

A Community Consultation Guide for Prospectors and Mineral Exploration Companies Working in Nova Scotia

Context

Access to lands and capital for mineral exploration is increasingly tied to community acceptance and participation. Therefore, Nova Scotia is asking prospectors and mineral exploration companies to strengthen their community consultation process by adopting a voluntary good practices approach.

Description of Measures Implemented

The Mineral Resources Branch (MRB) of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR), the Ecology Action Centre, the Mining Association of Nova Scotia, and the Sierra Club of Canada have jointly created a community consultation guide for prospectors and mineral exploration companies. The guide provides a succinct review of when and how companies should engage with individuals and communities. The degree and nature of the consultation required are linked to the potential impact that various types of exploration activities could have on a community.

Results

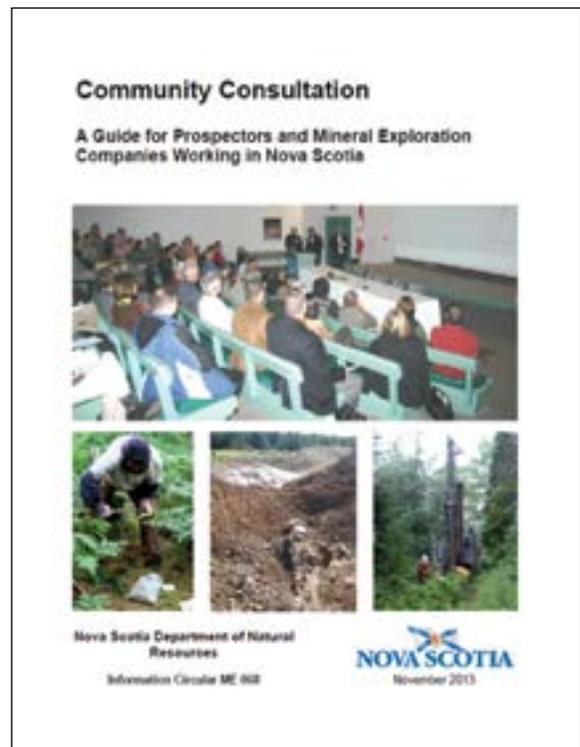
The release of the guide in September 2013 has helped increase awareness of the need to improve community consultation. However, this has not yet led to widespread adherence to the good practices contained in the guide. Workshops and presentations are being provided to strengthen the capacity of prospectors and exploration companies to undertake community consultation.

Lessons Learned

The collaborative process used to create the guide greatly improved trust and communication between government, environmental non-government organizations (ENGO), and the mineral industry. This increased trust has led to high participation rates by industry in government and ENGO-led workshops focusing on community engagement.

Creating a jurisdiction-specific guide for good practices related to community consultation is an important first step in helping to improve community engagement and readiness for mineral resource development.

Pre-exploration	Exploration	Development	Operation	Closure	Post-closure
<p>Leads: Government, industry, and environmental non-government organizations (N.S.)</p> <p>Step of the Mineral Development Sequence: Exploration</p> <p>Key Finding: Creating a jurisdiction-specific guide for good practices around community consultation is an important first step in helping to improve community engagement and community readiness for mineral resource development.</p>					



For more information:

Government of Nova Scotia's Community Consultation Guide

novascotia.ca/natr/meb/data/pubs/ic/ic68.pdf

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