

PURPOSE

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) has created the present document to help its members identify and apply practices that support responsible mineral exploration activity¹ and also provide a sound base for subsequent action should a mine be brought into production. The content of this document has been assembled to guide the actions of explorers² and should not be construed as standards of performance. Rather, the intention is to encourage the implementation of good practices and encourage innovation that will improve social, environmental and economic performance while maintaining or enhancing shareholder value. This document has been prepared with broad multi-stakeholder input over a period of more than 18 months.

The overall purpose of this document is to provide a set of Principles to which all explorers should aspire, together with Guidance which illustrates what is required to convert the Principles into action. As such, it is anticipated that, while the Principles will be common to all situations, their practical implementation will vary in terms of scope and intensity of application depending on individual project characteristics, which will differ from place to place and over time.

This version of the Principles and Guidance is presented as a ‘living document,’ subject to modification and improvement as experience is gained and circumstances change. Accordingly, the PDAC will establish an ongoing mechanism for review and revision that incorporates the views and opinions of all interested parties.

¹ Exploration is considered to encompass those activities involved in the search for and the discovery, definition and economic and technical evaluation of mineral deposits beginning with conceptual planning and extending through reconnaissance, prospecting, ore deposit identification and measurement, environmental and social baseline surveys for impact assessment, and ending with the initiation of financial feasibility studies.

² Throughout this document the term ‘Explorers’ refers to companies, corporations, firms, syndicates, partnerships, teams, groups and individuals involved in the management (including executive managers and boards of directors) and execution of mineral exploration.