

**Summary of Mineral Exploration Roundup 2004**  
***The Future of Resource Development: Striking the Balance***

The 2004 Mineral Exploration Roundup hosted an afternoon session on sustainability during which the mining industry's progress towards sustainability was discussed. A paraphrased summary of this discussion is presented below.

**Speaker: John O'riordan,**  
**Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, BC**

British Columbia has 90 protocols with first nations, and has finalized a coastal land use plan. First nations have been extensively involved in the land use planning process. The BC government is working hard to lift the threat of market campaigns, such as those that have occurred in the forestry industry. The consensus reached on the central coast agreement shows that this can be done.

**Speaker: Gordon Peeling, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mining Association of Canada**

The social license required for mines to operate is at risk. The bar keeps rising for corporate behavior. There are examples of mines that have met regulatory approval but have been unable to move forward due to lack of public acceptance.

The goal of the Mining Association of Canada's Towards Sustainability Initiative is to improve stakeholder judgment.

In March 2000 a task force was created with the following mandate:

*Continue to earn the opportunity to thrive and contribute by demonstrating the social relevance and value of our industry through a stewardship process that aligns our actions with the evolving priorities of our stakeholders.*

The following key gaps in performance were identified:

- Corporate social responsibility (the need for continuous improvement)
- Crisis communication
- The legacy of abandoned and orphaned mines
- Capacity for dialogue with communities of interest

There is a changing industry culture which requires:

- Board leadership and company champions
- The development of Guiding Principles  
(<http://www.mining.ca/english/tsm/principles-eng.pdf>)
- Performance objectives
- A stronger criteria for MAC membership that includes sustainability

To go from principles to operation a community of interest advisory panel was created, and four sets of performance indicators were developed. A multi interest design team defined the panel's goals, activities, scope and rules of operation.

The design team has the following composition:

- 13 external interest groups
- 5 Mining Association of Canada board members
- 1 PDAC representative

The composition of the external interest groups is:

- 4 aboriginal
- 2 labour
- 2 Environmental NGOs
- 1 Social NGO
- 1 other

The performance indicators are:

- External outreach
- Crisis communication
- Tailings management
- Energy use

Environmental progress reports will be available at <http://www.mining.ca/english/> to document progress.

Key areas identified are:

- Aboriginal relations
- Closure planning and reclamation
- Environmental management systems
- Community development

Reporting has started internally and will lead to external verification within a few years.

**Speaker: Linda Coady, Vice President, World Wildlife Fund Western Canada**

There are 200 ecosystems that hold the key to maintaining the worlds biological DNA. The WWF's goal is to protect, manage and restore these ecosystems. Conservation is made up of core protected areas, integrated land use landscapes and restoration of damaged land. Sustainability is larger than conservation and demands to reconcile things that are hard to reconcile. For example: intergenerational equity, local interests versus global interests, public or crown versus aboriginal title.

BC's strategy for reconciling competing tensions is sustainability.

Sustainability equals the conservation of representative ecosystems plus the application of best management practices.

The WWF has partnerships with Ikea, Home Depot, World Bank, Ducks Unlimited, Forest Ethics, CPAWS and others.

The BC central coast agreement and the tourism / mining accord (The BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines, The Mining Association of Canada and the Council of Tourism Associations recently signed a MOU) create certainty. There is value in partnerships between opposites. In diversity there is strength. No one party has the ability or resources to unilaterally manage all of the issues that affect them. Alliances between diverse interests are a viable strategy.

**Speaker: Ken Baker, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management**

The mandate of the ministry is to promote a vibrant economy through sustainable development of the provinces land and resources.

Mining is a 3.5 billion dollar industry in BC, providing 10,000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs.

The role of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

- Complete strategic land use plans by June 2004
- Define Zone 1, the protected zone
- Confirm access to Zone 2, the mineral zone
- Develop joint solutions
- Review the no-staking reserves
- Support new relations with first nations
- Shift to culture to getting to yes

Zone 2 is in legislation, and access to it by mining interests will be guaranteed. A systematic review of the no-staking reserves is underway, so many new areas will open up. The ministry is supporting the Tahltan First Nation in developing their mining symposium, and the Oweekeno First Nation in their mineral potential assessment.

**Speaker: Bill Mercer, Presidents of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)**

PDAC has developed Environmental Excellence in Exploration (E3), an exhaustive compendium of best practices. It contains field proven, practical applications. It is the work of a consortium of 16 major companies, and aims to reduce liability. It will be free to all starting in March 2004. It addresses management essentials, community engagement, and environmental practice. See <http://www.e3mining.com/> for more information.

**Speaker: Dave Porter, Chair, Kaska Dene Council**

The Kaska traditional territory contains gold, zinc, copper and emeralds. To gain stability we require land claim and treaty agreements. The Farrow mine left a bad legacy. The site is now contaminated and needs stabilization otherwise the Yukon River will become contaminated. Unlike when the Farrow mine went in, a bilateral agreement with the Yukon government requires Kaska consent prior to the issue of permits.

The four Cs to working with first nations:

- Communication – early and often and with the knowledge that First Nations are not stakeholders, they are another government
- Consultation
- Capacity building
- Commitment

**Speaker: Lorne Grasley, Mining Association of BC**

Sustainability principles have been adopted by the Provincial Government. The BC Mining Association, together with the Mining Association of Canada, has developed Towards Sustainable Mining. It is an industry level strategy for sustainable mining. The objectives of Towards Sustainable Mining are:

- to improve practices (based on the ISO continual improvement model)
- to improve performance (eventually to be verified by an independent third party)
- to increase capacity
- to broaden reach to include participants (partnerships)

The implementation plan for the Mining Association of BC's Towards Sustainable Mining includes:

- Formation of a consultation panel much like the national model.
- Towards Sustainable Mining reporting
- Publication of 5 discussion papers
- Linking with the national program