

M08-0050

February 4, 2008

Mineral Sector Stakeholders

Dear Sir/Madam:

Over the past 3 years, the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines (MNDM) has supported the Boreal Prospector Association's Northern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium, through sponsoring a workshop or meetings related to Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Initiatives.

Once again, MNDM will be facilitating a workshop that will focus on Developing an Aboriginal Consultation Approach for Mineral Sector Activities. The workshop is scheduled for the evening of February 18 and all day February 19, 2008. This workshop is part of Northern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium scheduled for the evening of February 19 and all day on February 20, 2008 to hear more about "The Business of Mineral Exploration". The workshop and symposium will take place at the Sunset Inn and Suites in Sioux Lookout.

The MNDM workshop this year will focus on three key themes related to consultation needs. These themes have been selected to address concerns and needs raised by First Nations and industry through participation in earlier MNDM workshops, correspondence, individual meetings, etc. These themes will be:

- 1. Capacity building/needs, information sharing & training to better participate in consultation related to the minerals exploration sector**
- 2. Roles and responsibilities of Ontario-MNDM, Industry and First Nations related to consultation**
- 3. Agreements related to early through advanced stage exploration**

Attached is a draft agenda for the workshop, an advertisement for the Northern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium and registration forms. I ask if you are interested in participating to please contact Lori Churchill at 705-670-5920.

For those of you that have taken the opportunity to provide feedback on our Discussion Paper, I thank-you. It is your feedback that has driven this agenda to further explore recommendations on how to address these needs. For those that have not yet provided input to us, I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Again, I thank-you for the opportunity to meet and I am looking forward to seeing many of you again.

Sincerely,



Christine Kaszycki
Assistant Deputy Minister
Mines and Minerals Division

C: Aboriginal Relations Unit
Facilitators: Fox Consulting Inc., Wanlin & Co, Jon del Ben