

Bill 149

Mineral Resources Act

Presentation to the Law Amendments Committee

Mining Association of Nova Scotia

April 25, 2016



Industry Overview

- ▶ 5500 jobs, mostly in rural areas
 - Down over 800 since 2008
- ▶ \$420 million in economic activity per year
 - Down \$80 million/year
- ▶ Ivany endorsement
- ▶ PWC tax/royalty analysis
- ▶ Fraser Institute survey
- ▶ Important industry but in need of help



Mineral Resources Act Review

- ▶ We support the review.
- ▶ Administrative, common sense overhaul of the Act.
- ▶ The Act simply needed to be modernized and brought into line with equivalent legislation in other provinces.
- ▶ Reduce red tape.
- ▶ Ivany highlighted need to “provide a modern and responsive legislative framework to support and promote sustainable mineral resource management.”



Examples of Common Sense Improvements

- ▶ Exploration licences to change to two-year renewal from annual
- ▶ Raise limit to begin mining production from two to five years
- ▶ Discontinuation of special licences and leases
- ▶ Consultation
 - Public engagement plans, a first in Canada
 - Written permission for disturbance exploration work
- ▶ Changes to reclamation and security to ensure up to date reclamation plans, appropriate levels of security and monitoring throughout the process
 - Companies are and should be responsible for reclamation costs



Protect Land *and* Jobs

Strike the right balance

- ▶ Nova Scotia plans to protect – remove from economic usage – over 13% of the province's land mass.
- ▶ Other Atlantic provinces:
 - NB 3.1%
 - PEI 2.8%
 - NL 4.6%



Out of step with neighbouring provinces and putting ourselves at an economic disadvantage.

Nova Scotians own Mineral Rights

- ▶ Mineral rights are owned by the Crown.
- ▶ Ensures all Nova Scotians benefit when minerals are removed from the ground and used to create jobs, and generate tax and royalty revenues.
- ▶ The change the groups are asking for is inconsistent with this fundamental principle.
- ▶ While cabinet would technically remain the ultimate decision-maker, the groups are effectively asking that the decision be largely delegated to them.
 - Clause 21 of their proposed legislative amendment makes this clear where it says "Withdrawals may not be unreasonably withheld."
 - Undermines cabinet's authority and largely hands it to unelected, non-governmental organizations.



Conclusion

We respectfully request that the legislature pass the new Act ASAP, and pass it without additional amendments.



Not Your Grandfather's Mining Industry

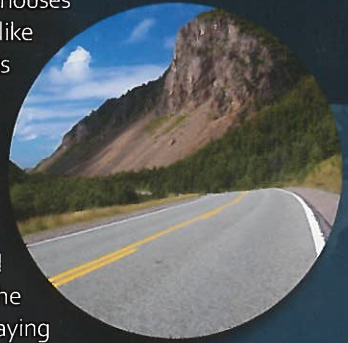


Today's mining and quarrying industry is a sophisticated, high tech business that is vital to our economy and way of life - and a very different industry than in the past.

Dig a little deeper. This is not your grandfather's mining industry.

Why Mining Matters

Mining and quarrying are vital to our economy and way of life. Mining contributes to everything in our daily lives, from houses to electronics to food production. You can't build things like homes, roads, schools and hospitals without the materials we take from the ground.

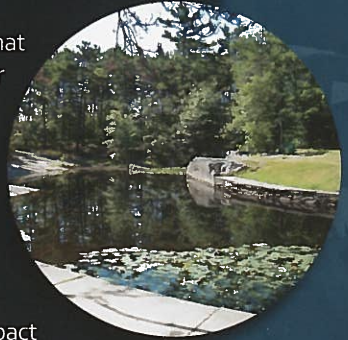


Jobs and Prosperity

Nova Scotia's mining and quarrying industry is a key creator of jobs and prosperity for Nova Scotians. It provides thousands of jobs, mostly in rural areas, and contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to the province's economy each year. Mining is the highest-paying natural resource industry and one of the highest-paying of all industries in the province.

Environment and Reclamation

Mining is an environmentally-responsible industry that makes temporary use of land, and then reclaims it for other purposes, such as natural space, recreational areas and commercial and residential development. For example, Point Pleasant Park, one of Nova Scotia's most beautiful natural spaces, contains over 50 former quarries, and shopping centre Dartmouth Crossing was built where several quarries used to operate.



We are committed to minimizing our environmental impact while working on a site, and then to reclaiming it in ways that maximize its use for communities.

Safety Culture

We believe the most important thing to come out of a mine is the miner, and our safety record reflects this. Injury rates in the mining and quarrying industry have been reduced 90% in the last 15 years, and are lower than other comparable industries.



Modern mining uses technology and knowledge to extract materials safely and ensure that our colleagues get home to their families each night. For more information, please visit:

www.NotYourGrandfathersMining.ca

Mining Association of Nova Scotia