

New minerals legislation

Socio-economic considerations



The Wolverine mine site. We're looking at ways to reduce mining's negative socio-economic impacts and increase its benefits.

Mining and its related activities can have broad social and economic impacts, both positive and negative. It can lead to improved roads and infrastructure and create many well-paying jobs. It can also put pressure on social services and can increase the cost of living by creating additional demands for materials, services and labour. As well, workplace violence and harassment can disproportionately impact Indigenous people, women and gender and sexual minorities. Workers from Yukon communities can find the pressures of working in the mining sector contributes to substance use and increased stress within families.

We want to ensure that a new regime minimizes negative socio-economic impacts and maximizes socio-economic benefits.

The challenges

Accessing socio-economic data and identifying suitable indicators can be challenging. Mitigating socio-economic impacts may require resources and tools that are costly, and some solutions may fall outside the scope of minerals legislation.

Potential approaches

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

- **Agreements**
Agreements involving mining companies and governments (Indigenous and public) help to address socio-economic impacts and increase benefits. Agreements could address topics such as employment, training, and education. Some agreements may involve project proponents, while agreements related to community infrastructure and services may be between governments.
- **Monitoring and reporting**
Legislation could require monitoring and reporting of socio-economic effects.
- **Information requirements**
Legislation could require that proponents submit socio-economic information when applying for a permit or license.
- **Regulatory reviews**
Legislation could require regulators to consider the socio-economic impacts of a project. Although currently required, more specific direction could be provided in a new regime.
- **Engagement**
Project proponents of a certain scale could be required to engage affected Indigenous groups, communities and stakeholders. This could help identify impacts and potential mitigations. Public engagement by government could also be required for some projects.