



The Mining Association of Canada L'Association minière du Canada

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The Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities

A Response to MiningWatch's "An Insult to Aboriginal People: A Critique of the Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities."

The Information Kit was developed in partnership by the federal government, the mining industry and Aboriginal representatives in response to a survey of Aboriginal communities undertaken in 2003. The results of the survey indicated that most communities have not been exposed to the mining industry and have not considered mining as a source of economic development. In addition, the survey clearly revealed the absence of much information about the mining industry. The survey showed a desire for basic information on the mining industry that would help Aboriginal communities make decisions about whether or not to pursue opportunities presented by mining.

The Information Kit responds to this need. It was not intended to be an exhaustive description of the mining industry, but was designed to provide basic information about the different stages of the industry, from exploration to closure, and to identify both opportunities and risks throughout these stages. The Information Kit also includes references to numerous other sources of information on the mining industry.

The design and content of the Information Kit was developed through extensive consultation and field-testing with Aboriginal representatives and communities. They, and the many Aboriginal organizations in Canada and indigenous organizations worldwide that have requested copies of the Kit, assure us that our collective undertaking has been a success. The Kit is already in its second printing to meet high demand.

It is unfortunate, but perhaps not surprising, that MiningWatch, an anti-mining advocacy organization, has taken such negative view of the Information Kit. It is perhaps easier to criticize than to work collaboratively to meet a social need, as we have done. We hope that Aboriginal communities continue to find the Information Kit useful and that they will appreciate that mining can be an important economic opportunity for them, as it is already for many Aboriginal communities across Canada.



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