



# *Nova Scotia Prospectors Association*

**Presentation to  
Law Amendments Committee  
Bill 149 Mineral Resources Act  
25 April, 2016**

# PRESENTERS

- Mr. Matt Abel, President
- Mr. John F. Wightman, Executive Director



# NSPA MANDATE

- We are a “not-for-profit” organization established to collectively promote prospecting in Nova Scotia.
- We hold regular monthly educational meetings through the winter months to educate and encourage new members and interested individuals to prospect for minerals using the latest exploration techniques.
- We conduct field trips and gold panning clinics in the spring, summer and fall to educate members.



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# Why are Prospectors Important?

Over 1000 prospectors are registered in NS.

The majority of new mines are initially found by prospectors.

Prospectors generally live and work in rural areas. They know the community and rural values.

They are entrepreneurs and run small business in support of the rural economy.



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# Bill 149 – Mineral Resources Act

## Why is it Important to the NSPA?

- The old MRA is 25 years old – it is outdated and contains clauses and regulations that place the NSPA member at a disadvantage to our counterparts in neighboring Provinces.
- It is the Legislation that governs our interaction with the public and facilitates our ability to conduct our business.
- It is critical to the NSPA that we get the new MRA right for the benefit of the NS economy.



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# The NSPA Supports the new MRA

- We feel that the Government and officials in the Department of Natural Resources have done an excellent job in recognizing and correcting the deficiencies in the old Act in light of the reality of 2016.
- We are particularly pleased with the move to the 2 year staking environment. Less paper work – more field work.
- We look forward to the new Regulations which we hope will address our concerns with respect to: staking and assessment fees. Work credit for additional exploration expenses, regrouping fees and 2016 level credit for prospector per diems.



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# However, a Major Concern

- The guiding Purpose of Act or “goal” in the present MRA is that in 1A (b) “encouraging, promoting and facilitating mineral exploration, development and production,”
- The new Act very unfortunately and unexplainably removes the word promoting.



# Promote – Promoting the mineral industry in NS

- To further the growth or progress of.
- Actively encourage an activity or resource or commodity.
- Includes all the ways available to make a product or service known to and available to purchase by customers (investors).





# Importance to Prospectors

- Prospectors do not have the financial means to “promote” their claims nationally.
- The Government through DNR has provided this promotional opportunity by travel, booth and poster assistance at major mineral trade shows. New mineral investment has occurred.
- The NSPA is concerned that future administrators of the MRA may, failing the inclusion of “promoting” in this new Act, not continue this level of “promotion.”



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# The Mineral Resources Act (1990) & (2016)

- The existing (1990) Mineral Resources Act, in its over-arching purpose, authorizes the Province to “promote” responsible mineral resource management.
- The new (2016) Act does not. It merely gives the Province the authority “facilitate” responsible mineral resource management.
- I feel it is essential that DNR be authorized by the Act to let the global mineral exploration industry know what Nova Scotia has to offer by promoting the Provinces mineral potential to the wider industry.



# Request

- Madam Chair, I am here today to ask this Committee to replace the word “facilitate” in the over-arching purpose of the new (2016) Mineral resources Act with “promote” (both in Section 2 (1) and in Section 2 (1)(b)).



# Acknowledgements

**NSMIP Funding: 2013 - 2016**

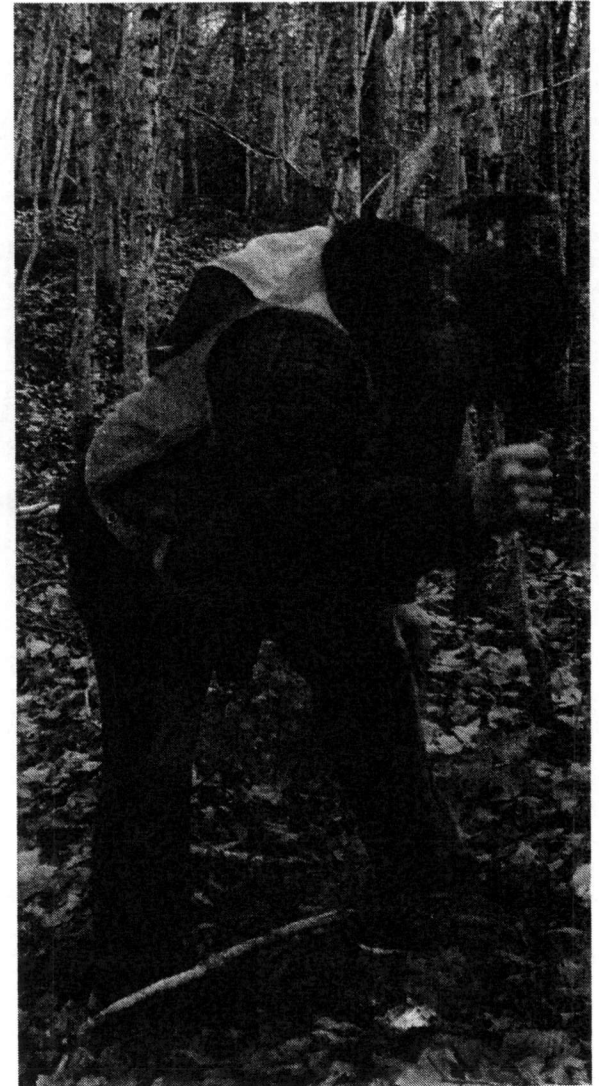
**Travel Assistance to Conferences**

**Poster and Booth Space**

**New Prospector Training Course**

**Digital Mapping / GIS Training**

**Assistance from DNR Geologists**



thank You

the End

Questions?



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