

## Towards Sustainable Mining Framework

### Mining and Indigenous Peoples

Several *Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)* Guiding Principles have direct applicability to the relationship between mining companies and Indigenous peoples (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) and Indigenous peoples worldwide. We believe that our industry and Indigenous 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, protects the environment and ensures public safety. Mining Association of Canada (MAC) members also recognize that we need to conduct our interactions with Indigenous 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 Indigenous peoples and the mining industry.

Member companies of MAC have agreed to the following commitments with respect to our relationships with Indigenous peoples. We will:

- Respect Indigenous and treaty rights and seek to understand local perspectives on those rights;
- Acknowledge and respect the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of Indigenous peoples;
- Engage with Indigenous 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 Indigenous peoples' culture, values and aspirations, and Indigenous peoples understand the company's principles, objectives, operations and practices;
  - undertaking early, timely and culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous peoples, including within the environmental assessment process, to ensure their interests in a project and its potential impacts are understood;
  - aiming to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of directly affected Indigenous peoples before proceeding with new projects or expansions where impacts to rights may occur;
  - 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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous involvement in environmental monitoring, closure planning and reclamation and other environmental activities that may be of interest to them;
  - ensuring that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to opportunities with the company; and
  - developing and implementing 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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