and closure.

This Web-based information resource would build on the Mine Environmental Neutral Drainage (MEND) Program's information resources, which would form a subset of the overall information relating to mine reclamation and closure.

The information resource could also provide links to examples of successful mine closure projects. In addition, it could provide links to potential research that may affect evolving best practices, such as the potential for carbon absorption in various mine reclamation techniques.

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This information resource will assist governments, proponents and others to:

- Facilitate sustainable mining through environmentally and socially sensitive strategies for mine reclamation and closure;
- Mitigate risk to the public; and
- Facilitate mine reclamation and closure planning and reviews.

Deliverables:

A Web-based portal would be developed and made available that will provide an organizational structure for the major issues related to mine reclamation and closure, and provide Internet-based links to those provincial, territorial, federal and industry information sites documenting standards, guidelines and best practices.

The first phase of the work would involve development of the organizational structure of the Web portal and the identification of already existing information, whether already on the Internet or in paper format, that is relevant in each jurisdiction and with industry. A possible future phase would involve work to identify information gaps or overlaps.

Partners:

The Yukon, New Brunswick and British Columbia would lead this initiative under the umbrella of the Directors of Mines Committee. In addition, the project team would collaborate with the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Initiative to ensure no duplication or overlap of effort and that its interests are addressed where appropriate.

Next Steps:

1. Approval of project proposal at Mines Ministers' Conference on August 29, 2006.
2. Develop and prepare Terms of Reference as the basis for Requests for Proposals in the development of the organizational structure of a Web-based portal and the research and compilation of information already available across the country. This will involve extensive communications with all FPT partners and industry through the Directors of Mines Committee.
3. Review proposals and select successful bidder to conduct the project.
4. Identify sources of funding to execute the project.

Timeline:

Two years.