

Manitoba Mining Advisory Council

Context

In November 2013, the Government of Manitoba launched the Manitoba's Mining Advisory Council (MMAC), a collaborative mechanism to develop a better understanding of the barriers to First Nation involvement in the mineral resource sector, establish respectful relationships that can help address barriers, and ensure responsible mineral resource development. The MMAC is a forum led by the Manitoba Minister of Mineral Resources with membership from First Nations Chiefs and mining industry executives. The MMAC is supported by a working group consisting of representatives from First Nations, industry and the provincial government.



Lead: Government, industry, and community (Man.)

Steps of the Mineral Development Sequence: Pre-exploration, exploration, development, operation, closure, post-closure

Key Finding: The Manitoba's Mining Advisory Council is a good practice in community engagement and readiness as it provides a collaborative mechanism to help better understand and address the barriers to First Nation involvement in the mineral resource sector.

Description of Measures Implemented

A Declaration of Priorities (the Declaration) was written by all parties and approved in a formal ceremony by members of the MMAC at the Manitoba Mining Convention in November 2014. The Declaration sets out the MMAC's shared goals for future work, including:

- Recognizing that First Nation participation in the mineral development sequence is governed by a set of principles based on a self-governing and self-determining vision of reconciliation that acknowledges treaty and Aboriginal rights and shared jurisdictions. These principles overlook all projects and regions of Manitoba.
- Developing government-to-government resource revenue sharing mechanisms.
- Improving Crown-Aboriginal consultation and accommodation policies, procedures and timelines appropriate to the various stages of the mineral development sequence.
- Establishing a First Nation Economic Development Corporation specific to resource-based business development and entrepreneurship.
- Developing a roadmap for consideration of resource benefits and a guide for proponent engagement with Aboriginal communities appropriate to the various stages of the mineral development sequence.

The MMAC brings key leaders together to increase First Nation participation in the mineral resource industry. Currently, 10 of the 63 acknowledged First Nations communities in Manitoba are members of the council. Mechanisms to obtain further input and participation from the remaining 53 First Nations will be developed.

The Government of Manitoba has also reached out to the Manitoba Métis Federation to discuss the idea of a forum intended to engage Manitoba's Métis Nation in discussions regarding the enhancement of its participation in province's mineral industry.

Results

The Declaration affirms the existing treaty and Aboriginal rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada. It further recognizes that government, First Nations and industry share common goals in promoting economic potential as well as protecting the environment in traditional land-use areas. First Nations are looking for meaningful economic opportunities, while Manitoba and the mining sector are looking at ways to improve and establish a clear and effective process for information-sharing and meaningful Crown-Aboriginal consultation. MMAC provides a collaborative mechanism where challenges and solutions can be discussed to help facilitate First Nation involvement in the mineral resource sector.

Lessons Learned

Ensuring regular communications among government, industry and communities is essential to building and maintaining relationships. Moreover, equally beneficial land access in traditional land areas is facilitated when representatives from government, Aboriginal communities and the mineral industry work together as a council.

For more information:

Linda A. Murphy

Aboriginal Issues Policy Analyst

Manitoba Mineral Resources

Linda.Murphy@gov.mb.ca