Socio-Economic Monitoring Program and Framework

Context

The Minto Mine is an open pit and underground copper mine located in Yukon and operated by Minto Explorations Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Capstone Mining Corporation. Exploration was conducted over several decades prior to commercial production, which commenced in 2007. The mine is located on Selkirk First Nation (SFN) Category A settlement land. The SFN government and people reside in the rural community of Pelly Crossing, Yukon. In July 1997, the SFN signed off on their land claim at Minto Landing, making them the seventh self-governing First Nation in Yukon.



and Framework is considered a good practice in community engagement and readiness as governments, proponents and communities work together to address valued socio-economic conditions that are affected by mineral development.

When an expansion of the mine was proposed in 2010, the Yukon Economic and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) recommended the implementation of a Socio-Economic Monitoring Program and Framework (SEMP) to monitor the mine's impact on local communities with a focus on the SFN. The SFN, Minto Explorations Ltd. and the Government of Yukon worked together to develop the SEMP. Its objectives are to identify common and overlapping interests of the parties, enhance positive benefits, and avoid or minimize adverse effects of the mine on the community.

Description of Measures Implemented

The SEMP was finalized by all the parties in the fourth quarter of 2014 and included provisions for financial contributions and resources to ensure the ongoing support of the program. Implementation began later in the fourth quarter of 2014, and the first annual report will be finalized in 2015.

The SEMP addresses valued socio-economic conditions that are affected or potentially affected directly and indirectly by the Minto Mine in the following areas:

- population and heath
- material well-being
- capacity, training and education
- cultural well-being
- sustainability and legacy

¹ Category A Settlement Land is settlement land where a Yukon First Nation has ownership of the surface and subsurface, including minerals. All staking, exploration and mining activNoteity is governed by the First Nations for new mineral interests.

The SEMP will be carried out through the following activities:

- Qualitative and quantitative data over time sourced by the Minto Mine (mine-specific socio-economic data), the SFN (SFN-specific data including a community survey every five years) and the Yukon government (Pelly Crossing and Yukon-wide data).
- Integrated data sets.
- Community roundtable discussions.
- Independent analysis.
- Multiple party review of analysis and contribution to recommendations for mitigations and enhancement.
- Annual reporting.
- Adaptive management responses.

An annual reporting cycle has been built into the framework of the program to ensure that the results of the data collection and recommendations are documented and followed up on a year-to-year basis and action is taken through adaptive management responses to mitigate any unforeseen negative impacts.

Results

Through the process of developing the SEMP and implementing the first phase of the program, trust has been built between the three parties, along with greater confidence in judgements made. This has helped reduce the uncertainty that SFN may have had regarding impacts from the mine.

Lessons Learned

Understanding changes in the community in the context of mineral resource development is essential. A feedback mechanism that is evidence-based provides a useful tool to community decision makers, governments and industry to help quickly identify adaptive measures that can enhance positive outcomes for the community and mitigate negative impacts.resilience of a community and the comprehension of socioeconomic impacts.

For more information:

Socio-Economic Monitoring Framework and

Program: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/pdf/mml_minto_socioeconomic_monitoring_program.pdf

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