

Introduction

The following is a summary and synopsis of input into the Minerals Strategy via the consultation process. Consultation took place using a number of methods

Public meetings

Public meetings were held in Baie Verte, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Grand Falls, Gander, Marystown, Clarenville, Long Harbour, St. John's, Labrador City, Goose Bay, St. Anthony, Port Hope Simpson and Nain between February and April 2011. Approximately 120 people participated in total. Audio recordings were made of comments made at the public meetings and summarized in a document archived publically on the Minerals Strategy website.

Workshops

Two workshops were held in early April with invitations extended to a variety of interested parties including exploration and mining companies, consulting companies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. Two themes were explored - "Environment & Sustainable Mining" and "A Competitive Environment for Exploration / Mining". Approximately 50 participants took part in the workshops (see Appendix).

Written submissions

Written submissions were solicited and thirty were received; these were also archived on the Minerals Strategy website. A list of submissions is provided in the Appendix.

The following summary attempts to identify common themes in the submissions that may provide a focus for the Minerals Strategy. The discussion paper identified specific questions for discussion, and most of the submissions addressed these questions directly. Thus the summary is structured around those questions, with additional points covered under "other areas of discussion".

It should be noted that extracts or quotes from submissions were chosen to be representative but are only part of extensive and carefully argued pieces that will be more fully considered in development of the strategy.

Principles and objectives

Several submissions addressed the overall direction and principles that underlie the strategy. The principles outlined in the discussion paper were:-

- To develop our mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner;
- To support and grow the minerals sector in the best interests of our province;
- To maximize the value of resource development through effective cooperation and coordination with key groups and partners including industry, communities, the Nunatsiavut Government and Aboriginal organizations, and other interested groups.

Additional principles suggested included:

- To be consistent with the Sustainable Development Act the final Mineral Strategy should integrate sustainability throughout. *Mining Watch*
- Workers should be at the forefront of the strategy. *United Steelworkers*
- A minerals strategy for our province must include a clear direction for the preservation of a healthy biosphere for the wellbeing of humanity. *Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice*
- The Minerals Strategy should not be seen as encouraging the destruction of unique ecosystems. Rather, it should set the standard for environmentally sound practices that protect biodiversity. *Nature Newfoundland and Labrador and the Sandy Pond Alliance for the Protection of Canadian Waters*

Feedback

Promotion and Investment Attraction

How can government best aid in promotion of the minerals sector?

Current promotional activities were generally supported, and in some cases applauded. Some selected comments include:-

- the Province needs to maintain a presence at the key conferences that take place on the world stage - *Altius*
- Government could consider evaluating the mineral potential of various regions within the province and market them to prospective companies and fund initiatives accordingly. *Teck - Duck Pond*
- Stepped-up promotion would assist in focusing the attention of exploration companies and financiers on our province. As one suggestion, the Premier, Minister of Natural Resources, or other Business Ministers and senior government officials should aggressively attempt to get opportunities to address mining conferences or present technical papers on the program of such conferences. Companies go where they believe they are welcome and they need to hear they are welcome in NL from senior levels in government - *Mining NL*
- For any new company working in area there is a steep learning curve that must be overcome. Having a dedicated group who are well versed in all the areas of local geology, permitting procedures, funding avenues (etc) would certainly aid in the transition. This group would not have to be experts in all fields but certainly provide a one stop shopping service to provide clear direction of the entire process. *Rambler Mines and Metals*

Exploration and Development Incentives

How can government encourage increased levels of mineral exploration and development?

The mineral incentive program was strongly supported by industry submissions.

- The ... program is extremely important in assisting junior exploration companies with stretching their exploration dollars and in sending a clear message to the Board of Directors of exploration companies that Newfoundland and Labrador is a mining friendly province and hence a favourable area to focus their present and future exploration activity and development. *Marathon Gold*
- Our Mineral Incentive Program (MIP) is perhaps the best of the direct-grant incentive programs for exploration in Canada. *Mining NL*
- There are no formal programs of general application to assist mine developers...Any form of incentive, such as a tax holiday, refundable grant, or the provision of infrastructure are of direct value to all developers but particularly small companies, as they are a powerful demonstration to potential investors that the government is aligned with the proponent and supportive of the project. *Mining NL*
- Dept. of Natural Resources, working with junior exploration companies, prospectors etc. should devise ways to utilize the RED Board (Regional Economic Development) resource more fully... Traditionally it is far easier for junior companies to raise funds out of province. Local awareness promotion may change this trend. There are many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians interested in investment opportunities. *Len Muise, Triple 9 Resources*
- A major revamping of the present MIP in NL would have to include some sort of refundable tax credit similar to the Quebec program. Government should take a serious look at the incentives in other jurisdictions and streamline with those that are on top of the list. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Where the government decides to provide spending for the minerals sector it should be focused on reducing environmental impacts and improving social benefits. *Mining Watch*

Workshop comments

- More funding for grass-roots needed without taking away from advanced projects
- Offer a tax-based incentive for advanced programs
- First-come first-served system should be assessed; should merit carry more weight
- \$2.9 million is not enough money - should be more. This level of funding has not been increased to keep up with increasing costs.

- Gov't should expand the program to include assistance for start-up of mining projects. Have a second offering (fall?) for projects that were not advanced enough in the spring
- Allocate funds to facilitate community consultations; formal province-wide.
- Offer incentives to hire students/prospectors; have this as a budget item. Intent is training for students/prospectors.
- Develop a program to fund research program for MUN students: outcome of research could take project to next step.

Prospector Assistance

What could be done to further develop prospecting in the province?

Support to prospectors was generally acknowledged as being strong, and important. Several issues were identified, including providing more prospector training, offering courses in different locations, and providing field guidance. Some operational issues were also identified, including reporting requirements.

Advanced prospector training

The development of an advanced prospector training program was brought up in several submissions

- An advanced prospecting course with a certification is required to fill the current shortage of experienced prospectors available to carry out this extremely important stage of exploration work. Such a program could be offered in a modular format through a local college with perhaps financial assistance to the applicants where applicable. *Marathon Gold*
- We generate about 15 new prospectors per year who are generally greenhorns with an inquisitive nature, time on their hands and/or a love of the outdoors. Considering the intensity of the course and short duration, these greenhorns retain very little from the two week prospecting course. One prospector described it as trying to get a drink from the end of a fire hose. Where we fail, is to further professionalize and foster the prospecting community with follow-up one day or weekend seminars that can further the learning experience by expounding or reiterating a particular aspect of prospecting. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Programs like the prospectors training program, prospector assistance and others have helped develop this trained prospector base to the point where our prospectors work all over the world. This is a skilled profession. It is now time for government to recognize this trained workforce by granting a provincial journeyman status for NL prospectors who qualify. The Departments of Natural Resources, Education and HRLE must come together to professionalize this recognized group of NL workers. *Len Muise, Triple 9 Resources*

Prospector course

The issue of the current prospector courses in Stephenville and Goose Bay was prominent in several submissions. The most common suggestion was that of alternate (St. John's, rotating around province) or additional venues (coastal Labrador). A further suggestion was that of shorter introductory courses.

- This course should be offered in St. John's as one-quarter of the population lives here- *Gordon Cooper, prospector*
- Among suggestions offered are: offer short introductory or refresher courses locally...examine whether rotating the location of the annual prospector course or offering modules periodically would result in the course being available to a wider clientele. *Mining NL*
- The province should consider partnering with existing training and financial institutions to allow for extra training, particularly in remote/ rural areas. *Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation*

Field training and mentoring

Follow up and support to prospectors in the field was identified as important, with a variety of solutions proposed including regional offices and geologists.

- Provide prospectors with more field support from geologists with the Prospector Assistance Program, supplemented with additional assistance from geologists from the Geological Survey. *Mining NL*

- Assign Government geologists to increase their contact with prospectors, visit their showings, give advice on the geology and suggest how to move their prospects ahead. Position such geologists in Central and Western Newfoundland, as well as Labrador (in the summers) to enhance such interactions. *Teck Duck Pond*

Operational issues

- One thing that causes me to lose interest in prospecting is all the paper work which is required....at years end I have to compile a prospectors report basically to prove where I spent the money. But, it requires extensive information. This report usually takes me 3 days to compile. Furthermore, this year I was required to do an assessment report for a claim I had made. This report required so much detailed information and was mind boggling at times. The assessment report took me 4 days to compile... After all we are prospectors not geologists or business majors. *Jeff Brushett, prospector*
- An individual who uses their 30 claims, but who consistently fails to submit an assessment report should lose their genuine prospector status. *Golden Dory*

Public Geoscience

What is the appropriate level of geoscience activity to satisfy the needs of the mineral sector, and government's goals and objectives?

The importance of ensuring appropriate levels of basic geoscience data acquisition was emphasized by many, both in support of mineral exploration, and in informing decisions on protected areas.

- The GSNL, however, is under-resourced in regard to its operations budget for regional mapping and other field surveys and the lack of adequate operational funds creates particular difficulty in improving our understanding of the geology of inaccessible areas of Labrador. *Mining NL*
- The quality of the (geoscience) database is insufficient to meet the mining industries needs to make new discoveries. Bedrock and surface geological maps are at scales which are inappropriate for the detailed exploration required to find those hard to detect or hidden deposits. Many of the regional geological maps are obsolete and some areas of the province still do not have available maps. More detailed geological mapping in areas of known discoveries is required along with more technologically advanced geophysical and geochemical surveys. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- It is recommended that the budget for field mapping be increased by 3-4 times the present with emphasis on 1:50 K mapping in Labrador. This should be somewhat co-ordinated with industry as new geological environments for various minerals are continually being discovered. *Peter Dimmell, Darrin Hicks and Gordon Cooper.*
- The issue of a new core storage plan is one that has to be included in the Minerals Strategy. Drill core from past programs is an asset and of tremendous potential benefit to the exploration community and the academic community, and has to be maintained and upgraded if possible. *Golden Dory*
- Increase funding of field programs for government geologists (both mappers, and mineral deposits types) to extend their field work. Additionally, establish several key "deposit type" positions to give opportunities for growth of real expertise and research/development in government, to facilitate discoveries. *Teck, Duck Pond*
- the NL Geological Survey should focus on its original mandate: surveying. In addition, mapping and surveying should be prioritized such that major mining districts are covered first. *Altius*

Workshop comments

- Drill core storage - could represent the single most important piece of geoscientific data. Universally seen as critical service.
- Need to preserve the hundreds of millions of dollars spent to get core.
- Concerns raised about running out of storage space for drill core. Accessibility a concern. More staff required.

Infrastructure

What are the key infrastructure needs for further mining development and exploration?

- The provision of physical infrastructure, e.g., roads, ports or electrical power, particularly where it may have value beyond the life of the project, would be of value to the general public, or would stimulate additional exploration or development in an area should be considered by the provincial government - *Mining NL*
- The provincial government should show strong support by making commitments to infrastructure such as wharves, roads and electrical power. *Aurora Energy*

Forest access roads

Several groups indicated the importance of maintaining forest access roads as multiple use resource roads, particularly in central Newfoundland

- We need to maintain a good transportation network. Much of our interior has been connected by Abitibi-Bowater roads in the past and we must work with the appropriate agencies to make sure this connection continues. *Al Hawkins Mayor Grand Falls-Windsor*
- One of the attributes of central Newfoundland that makes it attractive for mineral exploration companies is the wealth of resource roads which provide easy access to many areas of the province. Government recently inherited the resource roads belonging to Abitibi Consolidated; a tremendous resource. However, maintaining these roads and the many bridges and culverts will require dedicated resources. The danger exists that many of these roads will be decommissioned and the bridges removed. *Golden Dory*
- There is a need to recognize that logging roads and bridges, i.e., “resource roads”, that are strategic for mineral exploration and development should be maintained. *Mining NL*

Electrical power

Supply of electricity was identified as a critical constraint on development in western Labrador by several presenters at public consultations.

- The provision of roads and hydro electricity for existing or developing mines in Labrador, as well as possible future uranium mines, would stimulate exploration and advance mine developments and expansions, reduce GHG emissions and, by linking isolated communities to the road and transmission network, result in a considerable savings to government in the provision of services to the communities. *Mining NL*

Ports

- As the Province has no smelters or refineries that are currently active, strategically located port facilities that can handle bulk concentrates to allow shipment of the product to smelters and refineries around the world is a key infrastructure requirement in developing a mine. *Rambler Mines and Metals*

Workshop comments

- Lack of power is a major impediment to new development. eg. Iron-Lab West, VB underground, Michelin, Long Harbour and other island developments. Considered to be reaching crisis point. - Is a demand right now! - Affecting the ability to raise capital.
- Balance the need for infrastructure and road access with mitigating conservation measures because existing and/or increasing forest access roads impact wildlife and the environment
- Rail capacity in Lab West will be a long term issue for future development
- Long term infrastructure strategy needed

Regulation and Legislation

Are there any issues with the current regulation and permitting process for mineral exploration, mine development and quarry development?

There were many comments on the permitting process. There was general agreement that regulations were appropriate but significant improvement in the handling of the permitting process was needed, as well as greater transparency.

- The permitting process for early stage exploration needs to be streamlined with an increased efficiency in both timing of processing and in communications between the various government departments - *Marathon Gold*
- Wherever possible the permitting process of a project should be streamlined to reduce the amount of duplication from department to department. Further there should be one key contact group/person where all information should flow... During each stage of the permitting process clear timelines should be communicated with the proponent. More often than not small projects that are simple and relatively short in duration have to undergo the same permitting requirements as a multi-million dollar project with many years of life. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- The main problem continues to be the lack of compliance with time lines once permits are applied for. Industry has to have permits in hand prior to starting work and the lack of compliance with time lines has made it difficult to plan projects especially in this busy time for the industry. Government also needs to look at requirements for industry that are not required by the general public.. It is recommended that reasonable timelines for permits be established and complied with by government agencies. *Peter Dimmell, Darrin Hicks and Gordon Cooper.*
- Why then is it expected of mineral exploration companies to operate at the pace of the province's most inefficient regulator? Statutory response times to permit applications must be introduced for routine exploration activities. *Mining NL*

Environmental Assessment

- The province is to be commended for the timelines that exist in the current environmental process....agencies should ensure that the procedures required of the government and proponents are closely followed thereby ensuring no scope for court challenges. *Aurora Energy.*
- In terms of a place to explore, Newfoundland has a lot going for it, great geology, an excellent Geological Survey, and a permitting process that was not bad to deal with. Recently however, that seems to have changed dramatically and with no apparent reason. It is our belief, and other companies as well, that (early stage) exploration should not trigger an EA...There is no link in the approval process between Departments. We suggest a more strongly linked and streamlined approval process, but first some agreement has to be made with respect to what triggers an EA. *Golden Dory*
- The recent expectation that routine exploration projects will be required to register for environmental assessment under a variety of "new" triggers has the potential to seriously damage the province's reputation among exploration's highly mobile decision makers....Regulatory agencies from all levels of government, federal, provincial and Aboriginal are encouraged to harmonize their processes, introduce timelines and not over-regulate routine, low-risk activities. *Mining NL*
- The province should formalize sustainability assessment criteria for EAs of mineral development projects. Other important aspects of EAs of mineral projects include: examination of risk and uncertainty, cumulative effects, contribution to and effects of climate change on a project, life cycle assessment of costs for alternative mine plans and waste management techniques, post-closure environmental and social impacts, and accounting the loss or impacts on ecological services and natural capital. *Mining Watch*
- Environmental assessments once reserved for large scale projects are now being demanded for basic exploration practices and will simply be too arduous for most companies to endure. *Altius*

Workshop comments

- Have sufficient staffing to regulate efficiently. Review should be done of resources required to properly regulate our legislation. Alternative is to reduce regulation so current staffing can regulate
- Government should appoint an advocate for companies, separate from DNR.
- Inconsistencies between how industries are reviewed between government departments.
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Access to Land

How can the need to protect land for ecological reasons be balanced with mineral exploration's need for access to

land?

This proved to be a major focus for submissions, with access to land being an important issue for mineral exploration companies, who believe access to land for exploration is critical for new discoveries; and from environmental NGOs who strongly urge the exclusion of mineral activities from protected areas. Comments highlighted the Natural Areas System Plan and provincial protected areas, but also dealt with more general land-use issues.

Protected areas

There were long submissions on this issue, so the quotes below simply give a flavour to the discussion rather than comprehensively summarize it.

- We recommend that in view of the importance of the mineral industry to the province that there be no further net loss of mineral lands, i.e., if it is determined that an area requires full protection from all industrial uses including mineral exploration that a corresponding area of previously protected land be reopened to exploration. We also recommend that the WER Act be amended or repealed. It does not serve the province well for an appointed body, WERAC, to have a mandate to continually propose protected areas with no requirement for public or stakeholder input until such areas become Provisional Reserves. *Mining NL*
- Government should enter into agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to create Exempt Mineral Lands over land owned by the NCC. *Nature Conservancy of Canada*
- We want to know that protected areas and proposed protected areas will be safe from exploration. We want to know what the real percentages for staking and exploration are in this province. We want to know that your department supports the release of our Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP) - the ONLY province in the country currently without one. *Protected Areas Association of Newfoundland & Labrador*
- How can we grow an industry for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians if our exploration territory keeps shrinking? We all agree that protection of our natural areas is a necessity but it must be balanced for all interested parties. To accomplish a balance in decisions regarding the protection of land government should ensure that fair input is received from all parties. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- The only practical way 'to protect land for ecological reasons' and to balance it with mineral exploration's need for access to land, is to integrate the Mineral Strategy with the Protected Areas Strategy, so that existing and future conflicts can be discussed and resolved on their merits rather separately than on the basis of political influence. *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society*
- Government should be encouraged to release a Natural Area Systems Plan, including list of new and planned protected areas, to provide clarity for resource development planning. *Nature Newfoundland and Labrador and the Sandy Pond Alliance for the Protection of Canadian Waters*
- We believe it is critical that the minerals strategy explicitly endorse, in principle, the establishment of a network of protected areas, as defined in the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy (1995) and outlined in the provincial Department of Environment and conservation's Strategic Plan (2008-2011). This is an important step towards aligning the province's mining industry with the broader governmental and societal goal of sustainable development. *Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network*

Land claims and land-use planning

- The clear way forward on this issue is for Newfoundland and Labrador to settle land claims, complete the protected areas network and develop regional land-use plans. *Mining Watch*
- Multi-use of lands must be encouraged. This can be facilitated by tightening up regulations for exploration and development in sensitive areas without resorting to total and permanent restriction of access to these lands. *Teck Duck Pond operations*
- We encourage Mines Branch to work collaboratively with all levels of government, Aboriginal peoples and communities around the province to develop public processes to guide land-use decision making (e.g. integrated land-use planning) including decisions on protected area proposals and all exploration and development proposals related to mining. *Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network*
- The current draft version of the land use plan for LISA will almost certainly extinguish many such opportunities for future discoveries in the region. It would appear that these decisions are being made without full consideration of the issues and to the detriment of the industry and the people of the Province, especially the local communities..... In the rush to 'protect' the land government should ask the following questions: 1) what is the value of the lost opportunities from these permanent mineral lands removals and 2) what are the real

threats from which such lands are being protected and why is exploration and mining automatically categorized as a threat? All other supporting policies and efforts from government to encourage growth of a sustainable mining sector will be of zero importance if exploration companies are not permitted to access the land. *Altius*

- This is considered the most important issue for explorationists as if exploration can't be carried out as an area is "off limits" then nothing can be found....The industry is not against "protection" per se but has to be part of the process with its voice heard prior to any decision to "protect" an area. It is recommended that the mineral industry be part of the process (and be heard) prior to the establishment of any area which will be "off limits" to mineral exploration. *Peter Dimmell*

Workshop comments

- All agreed that pressures from population growth and needs of society mean that difficult choices will have to be made in this matter.
- There is a need for certainty. All stakeholders want to see the Protected Areas Plan settled or finalized.
- There is a perception that Mines Branch has opposed the creation of Protected Areas and is not aligned with the stated policy of Government.
- The PAP needs to be a comprehensive and transparent plan. What is the methodology used (criteria) to determine protected area. Is it consistent for all areas?
- Public not only needs to be informed on the protected areas but also the mineral potential of an area. Mines Branch has responsibility to make sure that the data is up to date - "honest brokers".
- Mining is of significant economic importance to rural NL; and in the opinion of industry participants cannot easily be replaced.
- Adopt a policy similar to DFO - no net loss. Development of minerals in an area that was protected would be balanced with the creation of a PA in a similar ecoregion

Research and Development

What can be done to stimulate more research and development in the mining and mineral exploration sector in the province?

What should be the focus of mineral sector research and development in the province?

- Grants should be provided to academic institutions to carry out R&D while improved tax credits should be provided to companies that undertake R&D activities. The mineral sector research and development in the Province should be exploration focused by trying to find new and improving techniques in finding mineral deposits. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- We suggest that (we should) turn the province into a world-class educational and research centre in natural resources with Newfoundland and Labrador being the preferred destination for students and researchers to come to learn about the Earth and mineral deposits. Such a facility, for want of a better term, could be called the Newfoundland and Labrador School of Natural Resources and would be a consortium between the NLDNR, MUN and the College of the North Atlantic (CNA). *Derek Wilton and others, Memorial University*
- Thought might be given to developing a whole new JEAP program, or modifying the present one, to provide funding to junior exploration companies to conduct research. *Derek Wilton and others, Memorial University*
- Make funds available (on a cost-shared basis) to exploration and mining companies to resource, develop and research key initiatives to enhance discovery success. Tax write-offs for companies supporting research at the university level would also benefit/assist these companies in their exploration efforts. *Teck Duck Pond*

Developing New Resources

How can discovery rates for mineral deposits be maintained or improved?

What can be done to diversify the minerals industry in the Province?

- Government organizations should focus on improving and reporting the known understanding of local and regional geology, specifically around known mines. In addition as public and private companies invest money in exploration and diamond drill programs, every effort should be made to preserve this information so that others can benefit from it in the years to come....Government bodies should not directly invest money into mineral resource development. Their only involvement should be indirectly through funding programs to assist and support more advanced exploration. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Focus on getting the message out to potential “offshore” companies on the varied mineral potential of the province. Potentially target specific major companies with information packages tailored to their core commodities of interest, and assign qualified staff to follow-up. *Teck Duck Pond*

Taxation

Does the current tax regime strike the right balance between providing appropriate revenue to the province while remaining competitive in the global mining industry?

- The current tax regime alone adds significant revenues to the Province’s treasury and well being. In addition to taxation the economic spin-offs in both the direct and indirect supply of labour and services are vast. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Abolish the Mineral Rights Tax Act for residents of the province who pay taxes here anyway as it was originally envisaged when it was enacted to go after John C. Doyle who was living in Panama and paying no taxes to NL or Canada (first choice) or increase the level at which it kicks in to at least \$500 K / year (second choice) with no clawback of the foregone revenue as it is now. *Peter Dimmell*
- NL should examine the potential of additional tax measures to capture greater revenues. Revenues from a windfall tax or existing royalties should be used for long-term investment and to help provincial and local economies weather the inevitable low periods in the commodity cycle. Addressing issues of tax havens in collaboration with the federal government and providing support to regionally based companies should be considered within the strategy. *Mining Watch*
- The mineral rights tax on royalty revenues is excessive and burdens the highest risk dollars incurred by prospectors and explorers. No other province has such a tax on royalties. We believe that this royalty tax should be abolished to encourage and reward high-risk, early stage prospecting and exploration, as well as to level the playing field with other provinces. As a compromise, the legislations should be amended so that exploration dollars invested in the Province should be a permitted reduction in the royalty tax. *Altius*

Benefits

Does the province obtain its fair share of benefits from mining and if not how can this be improved?

- There are increasing expectations by the province, Aboriginal groups and municipalities with regard to economic and social “benefits” ...that are uncoordinated, unpredictable and well beyond those expected of other industries. Mining companies do work closely with their neighbouring communities and they do understand that the province and other levels of government must share in the benefits from a mine but the lack of clarity regarding expectations will become a deterrent to investment when proponents assume “worst case” scenarios when reviewing investment opportunities. Clearly documenting expectations that are realistic would avoid the problem and enhance our reputation internationally for fair dealing with project developers. *Mining NL*
- Considerations for maximizing local and regional employment and other benefits should be considered by the government in the review of applications for new mines. This could mean requiring a lower extraction rate and therefore longer mine life or staging the opening of new projects to be timed with the availability of workers following the closure of other projects. *Mining Watch*
- Wherever economically feasible evaluate the potential to get “value-added” processing of mineral resources in the province. *Teck Duck Pond.*

Training, Education and Work-force Issues

How can the minerals sector aid community development, especially in rural and remote regions?

How can we continue to improve the opportunities for women and Aboriginal people in the minerals sector?

- Some support should be considered such that the CNA can re-establish its two-year mineral technician program. MUN could also be involved to make sure that the diplomas from this program could be used to provide transfer credits for qualified individuals to enroll in baccalaureate programs. *Derek Wilton and others, Memorial University*

- It is important that appropriate studies be conducted to ensure that both existing and new operations are supported by an abundance of qualified local labour. We are entering into a unique period of NL history where by a number major projects are about to begin or have already started. With so many of these projects occurring at the same time there will be a labour shortage in many if not all fields. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Training in rural communities is key; people need access to training where they are. *Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation*
- We are particularly supportive of the work that the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership is doing to encourage and contribute to the training of aboriginals for upcoming major project opportunities in Labrador. *Aurora Energy*
- The provincial education system is a prime way to highlight mining industry opportunities. Conduct comprehensive career days or school visits of industry professionals to increase understanding of the challenges and rewards of working in this industry with a focus on opportunities for women and Aboriginal people. Participation in annual Women in Mining events to engage with young women and high school students through presentations and question and answer dialogue sessions also provide educational opportunities. Incentives to fund specific job training for the industry may help increase the interest of women and Aboriginals to consider working in mining professions. *Teck Duck Pond*

Health and Safety

Are current safety standards in the provincial mining industry adequate?

The major input on this was a long submission from the United Steelworkers referencing their submission into the re-draft of the Mines Safety of Workers Regulations. Numerous suggestions are made for amending these regulations and the submission states that current safety standards are not adequate. Mining NL also addresses safety in its submission, indicating that they have established a mine safety committee and stating “Both government and industry have the same objectives with regard to the safety of employees. Increased collaboration on proposed OH&S regulations would ensure that available government and industry resources are used for the maximum effect on the safety and health of workers.”

- Updating (mining safety standards) to reflect current OHS regulations (revised in 2009), current codes and standards, and making them more streamlined and user friendly through the provision of clearer direction of the minimum health and safety requirements would be a positive improvement. *Teck Duck Pond*

Social Licence

What can the minerals sector do to ensure it has the support of communities in its operations?

How can the public be engaged in appropriate and ongoing dialogue about mineral development?

- Newfoundland and Labrador should consider updating its mechanisms under its Mineral Act to specifically address Aboriginal consultation issues, and to provide mechanisms for dispute resolution....it is both fair and helpful to recognize the costs incurred by companies associated with consultation and conservation as legitimate assessment work for which a company would receive credit... Designing a process that reviews exploration concerns up front is far more likely than the present system to build confidence and reduce conflict and uncertainty for communities, the industry and for investors. *Canadian Boreal Initiative*
- there is an increasing realization that not only is community engagement the right thing to do; it is also good for business as it greatly reduces risk to a project when the community is aligned with the project. The province should examine whether accepting community engagement costs as assessment credits or declaring such costs as eligible expenditures for MIP grants might hasten the adoption of best practices throughout the exploration sector. *Mining NL*
- The minerals sector must demonstrate that it is proactive as opposed to reactive so that communities establish trust, gain knowledge and in turn support initiatives and operations. *Teck Duck Pond*
- There should be a framework of principles for mining companies in order to receive a “social license” from communities where mining activity exists or may exist. *Town of St. Lawrence*
- Information sheets coming out from mining companies are so technical the general public do not understand it... companies need to support independent analysis of activity (i.e MUN research teams) - information and

- engagement sessions conducted by these institutions would be better received and believed *Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation*
- Mineral operations in the province should only be approved if they have made a thorough “life-cycle” plan for the site, which includes all of the anticipated, or potential, effects on the surrounding community. *United Steelworkers*

Outreach

Is the public sufficiently informed about the minerals sector and if not how can communications be improved?

- A new outreach strategy is needed to ensure a more positive message regarding the mining industry is delivered to both the elementary and senior public schools, especially in the more rural localities. *Marathon Gold*
- Everyone needs to understand that they use mineral and energy resources every day and that without them, their lives would be much less comfortable. Therefore education and outreach on the Earth and its resources are extremely important for responsible citizenship. *Canadian Geoscience Education Network*
- Government and industry must work together to dispel myths and disseminate factual information on the economic and social value of the industry, its modern practices with regard to environmental protection, its impressive record on safety and the careers and business opportunity it provides. This is a very big issue that many believe will require considerably more resources than are currently being considered. *Mining NL*
- This is an area that needs to be significant improvement by both business and the Provincial Government. A continuous marketing and public relations campaign needs to be mounted by both to communicate the facts of the industry, its importance to the Province, the net benefits it provides and how it positively impacts people’s lives. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Members of the mining sector would be happy to work with government in reaching out to students, community and business leaders and other stakeholders to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the mining industry. *Aurora Energy*
- A new outreach strategy is needed to ensure a more positive message regarding the mining industry is delivered to both the elementary and senior public schools, especially in the more rural localities. A list of exploration people willing to volunteer time to visit the schools could be assembled and distributed to the school boards, and perhaps a government employee could contact the schools and coordinate the requests from teachers and available volunteers. *Marathon Gold*
- Communications can be improved by targeting rural areas of the province where mining has been a traditional way of life and where youth can be informed about advancements in technology, safety and employment opportunities.... Mining is an evolving, sustainable industry and more comprehensive public outreach programs will be key to public understanding and the future of the minerals sector throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. *Teck Duck Pond*
- It is imperative that the Outreach Program continues to receive a high level of support from the NL government. As we educate our youth and the public about mining and mineral resources, we promote understanding and interest in the future of our industry. *PDAC Mining Matters*

Environmental Protection and “Green” Mining

How can the environmental impact of the mineral sector be further reduced?

How can the implementation of “green” mining initiatives be further encouraged?

General comments

- The government should establish a public registry where regular monitoring reports, notices of infractions and other information could be readily available. ...The Voisey’s Bay environmental assessment (EA) was pioneering in Canadian EA for its consideration of sustainability issues. The province should formalize sustainability assessment criteria for EAs of mineral development projects. *Mining Watch*
- Government is encouraged to provide tax incentives to industry to support research that will maintain Canada’s pre-eminence in the global mining industry through the development of new technology and the reduction of its environmental impact. *Mining NL*
- Government policy should require ‘best practice’ in order to minimize impacts on the environment and to

- encourage innovation. Developments should not be allowed to proceed where no environmentally sound approach is yet available. *Nature Newfoundland and Labrador and the Sandy Pond Alliance for the Protection of Canadian Waters*
- Development of non-renewable resources... should be sustainably managed to minimize environmental impacts....More transparency and stakeholder engagement throughout the process of exploration, development and production of mining projects is greatly needed...*Fish Food and Allied Workers*
 - Reliance on an internal responsibility will never be enough to ensure companies act in environmentally sustainable ways. If the environmental impact of the mineral sector is to be reduced, it will happen only through a combination of strong regulation and equally strong monitoring. Regulation must be focused on putting the health of the environment ahead of economic concerns. *United Steelworkers*

Comments made in workshops included

- We need to incorporate environmental responsibility into training of professional mines personnel - cradle to grave, exploration to remediation - full spectrum of geo-scientific training
- No net loss is minimum and should be higher - industry funds required.
- Industry needs to know NL is not open for “ business at any cost”
- Innovation required and public consultation and consent needed from exploration stage forward

Tailing disposal

The issue of tailings disposal was one with strong viewpoints presented, particularly regarding the use of natural water bodies.

- The government of NL should insist companies find viable alternatives to converting healthy aquatic ecosystems into mine waste disposal areas. *Mining Watch*
- More work needs to be done in the area of tailings disposition and re-vegetation as well as habitat offset. This must not consist of merely leveling the surface or grassing over but actually returning to the area to what it was before the mine opened. *Gordon Parsons, private citizen*
- The use of natural water bodies for tailings disposal should not be simply accepted by the province. Each project should be reviewed independently on the basis of its merits. *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society*

Comments made in workshops included

- Science and justification is flawed in using natural water bodies for tailings disposal. Fisheries habitat compensation is difficult to quantify, scientifically flawed
- Lakes are a natural choice many times for tailings disposal - physical and chemical stability. There is a long term risk & cost of elevated tailings. Operational risks of alternatives can exceed risks of using natural water bodies and have much larger footprint.
- Mining Companies want to avoid environmental risk, cost is too high not to.
- Industry needs to be encouraged/forced to be technologically innovative to find an alternative to eliminate the use of natural water bodies for the disposal of tailings. Province needs to research alternatives and possibly give tax breaks to spur research by companies.

Orphaned and Abandoned Mines

How should orphaned and abandoned mine sites be dealt with?

There was general agreement that existing efforts were good but a comprehensive inventory of sites and associated liability was needed. Various groups suggested that part of current mining revenue could be earmarked for a rehabilitation fund. Others noted that former mines have value from a tourism point of view

- A Mining Recovery and Reclamation Fund should be set up to deal with mines, quarries and smelters funded

- from 25% of mining royalties - *Sierra Club*
- Examine the tourism value of all mines including the St. Lawrence mines - geology, legacy, culture, influence and affluence. *Town of St. Lawrence*
 - If mine sites are already orphaned and abandoned, the only recourse is for government to allot funds to clean up the sites. These sites must be identified, classified and prioritized based on level of risk to health and safety and risk to environment. Funds would have to come from government with possible participation by industry. *Teck Duck Pond*
 - Dedicated program funds are needed to ensure progress on rehabilitating these sites. We recommend shared contributions from existing government revenues and an additional levy on operating mines contribute to a rehabilitation fund. We recommend that the amounts and types assurances posted for a mine be made available to the public. *Mining Watch*
 - We want to know that a comprehensive list of abandoned mines will be completed in the foreseeable future, and a plan is put in place to deal with them. *Protected Areas Association*
 - A more complete catalogue of the sites and their potential safety and environmental problems is required to prioritize projects... (Government) should also dedicate a portion of current mining tax revenues to a reclamation fund to ensure sites are rehabilitated in a timely fashion, always recognizing the fact that old mine sites are attractive exploration targets and new technology, new geological insights or changing economic conditions often result in either new deposits being found or the mine being reactivated due to more favourable economic conditions... a lack of clearly-defined rules regarding existing liabilities on abandoned sites are often a deterrent for prospective new owners. New legislation that clearly defines the liabilities and expectations of a company that may wish to explore or reactivate an abandoned site should be an objective. *Mining NL*
 - There is the possibility that these orphaned and abandoned mines may yet hold some economic value... If the mines are re-opened then business should be responsible for some of the legacy issues that remained particularly in areas that they intend to use within their business model. There is then a good opportunity that these orphaned and abandoned sites will be properly cleaned up when the re-opened mine ultimately closes. *Rambler Mines and Metals*
- Comments made in workshops included
- Abandoned mine sites should be assessed for historical significance.
 - Industry should set up trust fund to finance rehabilitation
 - Current mines should not be taxed to fund historical liabilities.
 - Abandoned sites have liabilities - need good samaritan legislation to attract larger companies with financial resources to explore on abandoned sites. A lot of sites with potential are left to juniors.

Climate Change

What actions can the minerals sector undertake to adapt to changing climate conditions and reduce GHG emissions? How can government support the industry in dealing with this issue?

- Government can help through provision of technical expertise as well as to assist by defraying initial study and implementation costs. *Teck Duck Pond*
- With our recent experiences of sudden unpredictable changes in weather and occurrences of freak storms we are aware that there is no guarantee that mining contaminants stored in impoundment areas can be securely contained or isolated. *Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice*
- It would be far more effective for governments to provide targeted incentives to offset the costs of adopting new technologies to reduce fossil fuel consumption rather than introducing unilateral penalties on emissions. Our province has a distinct advantage in that we have clean hydro electricity that could be provided to mines at long-term competitive prices and that would help displace the use of fossil fuels. *Mining NL*
- the Mineral Strategy makes an obligation to account for carbon emissions caused by disturbances such as mineral exploration and development, and specifically with respect to peat mining; and the strategy should look to mitigating the impacts on soil carbon from mining through a protected areas lens. *Canadian Boreal Initiative*

Workshop Comments

- Increased hydro production and transmission; increased plant efficiencies - technology upgrades - service equipment
- Alternative energy - wind-solar-geothermal-nuclear
- Develop a strategy for conserving peatlands and soil carbon to mitigate and offset the effects of mineral exploration and development

Other topics

- Foreign investment should not be pursued at any cost, but should always be contingent on the fact that these companies must consider it a privilege that they are permitted to conduct their businesses in the province and to extract its minerals, as they ultimately take the profits elsewhere. While a company may easily leave the province, the larger effects of its presence will continue to be felt for generations in its impacts on the environment, workers' health, communities and local economies. *United Steelworkers*

Uranium Mining

Uranium mining was specifically addressed in several submissions.

- Uranium mining ranks as one of the 'greenest' of energy sources, is one of the most highly regulated industries in Canada, and is done successfully and safely across Canada and elsewhere in the developed world. However, we realize the challenges this sector faces in terms of dispelling the negative myths on the mining and processing of uranium ore. Government should make sure its key decision makers are knowledgeable in this industry as well so that important decisions can be made with the best understanding. We would like to see government take a stand on the issue of uranium mining and let the industry know if indeed it does support this industry. *Altius Minerals*
- Uranium has proven a controversial topic in areas across Canada with Nova Scotia and BC implementing bans on uranium mining and New Brunswick stating it will also implement a ban. With a host of other mineral commodities, NL does not need to pursue uranium extraction to have a viable mineral sector. We recommend, prior to permitting any uranium developments, the NL government undertake a policy review with broad public participation to examine uranium mining, processing and end uses. *Mining Watch*
- Mining and exploration companies should be certain that if they spend money in the exploration for minerals that they have a reasonable chance of being able to exploit / sell any discoveries made - an example being uranium in Labrador. *Teck Duck Pond*

Written submissions

Al Hawkins, Mayor, Grand-Falls-Windsor (presented at Grand Falls-Windsor meeting)

Fred Winsor, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club, Canada (presented at St. John's meeting, 2 March)

Alexandra Gilbert, St. John's (received via e-mail, 20 March)

Jeff Brushett, prospector, Marystown (received via e-mail, 24 March)

Town of St. Lawrence (received via e-mail, 24 March)

Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation (presented at Port Hope Simpson meeting, 23 March)

Gordon Parsons (presented at Labrador City meeting, 17 March)

Rambler Metals and Mining, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Aurora Energy Ltd., written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Newfoundland and Labrador, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Len Muise, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Nature Newfoundland and Labrador and the Sandy Pond Alliance for the Protection of Canadian Waters, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Peter Dimmell, Darrin Hicks, and Gordon Cooper, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Canadian Boreal Initiative, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Mining Matters, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Tim Froude, Golden Dory Resources, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Dave Evans, Golden Dory Resources, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

United Steelworkers, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

United Steelworkers- appendix, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Mining Industry NL, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Sherry Dunsworth, Marathon Gold Corporation, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Nature Conservancy of Canada, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

MiningWatch Canada, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Protected Areas Association of Newfoundland & Labrador, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Teck Duck Pond Operations, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Canadian Geoscience Education Network, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Altius Minerals Corporation, written submission received by e-mail, April 2011

Environment & Sustainable Mining Workshop

Thursday, April 7, 2011, Holiday Inn, St. John's

Participants

Jill Kelly, Teck Duck Pond Operations
John M Hanchar, MUN
Ramsey Hart, MiningWatch Canada
Sister Mary Tee, Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice
Fred Winsor, Sierra Club Canada
John Thistle, MUN
Perry Blanchard, VALE
Chris Hogan, NL Environment Network
Gerry O' Connell, NL Chamber of Mineral Resources
Ruth French, Protected Areas Assoc. of NL
Derek Wilton, MUN
John Roberts, Aurora Energy Resources Inc.
Jamie Powell, Stantec
Douglas Ballam, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Valerie Simmons, Protected Areas Assoc. of NL
Linda Wrong, Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Ltd.
John Jacobs, Sandy Pond Alliance
Jon Feldgajer, Canadian Boreal Initiative
Don Steele, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Soc.
Suzanne Dooley, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Soc.
Brian Power, AMEC

Group Facilitators - DNR Staff

Tony Burgess, Manager, Mineral Industry Analysis
Alex Smith, Director, Mineral Development Division
Lawson Dickson, Director, Geological Survey
Martin Batterson, Senior Geologist - Geological Survey

Competitive Environment for Exploration / Mining Workshop

Friday, April 8, 2011, Holiday Inn, St. John's

Participants

Bob Kelly, Teck Duck Pond Operations
John M Hanchar, MUN
Sherry Dunsworth, Marathon Gold Corporation
Len Muise, Triple Nine Resources Ltd.
Phonce Cooper, Canada Fluorspar Inc.
Victor French, Triple Nine Resources Ltd.
Robert Wheeler, VALE
Tim Froude, Golden Dory Resources Corp.
Gerry O'Connell, NL Chamber of Mineral Resources
George Ogilvie, Rambler Metals and Mining Canada Ltd
Derek Wilton, MUN
Andrea Marshall, Aurora Energy Resources Inc.
Jamie Powell, Stantec
Frank Blackwood, Research and Development Corp.
David Copeland, Paragon Minerals Corp.
Linda Wrong, Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Ltd.
Damian D'Aguiar, IOC
Jon Feldgajer, Canadian Boreal Initiative
Peter Dimmell, Silver Spruce Resources Inc.
Patrick Laracy, Vulcan Minerals Inc.
Kaylen Hill, Dept. of Environment & Conservation
Heather Bruce-Veitch, IOC
Angie Mehta, IOC

Group Facilitators - DNR Staff

Tony Burgess, Manager, Mineral Industry Analysis
Alex Smith, Director, Mineral Development Division
Lawson Dickson, Director, Geological Survey
Martin Batterson, Senior Geologist - Geological Survey Division

The complete written submissions follow, along with workshop summaries.