

Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies

Ministers agreed to re-affirm their support for the *Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies Across Canada* as an initiative that will benefit all regions of Canada and help to improve Canada's position in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Ministers also agreed to continue to seek the necessary funding to make the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies a reality.

Aboriginal Participation in the Mineral Industry

Ministers agreed that the Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Participation in the Mineral Industry continue to focus on communicating and sharing information through its national network and working with national/industry organizations and government agencies.

Ministers agreed that the Sub-Committee should highlight and use successful projects/best practices on Aboriginal participation in the mineral industry as national models of success.

Ministers endorsed the recommendation that the Sub-Committee identify and develop strategies to address common barriers and gaps (real and artificial) to Aboriginal participation in the mineral industry.

Ministers agreed that the Sub-Committee participate in the development of a National Aboriginal Human Resources in Mining Strategy with the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (formerly known as the Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council - Canada).

Financial Surety

Ministers supported the Directors of Mines Committee's intentions to pursue financial surety issues in more detail as part of the overall review of reclamation securities and, where warranted, make appropriate recommendations to ministers at the 2006 Mines Ministers' Conference. This and the continued efforts of the Directors of Mines Committee will serve as a means to facilitate future harmonization of legislation where it is deemed appropriate to do so.

Regulatory Process

Ministers endorsed the recommendation that the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry (IGWG) report progress on these matters to ministers at their 2006 conference.

IGWG members are to identify any regulatory issue of interest to the mining sector and to share information with all jurisdictions to better understand the significance and consequences of these initiatives.

Implementation of the National Diamond Strategy

Provincial and territorial ministers reported their decision to invite the federal government to participate in the implementation of the National Diamond Strategy by joining the Multi-Stakeholder Coordinating Body for that purpose.

NEW INITIATIVES

In addition to the action items based on the recommendations from 2004, ministers agreed upon the following new initiatives:

Mineral Statistics

Ministers heard the importance of mineral statistics in providing the basis for informed policy and decision-making. Provinces and territories were encouraged to continue collaboration with the federal government through memoranda of understanding on the collection and use of mineral statistics.

Ministers agreed that the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Mineral Statistics should report on its activities at future meetings.

Viability of Mining Communities

Mines Ministers heard an urgent request to address mining communities across Canada whose viability is being threatened by such factors as depleting reserves and global competitiveness. Deep drilling incentives, research and development in deep mining and processing technologies, and continued excellence in geoscience were all identified as possible solutions to maintaining the viability of mining communities.

Ministers agreed to strike a working group and asked that this working group continue to pursue the theme, *The Viability of Mining Communities*, and report back on a regular basis.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING IN WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Ministers accepted the invitation delivered by Minister Archie Lang to convene from August 27 to August 30, 2006, for the 63rd Mines Ministers' Conference.

