

## New minerals legislation

# Mineral tenure – disposition and acquisition



Mineral tenure is currently acquired in the Yukon through physical staking of the ground.

Disposition of mineral tenure refers to the rules for how mineral rights are made available and granted. Acquisition, meanwhile, refers to the rules that a person or company must follow to get tenure and to determine who is eligible to acquire tenure (e.g., physical staking or online map-staking). We're looking at ways to modernize the tenure disposition and acquisition regime to make it clear, straightforward, and consistent with Aboriginal and treaty rights across the Yukon. The new regime should meet the interests and needs of current and future Yukon residents, reflect a balanced approach to other land uses, and support a viable and responsible mineral exploration and mining sector.

### The challenges

Some elements of the current disposition and acquisition system are out of date and need to be revisited. Several key issues need to be addressed, including how to determine which areas are open for mineral activity, and whether tenure should be a legal right or granted by permission.

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## Potential approaches

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

- **Granting of mineral tenure**  
We're considering whether mineral tenure should be a right or a permission. We're considering an approach similar to the current system where tenure is granted so long as a claim is staked properly (i.e., there is no discretion). We're also considering an approach that provides decision-makers with discretion to grant or refuse tenure. We're also considering approaches that would grant tenure all at once or in stages.
- **Where mineral activity can occur**  
We're considering different approaches for determining which areas are open for mineral activity and which are not. For example, all land could be available unless withdrawn from staking or specific areas could be designated for mineral activity.
- **How is tenure acquired**  
We're considering ways by which mineral tenure may be acquired, whether through physical staking of the ground or online map-based staking, and whether the requirements should be the same or different for the placer and quartz sectors.

