



PROPOSED POLICY INTENTIONS TO FULFILL THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL RESOURCES ACT
TRANSITIONAL POLICY INTENTIONS AND THE MINERAL RIGHTS REVIEW BOARD

OBJECTIFS STRATÉGIQUES PROPOSÉS POUR METTRE EN ŒUVRE LA LOI SUR LES
RESSOURCES MINÉRALES DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
LES OBJECTIFS STRATÉGIQUES TRANSITOIRES ET LE COMITÉ DE RÉVISION SUR LES DROITS MINIERS

Le présent document contient la traduction française de l'introduction.

Government of Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

K'áhshó got'jne xádá k'é hederi ɻedɻhtl'é yeriniwé ni dé dúle.

Dene Kádá

ɻerihtl'is Dëne Sɻiné yati t'a huts'elkér xa beyáyatı theɻqá ɻat'e, nuwe ts'ën yólti.

Dëne Sɻiné

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhatié k'éé edat'léh enahddhę nide naxets'é edahíi.

Dene Zhatié

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinohthan jí', diits'at ginohkhii.

Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Inuvialuktun

Ć'adı ɻıɻıbádá ɻarɻıɻı ɻaɻıɻı ɻıɻıɻı ɻıɻıɻı.

Inuktitut

Hapkuá titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

kíspin ki nitawihtin é níhíyawihk óma ácimówin, tipwásinan.

néhiyawéwin

Tɬıchq yati k'èè. Dı wegodi newq dè, gots'o gonede.

Tɬıchq

Indigenous Languages

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Introduction

In 2014, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) inherited the responsibilities for mineral resource administration from the federal government through the enactment of the ***Northwest Territories Devolution Act***. While this transfer marked a significant shift in governmental oversight, the **administration of mineral tenure**—spanning from exploration and discovery through mine development, construction, operation, and eventual closure and remediation—has remained largely unchanged for decades.

Upon devolution, the existing **federal Northwest Territories Mining Regulations** were mirrored and adopted under GNWT jurisdiction. These regulations are now administered by the GNWT in **collaboration with Indigenous governments**, as set out in the ***2014 Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management***. This agreement established a framework for cooperation and coordination on matters related to land and resource management, while fully respecting the autonomy and decision-making authority of each government involved.

Since then, a collaborative process has been underway to modernize the regulatory regime. The ***Mineral Resources Act (MRA)***, passed in 2019 by the Legislative Assembly of the NWT, provides the foundation for this transformation. The accompanying summary of proposed **Mineral Resources Regulations**, developed through extensive collaboration, are designed to implement the goals of the MRA and reflect the values and priorities of residents, communities, and Indigenous governments.

As the NWT moves forward, the **exploration and mining environment will undergo significant change**. The new regulatory approach aims to reflect **global best practices**, while aligning with the **unique environmental, social, and economic context** of the territory. The modernized regime seeks to support responsible development, promote sustainable land use, and ensure that the benefits of mineral resources are shared equitably among all people in the Northwest Territories.

The mutually shared *MRA* goals, as outlined in the purpose section of the *MRA*, are to:

1. regulate mineral interests efficiently, effectively and in a transparent manner;
2. support the economy of the Northwest Territories;
3. realize benefits from mineral development for Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the people of the Northwest Territories;
4. ensure that wealth generated by mineral resources will be used for the benefit of present and future generations of the people of the Northwest Territories;
5. encourage positive relationships between proponents, Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the Government of NWT;
6. respect Aboriginal and treaty rights;
7. complement the systems for collaborative management of land and natural resources in the Northwest Territories;
8. improve geological knowledge in the territory; and
9. recognize sustainable land use.

Introduction

En 2014, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a hérité des responsabilités du gouvernement fédéral en ce qui a trait à l'administration des ressources minérales lors de l'entrée en vigueur de la ***Loi sur le transfert de responsabilités aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest***. Bien que ce transfert ait marqué un changement important dans la supervision gouvernementale, **l'administration des titres miniers** – qui va de l'exploration et la découverte à l'établissement, la construction et l'exploitation de mines, puis, finalement, à leur fermeture et à la remise en état du site – reste quant à elle largement inchangée depuis des décennies.

Lors du transfert des responsabilités, le ***Règlement sur l'exploitation minière dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest*** alors en vigueur sous le régime du gouvernement fédéral a été repris et adopté par le GTNO. Ce règlement est désormais appliqué par le GTNO, **en collaboration avec les gouvernements autochtones**, comme décrit dans ***l'Entente intergouvernementale sur la gestion des terres et des ressources de 2014***. Cette entente a permis d'établir un cadre de coopération et de coordination sur les questions liées à la gestion des terres et des ressources, tout en respectant pleinement l'autonomie et le pouvoir décisionnel de chaque gouvernement concerné.

La mise en place d'un processus collaboratif est en cours depuis lors, afin de moderniser le régime réglementaire. La ***Loi sur les ressources minérales (LRM)***, adoptée en 2019 par l'Assemblée législative des TNO, jette les bases de cette transformation. Le résumé du projet de ***règlement sur les ressources minérales***, élaboré grâce à une étroite collaboration, est conçu pour concrétiser les objectifs de la LRM et refléter les valeurs et priorités de la population, des collectivités et des gouvernements autochtones.

À mesure que ces travaux progressent aux TNO, le **secteur de l'exploration et de l'exploitation minières connaîtra d'importants changements**. La nouvelle approche réglementaire vise à tenir compte des **pratiques exemplaires à l'échelle mondiale**, tout en s'alignant sur **le contexte environnemental, social et économique unique** du territoire. Le régime modernisé cherche à soutenir une mise en valeur responsable, à promouvoir une utilisation durable des terres et à garantir que les avantages des ressources minérales soient répartis équitablement dans l'ensemble de la population des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Les objectifs communs de la LRM, tels que décrits dans l'article sur l'objet de la LRM, sont les suivants :

1. Régir les intérêts miniers avec efficacité, efficience et transparence;
2. Soutenir l'économie des Territoires du Nord-Ouest;
3. Réaliser les avantages provenant de projets miniers pour les gouvernements et organisations autochtones, les collectivités et la population des Territoires du Nord-Ouest;
4. Assurer que la richesse générée par les ressources minérales profitera aux générations actuelles et futures d'habitants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest;
5. Encourager des relations positives entre les promoteurs, les gouvernements et organisations autochtones, les collectivités et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest;
6. Respecter les droits ancestraux ou issus de traités des peuples autochtones;
7. Complémenter les systèmes de gestion collaborative des terres et des ressources naturelles dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest;
8. Améliorer la connaissance de la géologie du territoire;
9. Reconnaître l'utilisation durable des terres.

Section 1: Transitional - Existing Interests

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
10.0	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Application	<p>The policy intentions in section 1 of this document apply to existing interests that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospecting Licences • Prospecting permits • Recorded claims • Leases of a recorded claim 	<p>The Government of the Northwest Territories has developed regulations to outline how existing mineral interests will transition to the new administration system established under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its accompanying regulations.</p> <p>These transitional regulations are intended to provide clarity and certainty to industry throughout the transition process, ensuring that existing rights are respected and that the move to the new framework is as smooth and transparent as possible.</p>
10.1	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Transition of Prospecting Licences	<p>The current prospector's licence underneath the Northwest Territories Mining Regulations will gradually expire.</p> <p>The issuance, renewal, or replacement of a prospector's licence will occur under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>This is done so that the prospector's licence can transition to be underneath the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations. This marks an important step toward a more modern and transparent approach to managing mineral rights in the Northwest Territories. The new framework adheres to national standards, promotes responsible resource development, and is designed to simplify, promote and standardize relationships between Indigenous governments and mining companies.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Any new prospector's licences will be issued under the provisions of the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations.</p> <p>Once existing prospector's licences expire or are renewed, licence holders will be required to obtain a new prospector's licence under the <i>Mineral</i></p>

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
				<p><i>Resources Act</i>. All prospector's licences issued after the Act comes into force will be governed by the Act.</p> <p>For more information on upcoming changes to prospector's licences, please refer to Engagement Document #1, sections 1.3–1.7.</p> <p>A valid prospector's licence will be required for all exploration activities conducted under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p>
10.2	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Transition of Claims	<p>The holder of an existing recorded claim and the Minister (unless decided otherwise) will enter into an agreement to cancel the holder's current existing recorded claim and replace it with a recorded claim under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p> <p>The replacement recorded claim will commence immediately after the cancellation of the recorded claim.</p> <p>Any obligations, terms and conditions, or requirements associated with the original recorded claim—including those related to timeframes or deadlines—will continue to apply under the replacement recorded claim. This means that, following the replacement, claims will remain in their current year of claim life, but the total maximum claim life will increase from 10 years to 30 years. The exception to this is claims recorded underneath the Quartz Mining Regulations. These claims will reset to being in year 1 of claim life underneath the Act's regime by agreement.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>Allowing claim holders to convert their claim to a claim underneath the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> promotes their transition to the new modern mining system. The new framework adheres to national standards, promotes responsible resource development, and is designed to simplify, promote and standardize relationships between Indigenous governments and mining companies.</p> <p>Enabling claim holders to transition their claims will also provide access to new benefits, as outlined in the next section.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Claim holders will be eligible to transition their existing claims to ones governed under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>. Claims that were established prior to the Act coming into force will cease to exist when they reach their expiry date.</p> <p>Any claim that is renewed will automatically transition to a claim governed by the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>. For more information on changes to claims under the Act and its regulations, please refer to sections 2.0–2.22 of Engagement Document #1.</p>

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
10.3	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Incentives to Agreement	<p>If a holder of a Recorded Claim transitions their claim to be underneath the Mineral Resources Act and its regulations, they are able to do the following underneath the <i>Mineral Resources Administration Regulations</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the option to apply for changes to the area of recorded claims • Have the ability to group recorded claims over 5,000 hectares • Claim consultancy work carried out by a professional engineer or a professional geoscientist in a work assessment report or a simplified work assessment report • More types of work being eligible to submit in a simplified work assessment reports than were previously eligible. • Have the ability to apply for short-term extensions • Have the ability to claim Indigenous Engagement Credits <p>Claim holders are not permitted to do these things if they do not transition their claim to the <i>Mineral Resources Administration Regulations</i>.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>The new regulations give claim holders access to several new opportunities, such as the ability to create larger groupings of claims and to claim Indigenous Engagement Credits. Claim life will also be longer, providing more time on claims before they must transition to leases.</p> <p>These features offer benefits to those who choose to transition their claims under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> Regulations. It is important to encourage claim holders to transition into the modern mining system, as this system brings benefits to industry, as well as a more modern, transparent, and collaborative approach to managing mineral rights.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Claim holders will gain the ability to perform new functions once they transition their claim.</p>
10.4	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Transition of Leases	<p>When an existing lease expires or is surrendered, it ceases to exist as of the effective date of expiry or surrender.</p> <p>Upon the renewal of a lease, the original lease is considered expired. The Supervising Mining Recorder may then issue a new mineral lease in accordance with the definition provided in the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>This is done so that the leases will transition to be underneath the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations. It marks an important step toward a more modern and transparent approach to managing mineral rights in the Northwest Territories. The new framework adheres to national standards, promotes responsible resource development, and is designed to simplify, promote and standardize relationships between Indigenous governments and mining companies.</p>

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
				<p>How?</p> <p>When leases expire or are surrendered, they will cease to exist. Any new leases will be issued under the provisions of the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations. For more information on changes to leases under the Act and its regulations, please refer to sections 3.0–3.9 of Engagement Document #1.</p>
10.5	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Transition of Prospecting Permits	<p>Prospecting permits obtained under the <i>Mining Regulations</i> will eventually expire.</p> <p>Prospecting Permits will not be issued or replaced under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p> <p>To apply excess work credits remitted underneath subsection 19(2) of the <i>Northwest Territories Mining Regulations</i>, the permit holder may request that the Mining Recorder apply the excess cost toward the work requirements of a recorded claim established underneath <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>.</p> <p>This request must be made not later than 60 days after the cancellation or expiry of the prospecting permit.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>Prospecting permits are being phased out for several reasons. First, with the introduction of online map staking, people will be able to stake a claim remotely. One of the main advantages of prospecting permits was that they allowed proponents to secure a prospecting permit without the need to travel to the site they are exploring; the new system will now offer that same convenience. Phase Two will also introduce zones where Indigenous governments can offer incentives for proponents to stake claims in specific areas of their territory. Together, these measures will replace many of the benefits that prospecting permits once provided.</p> <p>Under current <i>Mining Regulations</i> prospecting permits have been difficult to administer. They tend to face more opposition than other types of issuances, involve a cumbersome application process, and cover large areas of land that can lead to local concerns.</p> <p>How?</p>

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
				Prospecting permits will be gradually phased out by the Mining Recorder. They will not be replaced or issued after the coming into force of the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations.
10.6	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Prospecting Permits in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)	In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, prospecting permits will continue to exist.	<p>Why?</p> <p>Prospecting permits will continue to exist in this region in order to respect the terms set out in the <i>Inuvialuit Final Agreement</i>. Section 16(13) of the Agreement recognizes prospecting permits within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and stipulates that the Inuvialuit Development Corporation may hold up to ten prospecting permits. Prospecting permits will exist in this location until a more modern tool, such as zones, meets the needs of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.</p>

Section 2: Transitional - Benefit Agreements and Socio-Economic Agreements

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed and how it is suggested to be implemented
12.0	S.116 Continuation of instruments and decisions	Deemed Benefit Agreements and Socio- Economic Agreements for Existing Interests and Authorizations	<p>Each of the following agreements will be deemed to be benefit agreements under the Act:</p> <p>(1) Impact benefit agreements between:</p> <p>(i) Burgundy Diamonds, in respect of the Ekati mine, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) North Slave Métis Alliance, (B) Tłı̨chǫ Community Government, and (C) Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Łutsël Ké Dene First Nation (Akaitcho Treaty 8) (D) Hamlet of Kugluktuk, Nunavut and Ktikmeot Inuit Association <p>(ii) De Beers Canada, in respect of the Gahcho Kué mine, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Deninu Ké First Nation, (B) Łutsël Ké Dene First Nation, (C) Northwest Territory Métis Nation, (D) North Slave Métis Alliance, (E) Tłı̨chǫ Government, and (F) Yellowknives Dene First Nation <p>2) Participation agreements between</p> <p>(i) Rio Tinto, in respect of the Diavik mine, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Łutsël Ké Dene First Nation Dene First Nation (B) North Slave Métis Alliance 	<p>Why?</p> <p>Benefit agreements and socioeconomic agreements will be a requirement for mines that are above threshold under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations. Above threshold means that a cumulative of more than 250 person years of labour will be required in the course of the lifetime of the mine and/or more than \$75 million in 2021 dollars will be spent over the course of the life of the mine.</p> <p>Deeming the agreements listed in the left column as benefit agreements that meet the requirements of the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> will ensure that operating mines can obtain production licences under the new framework without interruption to their operations.</p> <p>This will help to reduce uncertainty for currently producing mines during the transition period.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>The listed agreements will be deemed to satisfy the benefit agreement and socioeconomic agreement requirement for currently producing mines automatically.</p>

		<p>(C) Tłı̨chǫ Community Government, and (D) Yellowknives Dene First Nation</p> <p>Being deemed to be benefit agreements means that they will be recognized as benefit agreements under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> and its regulations, and will therefore satisfy the benefit agreement requirement.</p> <p>Each of the following will be deemed to be socioeconomic agreements under the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Diavik Diamond Mine (1999)(b) Ekati Diamond Mine (1996)(c) Fortune Minerals NICO Project (2019)(d) Gahcho Kué Mine (2013)(e) NorZinc Prairie Creek Project (2011)(f) Snap Lake Mine (2004)	
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Section 3: Mineral Rights Review Board

Section	Relevant clause from the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>	Topic	Proposed policy intent for regulations to fulfill the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> clause	Why the new or updated regulation is being proposed
13.0	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Appointment of Members	<p>Board members will be appointed and shall endeavor to ensure that the Review Board reflects the diversity of the population and gender balance of the people of the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>An advisory body will assist the Minister in selecting persons to be appointed to the board. The advisory body must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an Indigenous representative, 2. an industry representative, and 3. a delegate of the Minister. <p>Members must not be employees of the department responsible for administering the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i>. They must have specialized knowledge in either mineral resources/rights, royalties' administration or law.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>The goal of the Mineral Rights Review Board (MRRB) is to create a body that is arms-length, merit-based, de-politicized and multi-person, which can resolve disputes that may occur between holders of mineral rights and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).</p> <p>Its primary purpose is to resolve disputes occurring between holders of mineral rights and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).</p> <p>The MRRB is to review decisions, actions, or disputes related to mineral interests (ex: a claim holder requests a review of the decision to suspend their claim). The Board needs to ensure that all parties have their concerns heard and that outcomes of decisions are transparent, consistent, and legally sound. As a third-party dispute resolution board, the MRRB helps maintain trust in the mineral rights system.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>The Minister will appoint members that reflect the diversity of the NWT with the assistance of an advisory board that represents diverse interests, in order to ensure that the board is balanced and represents many different points of view.</p>

13.1	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Creation of Rules of Procedure	<p>The Mineral Rights Review Board will be responsible for creating its own rules of procedure. These will include rules on conflict of interest and rules for requirements for service, reasons and confidentiality of information.</p>	<p>Why? The Mineral Rights Review Board (MRRB) is intended to be an impartial third-party review board who can provide decisions without a conflict of interest. Therefore, the board will be in charge of creating its own rules of procedure. This allows the Board to be an independent entity who can examine GNWT decisions impartially.</p> <p>How? Upon its establishment, the board will create its own procedures and rules of service.</p>
13.2	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Requests for Board Review	<p>Requests for review of disputes must be submitted to the Mineral Rights Review Board within 45 days from when the decision was made or the action was taken.</p> <p>The chairperson may accept all or part of a request for review filed after the limitation period if the requester can demonstrate the delay was due to its engagement in settlement discussions or mediation. If a review is already underway, the Panel can pause the process to give time for settlement discussions or mediation.</p> <p>If a request for review is filed after the limitation period, the chairperson may accept all or part of the request if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it is in the public interest to accept the complaint, and (b) no substantial prejudice will result to any person because of the delay. <p>An omission or error alone in the application for the request for review will not be a bar to the Board accepting the review.</p> <p>If, in the opinion of the chairperson, a request for review is frivolous, vexatious, or not made in good faith, they may refuse the request for review.</p>	<p>Why? These policies are designed to balance timeliness, fairness, and flexibility in the review process. The 45-day deadline encourages prompt filing of disputes. Allowing late submissions in cases of settlement discussions or mediation ensures parties are not penalized for trying to resolve issues collaboratively. Pausing an ongoing review for mediation supports dispute resolution without rushing decisions. Exceptions for late filings in the public interest ensures fairness. Finally, refusing frivolous or bad-faith requests protects the Board's resources and maintains the integrity of the process.</p> <p>How? Requests for a review may be submitted to the Mineral Rights Review Board (MRRB) within 45 days of the decision being made. Exceptions can be made if there are special circumstances.</p>

13.3	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Processing of Review Requests	<p>Within 5 business days of receipt of a request for review, not including the date on which the request was submitted, the chairperson shall conduct the screening and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. process the request in accordance with section 65 of the Mineral Resources Act; ii. refuse to process the request; or iii. require further submissions from the parties in order to make a determination. iv. Close the ground for the time period pending resolution of the dispute for all disputes regarding loss of an interest in minerals. <p>After the 5-day screening period, the chairperson must assign a panel to a dispute. The Chair must endeavour to select members with the expertise related to the issue under review when assigning members to a panel, where practicable. The Chair must assign the panel in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Why? The five-day screening period allows the chairperson to determine whether a request is valid, requires additional information, or should be refused, helping to minimize delays for all parties. Requiring the submission of further information when needed allows the Chair to gather the necessary information before making a decision, promoting fairness and informed outcomes. Closing the ground during disputes prevents changes or interference with the mineral interest while the dispute is being resolved, protecting the rights of all parties. Finally, assigning a panel in a timely manner keeps the review process moving efficiently and avoids unnecessary delays. Overall, these measures aim to create a balanced, efficient, and credible review process.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Through following the guidelines listed in the left column.</p>
13.4	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Board Reviews	<p>The parties involved in a hearing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person who requested the review, • the original decision-maker under the MRA, • any Indigenous government or organization whose interests may be directly affected or whose participation is needed to resolve the issue, • anyone with a competing or overlapping mineral interest related to the review, and • any other person the panel decides should be included as a party. <p>Hearings may be written, oral, or a combined written and oral process.</p> <p>The notice of hearing shall be given not less than 30 days before the hearing commences. When the Chair accepts a request for review, the Board will promptly publish a public notice that includes key details of the request.</p> <p>The decision being reviewed is not stayed as the decision is being reviewed. So, a cancellation or suspension will remain in effect during the</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>These measures are being proposed to ensure that the review process is fair, transparent, and accountable, while also balancing the rights and interests of all affected parties. Allowing different types of hearings (written, oral, or both) makes the process more flexible and accessible depending on the complexity of the case. Ensuring that all necessary participants, such as the requester, the original decision-maker, Indigenous governments, and others with overlapping interests, are represented in the hearing ensures that everyone who may be directly impacted has a voice in the process. Providing at least 30 days' notice of the hearing gives all parties time to prepare and participate meaningfully. Publishing public notices promotes transparency, while confidentiality provisions protect sensitive information.</p> <p>Furthermore, keeping decisions in effect during review prevents uncertainty or misuse of mineral rights until a final decision is made, while still allowing the MRRB to pause that decision if fairness or</p>

			<p>review, until a determination has been made on the case. The proponent does not need to continue meeting the requirements of the interest unless the MRRB later overturns the decision. The ground remains closed during this period. The Mineral Rights Review Board may be asked to lift this pause before the review is finished. It must consider such a request if made by an Indigenous government or organization and may also consider it if requested by another applicant. In deciding, the Board will weigh all circumstances, fairness, and the public interest.</p> <p>All hearings are recorded and transcribed. When an order is issued, the panel must prepare a complete record of the review, including the request, notices, evidence, transcript, orders, and a summary of the issues and reasons for the decision.</p>	<p>public interest requires it. Recording and documenting hearings helps ensure accountability and creates a clear record for reference or appeal.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Through following the guidelines in the left column.</p>
13.5	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Review Outcomes	<p>The panel can make any order needed to carry out its decision, including remedies to repair harm or provide compensation. Decisions must be issued within 30 days of the hearing, and copies of the order are shared with all affected parties.</p> <p>The MRRB will provide written reasons for its decisions to all parties and make them publicly available. However, certain information may be kept confidential. The MRRB will establish rules on how written reasons are handled, what information must remain confidential, and how decisions are published. The public registry will show the outcome of the decision, but not the full written reasons.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>The review board has the authority to make decisions on requests for review.</p> <p>The review board will make the reasoning of its decisions publicly available as much as possible, along with its reasonings, to promote transparency and accountability. The public registry will allow the public to stay informed of the outcome of decisions.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>A list of decisions and outcomes will be posted on the public registry.</p>
13.6	S.10 Mineral Rights Review Board	Annual Report	<p>Each year, the MRRB will publish an annual report that includes details about its members, their appointments, remuneration, and expenses, as well as the number and outcomes of review requests received during the year.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>An annual report provides transparency and supports accountability surrounding the board's budget and review request case load.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>The board will make their annual report available to the public on their website.</p>