



**MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Room 165
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

JAN 14 2021

Shastri Ramnath
Chair, Manitoba Liaison Committee on Mining and Exploration (MLCME)
Shastri.Ramnath@exirominerals.com

Dear Shastri Ramnath:

I am pleased to inform you that the request for extension of the doubling of assessment credits for work on mining claims and mineral exploration licenses will be granted for 2021. This extension is in recognition of the need to continue with the economic recovery measures recommended by the MLCME industry representatives in May 2020, to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Manitoba's Mineral exploration and mining economy.

As we begin a new year, we may also reflect on the progress made in 2020 to respond, mitigate and adapt to continue industry advancement in Manitoba, including: Virtual engagement and Consultation with Indigenous communities; coordinated permitting processes that included extensions and renewals wherever possible; extensions of time for work on claims; public health and safety work plans to access sites; and doubling of work assessment credits to hold claims in good standing.

While Manitoba has committed to a new single window permitting system that will streamline and enhance the process for fit-to-form permits that reflect the life of the project, we also continue to work with the MLCME on policy solutions to ongoing challenges and the promotion of the sector in Manitoba including investment opportunities and the incredible mineral potential. We recently released the 2020 report of activities <https://www.manitoba.ca/iem/geo/field/index> of the Manitoba Geological Survey that highlights ongoing collaboration between government, industry, and academia to discover and explore Manitoba's mineral potential.

We recognize the next immediate action to mitigate impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic is to continue with the doubling of assessment credits, with the same conditions as in 2020.

For information about eligibility for work assessment credits, the department contact is Mr. Shaun Gallagher, Assessment Geologist, and he can be reached at 204-794-2609 or by email at shaun.gallagher@gov.mb.ca.

We understand that this continues to be a very challenging time for the industry, therefore, we will also be reviewing the request for extension of time on mining claims and mineral exploration licenses moving forward beyond April 30, 2021, as previously communicated in the May 1, 2020 letter to the MLCME on Covid-19 pandemic response measures.

I would like to again extend our appreciation for the pro-active efforts of the Manitoba Liaison Committee on Mining and Exploration to identify impact mitigation and economic recovery measures related to COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Honourable Blaine Pedersen

- c. Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Resource Development
Peter Mraz, Director of Regulatory Services
Tom Lewis, Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association
Stephen Masson, Manitoba Saskatchewan Prospectors and Developers Association
Richard Trudeau, Mining Association of Manitoba Inc.
Jamie Wilson, Community Economic Development Fund