

Towards Sustainable Mining Framework

Mining and Aboriginal Peoples

Several Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Guiding Principles have direct applicability to the relationship between mining companies and Aboriginal Peoples (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) and indigenous peoples worldwide. We believe that our industry and Aboriginal communities share a common interest in ensuring that mining activity takes place responsibly, in a manner that creates economic opportunity, is respectful of community interests and protects the environment and ensures public safety. MAC members also recognize that we need to conduct our interactions with Aboriginal peoples in a manner that reflects the particular interests of the communities where they reside. We also recognize that governments play an important role in enabling effective relationships between Aboriginal peoples and the mining industry.

Member companies of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) have agreed to the following commitments with respect to our relationships with Aboriginal Peoples. We will:

- Respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights and seek to understand local perspectives on those rights;
- Acknowledge and respect the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of Aboriginal Peoples;
- Engage with Aboriginal Peoples, in accordance with the *TSM Guiding Principles*, to develop open and effective relationships throughout the mining lifecycle. This includes:
 - building cross-cultural understanding so that company personnel understand Aboriginal Peoples' culture, values and aspirations, and Aboriginal Peoples understand the company's principles, objectives, operations and practices;
 - undertaking early, timely and culturally appropriate engagement with Aboriginal Peoples, including within the environmental assessment process, to ensure their interests in a project and its potential impacts are understood;
 - consideration of traditional knowledge to minimize or mitigate potential adverse environmental and social impacts, and enhance positive benefits, of mining and related activities;
 - developing agreements for participation, where appropriate, either directly with local Aboriginal communities or in conjunction with governments;
 - working with governments and communities to support and encourage community development programs, which may include education, training, health, culture, employment and business development or other community needs and priorities, such as capacity building;
 - supporting and encouraging Aboriginal involvement in environmental monitoring, closure planning and reclamation and other environmental activities that may be of interest to them; and
- Develop and implement company policies and systems that support these commitments and encourage suppliers of goods and services to the industry to do the same.

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