



# Minerals FAQs

## **Which Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department will be responsible for administration of mineral exploration and mine operations activities after Devolution?**

On April 1, 2014, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will be responsible for administration of mineral exploration activities (mineral tenure, royalties) under the modernized *Northwest Territories (NWT) Mining Regulations*. Mine operations activities (e.g. water and land use) will continue to be regulated under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), which will remain a federal responsibility.

ITI will continue to have responsibility for the negotiation and administration of Socio-Economic Agreements and facilitating and enabling employment and business development associated with mineral exploration and mine development and operations.

## **What will happen to existing prospecting permits, mineral claims and mining leases after Devolution?**

The Devolution Agreement specifies that existing interests will continue under the same terms and conditions that were in effect at the time of transfer and will remain in effect until the interest is surrendered or lapses. Active mineral tenure on public lands will be administered by the GNWT after Transfer Date.

Certain parcels of lands (surface and/or subsurface) will remain under federal administration post-Devolution. Mineral claims and mining leases within these parcels will continue to be administered by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). Permit and lease holders have been notified as to which jurisdiction will be their administrator. If you have not received your notification, please contact the Mining Recorder's Office.

## **How will I differentiate between federal lands and territorial (NWT public lands) after the Transfer Date?**

Under the Devolution Agreement, the majority of lands in the NWT will be under the administration and control of the GNWT. Certain parcels in the NWT will not fall under territorial administration, including settlement lands (e.g., lands that are the responsibility of Aboriginal governments pursuant to a settled land claim) or waste sites being retained by AANDC. The Mining Recorder's Office will host a map tool, available through GeoViewer, that will allow you to view claims and will identify parcels of lands that fall under different jurisdictions.

## **Where will the Mining Recorder's Office be located?**

The Mining Recorder's Office will be part of the new Mineral Resources Division within ITI and will remain at its existing location in the Gallery Building, located in Yellowknife, NWT.

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## **How do I get a Prospecting Licence after April 1, 2014?**

Licences for public lands will be administered by the GNWT but new and existing licences on federal lands will continue to be administered by AANDC. Current licence holders have been notified as to which jurisdiction will administer their licence. If you have not received your notification, please contact the Mining Recorder's Office.

You will still go to the Mining Recorder's Office to get your Prospecting Licence.

## **How will I stake a claim that falls across the NWT and Nunavut?**

Trans-boundary claims will no longer be accepted after Devolution. If you are staking claims near the NWT/Nunavut border, you will be required to stake wholly on one side or the other.

Existing trans-boundary claims will be split as they will be administered by separate jurisdictions after the transfer. You will be notified about your respective division before March 31, 2014 and which jurisdiction will administer areas of your claim.

## **What legislation is transferring to the GNWT?**

AANDC's current *Northwest Territories and Nunavut Mining Regulations* (NTNMRs) are being modernized and will be separated; one set for NWT and one for Nunavut. The GNWT will be adopting and mirroring the modernized *NWT Mining Regulations* to ensure a seamless transfer.

## **How will Devolution affect royalty rates?**

The GNWT will collect royalties following the transfer. There will be no changes to the royalty rates established under the *NWT Mining Regulations* for the foreseeable future.

## **Who do I talk to about administration of royalties?**

ITI will be responsible for the administration of the royalty regime established under the *NWT Mining Regulations* and has established a Division – Financial Analysis and Royalties Administration – that will be responsible for royalty administration. Key senior management, including a Director, have been hired.

## **What will happen to securities after Devolution?**

Where the administration and control of a licence or permit transfers to the GNWT, the GNWT will also administer the associated security. ITI will administer securities associated with mineral claims and mining leases.

Securities (i.e. work deposits) held by the Mining Recorder's Office will be transferred to the GNWT. The Prospecting Permit Guidelines, issued this year, include instructions to make any non-cash deposits for permit applications payable to the GNWT (as they would only become active after April 1, 2014).

## **How will ITI accommodate its new responsibilities related to mineral resources?**

To accommodate its new functions and responsibilities following the transfer, ITI has redesigned its organizational structure, to become effective April 1, 2014.

To assist with the transfer, the Department has hired several key senior managers. Additionally, 100 per cent of regional federal employees in transferring programs have accepted positions within the Mineral Resources Division, the NWT Geoscience Office and the new Client and Community Relations unit.

A new Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) responsible for Minerals and Petroleum Resources has been created. Deborah Archibald, current ADM, Devolution Implementation, will assume this role after transfer. She has extensive experience within the GNWT, including Director of Minerals, Oil and Gas for seven years. Her current role, coupled with her recent work placement with the federal government, equips her with the knowledge to oversee ITI's new Mineral and Petroleum Resources unit and implement transferring functions.

A new Financial Analysis and Royalty Administration (FARA) division will be responsible for the management, administration and collection of resource royalties. Rhona Stanislaus, who has begun as Director, has over 12 years' experience working in the north and providing financial analysis for the Territory's Ekati diamond mine, including the mine's royalty return submissions.

For more information on ITI's organizational redesign and for a list of key contacts, visit:

<http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/devolution/orgdesign>.