

Response to the
Co-Chairs' Report on
Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol

MANITOBA-FIRST NATIONS MINERAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

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Message from the Minister, Growth, Enterprise and Trade

Tansi, Bozhoo, Masi-Cho

Greetings on behalf of the Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba.

As Minister for Growth, Enterprise and Trade and as part of my mandate, I am excited to introduce a detailed action plan and response to the June 2018 co-chairs' report presented to government by co-chairs Ron Evans, former chief of Norway House Cree Nation, and Jim Downey, former Manitoba deputy premier and cabinet minister.

The **Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Action Plan** represents a distinctive milestone in the future of the north and strongly complements the Look North initiative and our province-wide Economic Growth Action Plan. Importantly, the Action Plan builds on our ongoing commitment to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Manitobans.

To move forward for 2019-20, I am pleased to announce grant funding is available to support First Nations to develop and implement a Mineral Development Protocol in consultation with Manitoba Resource Development.

The Action Plan includes several highlights including a Shared Management Approach to identify opportunities to work in partnership with First Nations on the strategic development of mineral resources, a reconciliation approach to Historic Mine Site Rehabilitation, an Indigenous Mineral Education program, and a Proponent Guide to Indigenous Engagement, and more.

Revitalizing communities and our valuable mining and minerals sector go hand in hand. As the new Action Plan gets underway, let's commit to building a brighter future in Manitoba's north for the benefit of all Manitobans.

We're stronger together.

Sincerely,

Blaine Pederson,
Growth, Enterprise and Trade

Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol Co-Chairs' Report and Recommendations

The Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Action Plan is a detailed response to the co-chairs' report.

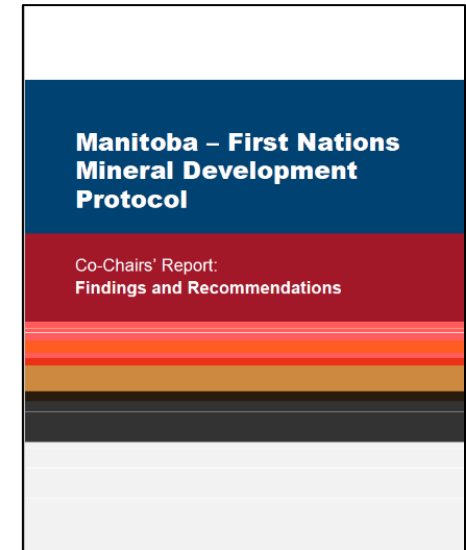
On June 15, 2018 the Manitoba government released the co-chairs' report on the Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol. The report was presented to government by co-chairs Ron Evans, former chief of Norway House Cree Nation, and Jim Downey, former Manitoba deputy premier and cabinet minister.

The report includes key findings and recommendations on ways to create certainty in order to advance mineral development projects in a timely way.

The co-chairs engaged First Nations leadership, industry representatives and stakeholders to develop the protocol, which defines how consultations would occur during all phases of mineral development, from initial exploration to mine development and reclamation.

The report includes a proposed Crown-Aboriginal Consultation Process Guide and Matrix for mineral development, and sets out clear timeframes. It also identifies opportunities to strengthen partnerships and better prepare First Nations to be active partners throughout the mineral development cycle.

The co-chairs' Report is available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/iem/mines>





Reconciliation Calls to Action

The Manitoba government has committed to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Manitobans.

Manitoba aims to advance reconciliation through a renewed relationship with Indigenous partners and implementation of the Calls to Action that are within our mandate.

This includes:

- Reviewing Policies, Programs and Services to Recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Reflect Cooperation and Partnership
- Providing Management and Staff at Manitoba Resource Development with Professional Development and Training
- Acknowledging Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Practices
- Encouraging Industry Partners to Engage Early and Regularly with Indigenous Peoples Located within Project Areas



First Nations Mineral Development Protocol Funding

For 2019-20, funding will be made available to support First Nations to develop and implement a Mineral Development Protocol in consultation with Manitoba's Resource Development Division. Funding will be available to support technical assistance, meeting costs, and coordination.



Shared Management Approach

Growth, Enterprise and Trade will identify opportunities to work in partnership with First Nations on the strategic development of mineral resources. This may include designation of Mineral Management Areas and the development of Mineral Resource Management Agreements with partner First Nations.

Key features of the approach would include establishing a mineral development protocol for Crown-Aboriginal Consultation, introducing a coordinated approach to consultation, establishing a common table for Provincial and First Nation decision makers (similar to resource management boards), and single window access to service for mineral exploration and development companies to engage with First Nations governments.



Federal-Provincial Collaboration

Growth, Enterprise and Trade has been in discussions with Indigenous Services Canada on potential opportunities for capacity development initiatives for First Nations with mineral development potential.

A focus of a Federal-Provincial Collaboration will be to establish a collaborative model for meaningful First Nations participation that supports communities to become actively involved in all phases of, and ultimately benefitting from, mineral development.

Growth, Enterprise and Trade will continue to work with Indigenous Services Canada to identify additional program partnerships for a Federal-Provincial Collaboration. Future steps will bring key partners together to review opportunities.



Reconciliation Approach to Historic Mine Site Rehabilitation

Mine closure is the fourth and final stage of the mining cycle, occurring when a site has run out of minerals to extract or if it is no longer profitable to mine a site. Typically, mine closure/mine rehabilitation lasts between two and ten years, but it can be much longer if long-term monitoring is required.

Growth, Enterprise and Trade will work with Indigenous communities to engage local stakeholders in active involvement in the historic mine sites rehabilitation process as an act of reconciliation.

The approach will work to address the concerns received from Indigenous communities who have stated that development needs to be done in a sustainable way that ensures there is a balance in protecting the land, resources and the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights for the benefit of future generations.



Indigenous Mineral Education Program

Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade has been in discussions with post-secondary institutions on the potential for a community-training program that improves mining readiness for First Nations resource management partners.

The initiative would be a direct complement to the department's efforts to develop Consultation Protocols in partnership with First Nations by engaging external partnerships that build First Nations capacity and improve the ability to identify and respond to mineral development opportunities.

Training initiatives are important for establishing knowledge and awareness for First Nations points-of-contact. Ensuring the integration of mineral resource development into data-driven land-use planning could have a positive impact on community review processes that affect regulatory decision-making.



Proponent Guide to Indigenous Engagement

The Manitoba government is developing a proponent's guide to Indigenous engagement. This resource will provide proponents of major resource projects with information about the importance of early and meaningful engagement with First Nations, Métis communities, or other Indigenous communities.

When industry engages early with Indigenous communities, the result is improved relationships, trust, and better understanding of the project proposed.

Industry benefits from early engagement with Indigenous groups by developing a better understanding of the interests and concerns of the people who live in the project area. This understanding enhances project planning and helps proponents to discuss practical strategies for maximizing the project's potential positive impacts, while eliminating or mitigating any potential negative consequences.

Engagement with Indigenous communities early in the planning and design phases of a proposed project helps improve certainty and reduce instances of project delays.



Liaison Committee on Mining and Exploration

This committee will consist of Manitobans who will provide information, advice and recommendations to the Manitoba Government, through the Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade.

The committee will provide an important role in providing ongoing dialogue with First Nations and the mining sector, and will guide the implementation of key initiatives, including the Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol. The committee will also offer advice on land use planning and regulatory regime, orphaned and abandoned mines, relationship building with communities, and exploration challenges and solutions.