

Mining and Aboriginal Engagement

CIM

Webex Presentation

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Rick Meyers

VP Diamond Affairs



The Mining Association of Canada
L'Association minière du Canada



www.mining.ca

Mining and Aboriginal Engagement



- About MAC
- *“Towards Sustainable Mining”*
 - Mining and Aboriginal Peoples Framework
- Fundamentals of Aboriginal Engagement
 - Principles, Challenges, Success Factors
- MAC Initiatives and Industry Accomplishments in Aboriginal Outreach
- Aboriginal-Industry Mining Forum
 - A New MAC Northern Initiative



The Mining Association of Canada (MAC) – Who are we?



- **National Organization of the Mining Industry in Canada**
- **Represent Canada's Senior Mineral Producers**
 - **Exploration**
 - **Mining**
 - **Smelting, semi-fabrication**
- **Committed to Sustainable Development both Socially and Environmentally**
- ***Towards Sustainable Mining* – MAC's signature initiative - a Condition of Membership**
 - **Members work towards increasingly higher standards of performance**





“Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)”

- A MAC initiative where Member Companies report publicly on their environmental and social performance.
- Company Reports are confirmed by external verification audits and guided by a Community of Interest External Advisory Panel
- Areas of Member Company Performance include:
 - Social Responsibility
 - Aboriginal Relations >>>>
 - External Engagement
 - Crisis Communications
 - Environmental Management
 - Biodiversity
 - Energy Management
 - Tailings Management
 - Mine Closure



TSM - Aboriginal Relations



Mining and Aboriginal Peoples Framework

- *To “ensure that mining takes place responsibly in a manner that creates economic opportunity, is respectful of community interests, protects the environment and ensures public safety”*
- MAC Member companies have agreed that we will:
 - Respect Aboriginal and Treaty and Title Rights
 - Acknowledge and respect the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of Aboriginal People
 - Engage with Aboriginal Peoples – TSM Guiding Principles
 - Develop company policies and systems that support these commitments



TSM - Aboriginal Relations

MAC's Perspective



- **MAC members recognize that achieving long-term sustainability for mining must include the sustainability of local Aboriginal communities;**
- **Aboriginal business partnerships are becoming an integral part of mining industry and an important element of community development;**
- **Community engagement is essential for mining's future in Canada;**
- **The mining industry – large and small – needs to be aligned with Aboriginal communities to move forward.**



Fundamentals of Engagement



Consider certain Guiding Principles...

- **Respect - *for Cultures, Traditions and Values***
- **Commitment to Engagement;**
- **Recognizing Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights and Title;**
- **Support for the Aspirations of Aboriginal Communities;**
- **Providing Lasting Benefits;**



Key Challenges



- **Lack of Capacity (Aboriginal and Industry)**
- **Managing Expectations**
- **Identifying the right people to engage**
- **Unsettled Land Claims**
- **Government Red Tape**



Tools of Engagement



- **Capacity Development for Communities;**
- **Effective Engagement Framework;**
- **Use of Independent Facilitators familiar with local communities;**
- **Ensuring company staff are competent and trained for community engagement;**
- **Education programs and Information Sessions;**
- **Establishing Joint Committees or Working Groups.**



Critical Success Factors



- **Effective Communication;**
- **Positive and Productive Working Relationships;**
- **Balance in Dialogue between parties;**
- **Negotiations in Good Faith;**
- **Flexibility in interaction between parties;**
- **Understanding and acceptance of possible Limitations in dialogue;**
- **Understanding the Social, Economic and Political structures of the Communities engaged.**



MAC-AFN Letter of Intent



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Assembly of First Nations
and
The Mining Association of Canada**

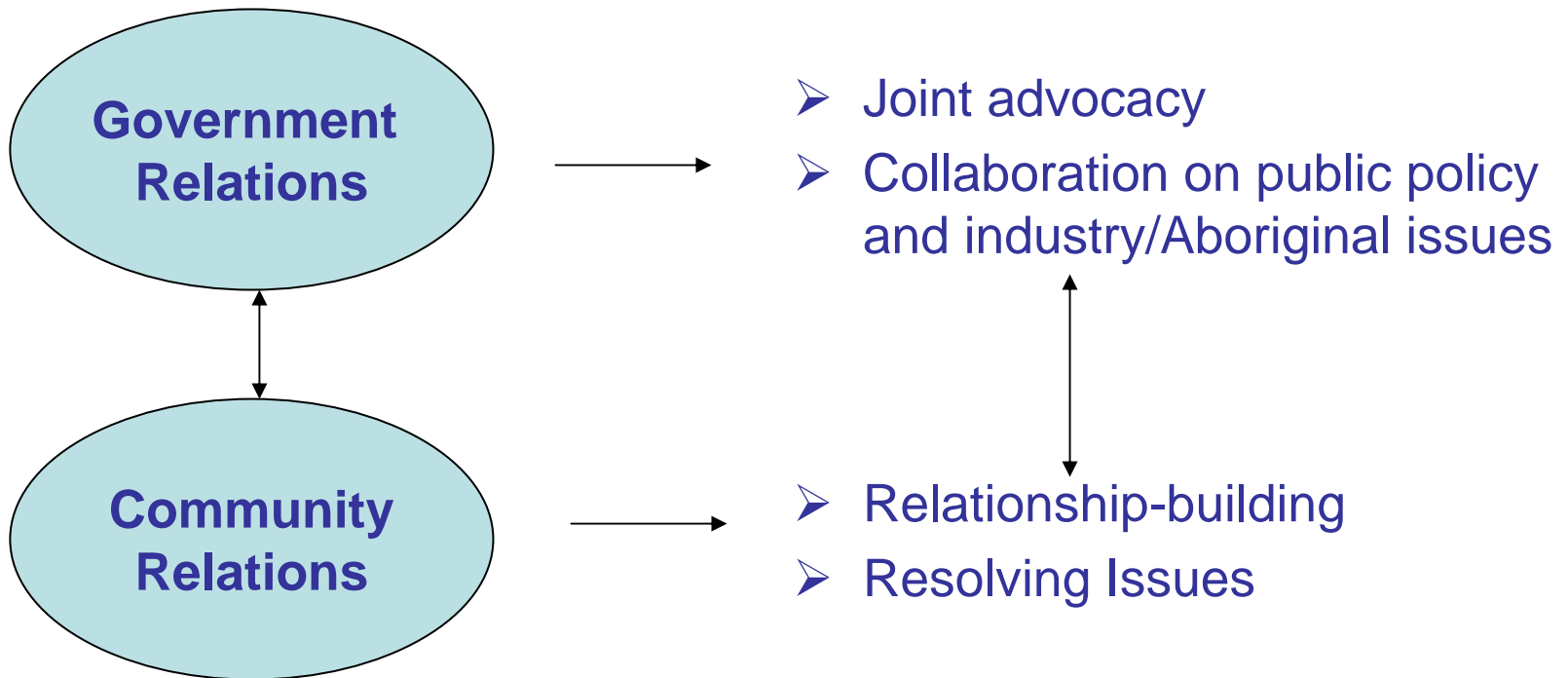
- **Key Principle:** *Recognition of strong First Nation Government and related sustainable socio-economic development needs;*
- **Commitments:** *Taking up AFN's Corporate Challenge*
 - **Working towards developing and enhancing:**
 - **Partnerships**
 - **Investment potential**
 - **Procurement**
 - **Employment and Human Resources development**



MAC-AFN Relationship



We want to act on our commitment to the **Letter of Intent** between the Assembly of First Nations and MAC



Benefits of Northern Mining



- **Impact Benefit and Participation Agreements**
 - 18 Agreements in place for 4 mines
- **Employment**
 - 22,000 person-years, 50% northern/Aboriginal
- **Aboriginal and Northern Business Development**
 - \$2.4 billion on northern/Aboriginal contracts
- **Environmental Monitoring Committees**
- **Education and Training Programs**
 - Supervisory and management training
 - Community-based trades training
 - Scholarship programs
- **Direct and In-kind support for Community Development**
 - Sports centres, transition houses, health-care facilities





Recent Aboriginal Engagement Activities

- **MAC/TSM – Aboriginal Community Workshops**
 - 3 held in 2007/08
- **Dene National Assembly**
 - Ft. McPherson, NWT, July, 2008
- **Akaiicho Territory Government Assembly**
 - Ft. Resolution, NWT, August, 2008
- **AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development**
 - Kamloops, BC, September, 2008
- **BC First Nations Mining Summit**
 - Prince George, BC October, 2008
- **NWT Aboriginal-Industry Mining Forum**
 - Yellowknife, NWT, December 2, 2008



New Northern Initiative

Aboriginal – Mining Forum



- **MAC has proposed a forum to strengthen relations between Aboriginal Peoples and the Northern Minerals Industry**
- **To build on the relationships we already have (IBAs, Employment, Business Partnerships)**
- **To help ensure the economic future of Aboriginal Communities and the northern Mining Industry**
- **We are working with PDAC and the NWT-Nunavut Chamber of Mines**





- **No existing forum** in the North to facilitate dialogue between the mining industry and Aboriginal communities.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Establish regularity and consistency to Dialogue**
 - **Resolve Issues**
 - **Educate participants**
 - **Engage governments**
 - **Demonstrate leadership**
 - **Establish a Vision for sustainable communities with mining as a key factor for economic security**



Positive Feedback



- To date the response from northern Aboriginal Groups and media has been supportive

Time to talk about mining

It's no secret that the mining industry and Canada's First Nations have had a spotty relationship in the past.

Mistrust and a general lack of respect have often been the byproducts when these two parties interact.

There seems to be a new understanding that the future of each group now largely hinges on the

Development

other. Mining companies have the money and skills aboriginal people want for improving their quality of life. At the same time, First Nations increasingly control some of the best tracts of land our mineral-rich country has to offer.

It may seem like a small step, but the Mining Aboriginal Forum

proposed at the Akaitcho Assembly in Fort Resolution has the potential to start these two distinct groups on the path toward a very profitable future together.

Hopefully the forum, if it does come together, will help each side understand the concerns of the other by establishing the respectful and ongoing dialogue that's so long overdue.

News North, August 25, 2008



Summary – Key Messages



- **Aboriginal Engagement is a Process, not a one-time event, requiring considerable investment in time and preparation;**
- **Should be undertaken early, ideally before project activity begins;**
- **Must engage the right people and foster positive and trusting working relationships;**
- **Must be grounded in knowledge of the social, cultural and economic priorities of the Community;**
- **Must be supportive and should offer tangible benefits, as well as other economic opportunities;**
- **Above all, must be respectful.**



Thank You



Mahsi Cho!

Thank You

Rick Meyers
Vice President, Diamonds Affairs
The Mining Association of Canada
613-233-9392 ext 329
RMeyers@mining.ca

Philip Bousquet
Senior Program Director
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
416-362-1969 ext 230
pbousquet@pdac.ca