



2018

YUKON MINERAL ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT







MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

YMAB is here to support YG in the delivery of this priority to achieve a tangible outcome and will assist with the implementation of our recommendation.

-Roger Souckey

The Yukon Mineral Advisory Board (YMAB) recognizes the Yukon Government's (YG)'s continuing efforts on all past YMAB priorities. Specifically, we recognize the importance of respectful and mutually beneficial relationships between government, industry and Yukon First Nations. While progress must be made to move priorities forward to the required outcomes, YMAB acknowledges the momentum being created by Yukon Government's continued commitment and work to date in this area.

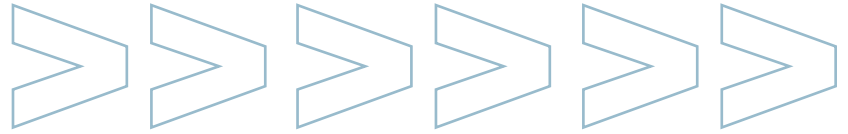
The YMAB has completed a detailed review of the past several years of progress against the priorities highlighted in previous YMAB reports. In our review we have noted many of the same priorities have been identified by YMAB and carried forward year after year without there being delivered any of the desired outcomes. Rather than repeat previous recommendations, we wish to focus on one clearly identified opportunity, being that of improved efficiency in the regulatory assessment process. In this report we focus on what we see as a desirable and achievable outcome for the Yukon Government with the support of YMAB. YMAB is here to support YG in the delivery of this priority to achieve a tangible outcome and will assist with the implementation of our recommendation. We believe that progressing this one item will deliver a positive outcome for Yukon and its residents and will decrease the excessive cost of assessment currently being borne by Yukoners due to the impost of the current duplication or triplication of processes. Implementation of the recommendation will also deliver further economic development in this sector and improve the attractiveness of this territory for mining and other economic development.

We continue to offer our support toward minimizing obstacles to investment in our territory and look forward to continuing to work with Yukon Government toward tangible action.

Roger Souckey,

Chair | Yukon Mineral Advisory Board

PREFACE



This report focuses on one main priority:

Regulatory Improvements – specifically the current duplication and triplication of assessment.

Several recommendations, which have been repeated in past annual reports, are still pending, including:

- 1) **Regulatory Improvements**
- 2) **Intergovernmental Relations** – the government has focused on this priority and has made significant progress. We have now moved towards a government-to-government relationship with First Nations and this was a recommendation in previous years' reports.
- 3) **Security Bonding**
- 4) **Development, Access and Opportunities**

We do not consider all recommendations from the past four years resolved; however, rather than repeating them, we believe the current state of the regulatory process is dire enough that we request the Yukon Government prioritize the primary recommendation of improved regulatory efficiency. With a single clear focused priority we hope to see measurable outcomes and improvement to then continue on to the other remaining priorities in the years to come.

The example of Alexco Resource Corp's Keno Hill project illustrates the inefficiencies, the subsequent impact on resource companies' schedules and productivity, and potential risks to projects and industry overall. At the time of presenting before the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee on October 3, 2017, Alexco had been through the YESAA process 11 times in 10 years. With this before-and-after perspective, Alexco stated that over the eight years before YESAA was amended, the time period for assessments increased more than fivefold, with examples of reassessments – not initial assessments – taking as long as 298 days.

With regulatory hurdles like this being watched very closely by potential investors, it is YMAB's position that the Yukon's mining industry has reached a critical phase, and action is needed to prevent potential investors from preferentially investing in other jurisdictions where they can feel more confident of the efficiency and efficacy of the regulatory approvals process. There will be substantial benefits to the territory should economically significant projects such as Goldcorp Coffee Mine project, BMC Kudze Kayah project and Western Copper and Gold Casino project continue to progress. The inverse is also true. Along with the direct impact of lost business opportunities, job creation and tax revenues, failure to take advantage of the federal Capital Investment Fund toward infrastructure such as roadways could also be felt for years to come. In the meantime, the existing regulatory inefficiencies continue to cost taxpayers via unnecessary duplication throughout the permitting process.

Any decreasing attractiveness for mineral exploration in the region will be due in large part to perceived obstacles presented by current policy. The length, complexity, duplication and triplication of regulatory assessment carries the very real risk of mining investments and development opportunities leaving the Yukon, and repercussions for our future economy.

There are many aspects to the issue, and we acknowledge that the government must consider many perspectives; however, YMAB's role is to make recommendations to Yukon Government regarding our industry. We are compelled to assist in a clear and tangible manner: the time to take positive and concrete steps forward on this issue is now.



PRIORITY: Identify and (ultimately) remove duplication within various acts/legislation between the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB), the Water Board and Quartz and Placer Mining Acts. This will ultimately improve the timelines, efficiency and progress of development.



RECOMMENDATION

1. Commission a team to identify and remove duplication from the current assessment and regulatory processes. Seek input from all stakeholders to identify the overlaps in the processes (YESAA, the Yukon Waters Act, Quartz and Placer Mining Acts), create a roadmap, and execute this roadmap to eliminate these overlaps.

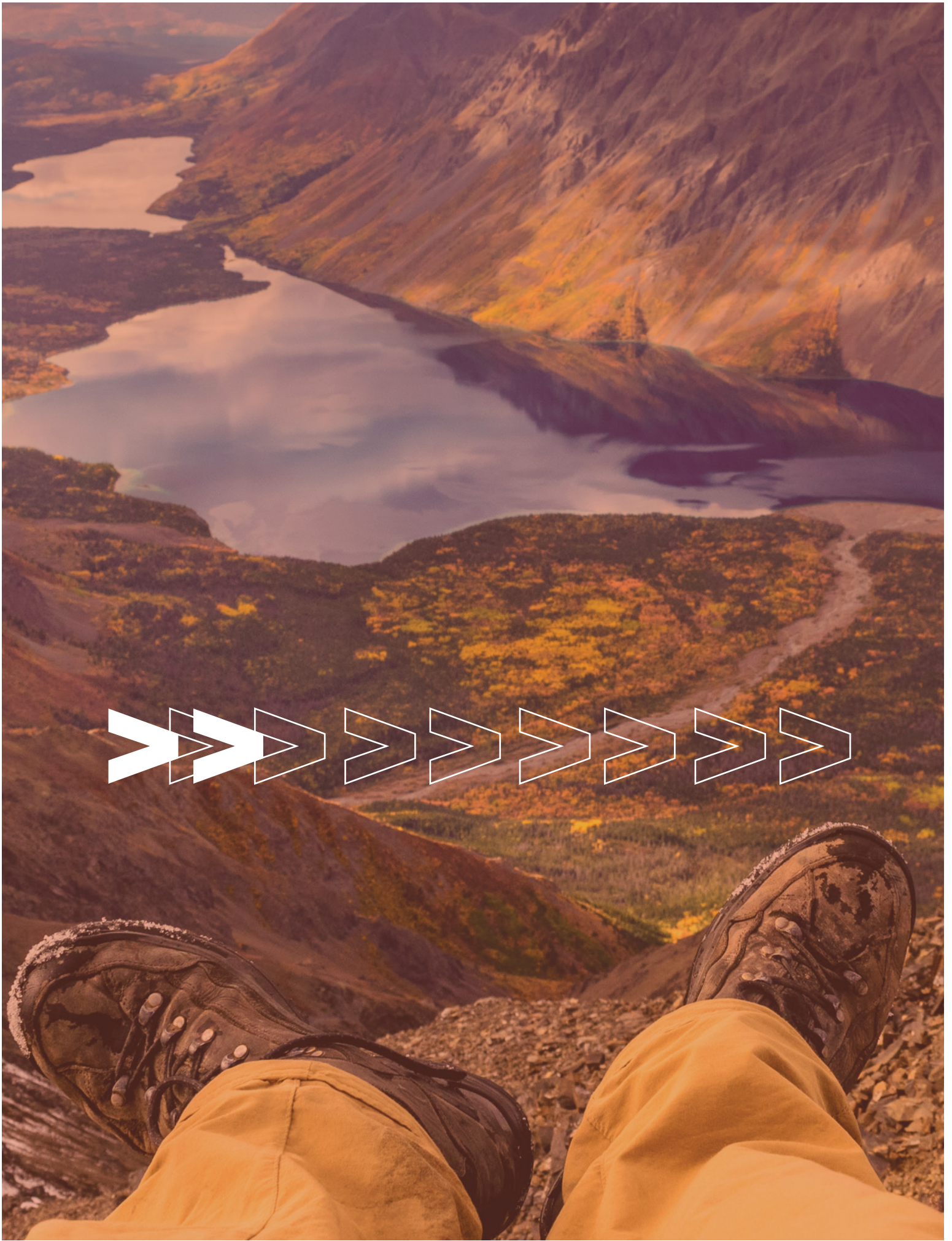
Note: We recognize that this recommendation may be beyond the scope of Yukon Government without opening all the pieces of legislation; however, an outside consultant could be sourced with YMAB support to assist the Yukon Government in the best approach to drafting MOUs or OICs to help streamline the processes.

Various pieces of legislation may still need to be opened up in order to truly reduce duplication, triplication and improve regulatory assessment. Please note that the Waters Act has not been updated to work with YESAB's assessment process.

STEPS FORWARD

1. Yukon Government, in conjunction with YMAB, to appoint an auditing team lead by a suitably qualified, experienced and unbiased consultant with the aim of developing a clear roadmap for identifying unnecessary duplication of mining approvals assessment processes between the YESA, Placer, Quartz Mining and Water Acts. Such a commission to commence and be completed within five months of this report.
2. Yukon Government to allocate appropriate budget and resources to facilitate the commission and follow up actions with the aim of starting implementation of the recommendations within six months of this report.
3. Yukon Government to utilize YMAB to brief and liaise with the appointed consultant as part of the commission, roadmap and improvement implementation processes.







2018

YUKON MINERAL ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

