

New minerals legislation

Decisions, disagreements, public involvement and transparency



A post marks the boundary of a mineral claim. There are many decisions made across the mining regime, beginning with approval of licences for exploration.

There are numerous decisions made across the current mining regime, from the approval of licences for exploration and the licensing of placer and quartz mines, to the amount of security that should be held for different activities. Decision-making mechanisms and processes seek to support many factors, including transparency and public input, accountability, certainty, impartiality and efficiency.

The challenges

We're considering different approaches to decision-making in the new regime, including how the public might be involved, and how disagreements might be dealt with.

Potential approaches

These are some of the approaches that we're considering. We'd like to hear your thoughts.

- **Decision makers**

We're considering whether a third-party should inform or make some decisions that are currently made by government.

- **Involvement of Indigenous governments in decision-making**

We're considering a spectrum of options for the involvement of Indigenous governments in making decisions.

- **Public involvement**

We're looking at a range of options for increasing opportunities for public input across the whole regime.

- **Transparency**

We're looking at how to improve and coordinate access to certain kinds of information. One approach is to create a public registry to house information on licences and other matters.



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- **Dispute resolution**

When parties can't agree, having a dispute resolution process can allow those parties to resolve issues without going to court. We're contemplating if and when such a process might be required and how it could be structured.

- **Appeals**

Similarly, when a proponent disagrees with a decision, having an appeal process can resolve issues without going to court. We're contemplating if and when such a process might be required and how it could be structured.

