



Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia

The Importance of Early & Meaningful Aboriginal Engagement in BC's Mineral Exploration Sector

Sustainable Development in the Minerals Industry 2015

July 15, 2015

Lana Eagle
Chair, AME BC Aboriginal Relations Committee

A photograph of two people in outdoor gear standing in a river. The person on the right is wearing a brown hat, a brown jacket, and a red and yellow safety vest. The person on the left is wearing a green hooded jacket and a blue safety vest. They are both looking towards the left. The background is a lush green hillside.

About AME BC

Leadership, Advocacy, Partnerships

- AME BC is an industry association with almost 5,000 members
- Serving members since April 23, 1912
- Non-profit association funded by industry, not government
- Non-partisan advocates for successful and socially responsible exploration and development
- Proud host of Mineral Exploration Roundup conference
 - over 6600 delegates at Roundup 2015



BC – a Centre of Excellence

- BC is still home to the world's largest MX cluster
 - 1,000 BC-based companies are exploring and developing mineral & coal resources around the globe
 - 2,400 service consultants and supplier companies support the sector (technical, legal, financial)
- BC has top academic and research facilities
 - Leading schools and programs in engineering, geosciences and related science & technology
 - NWCC, TRU, BCIT, UBC, SFU, UVIC, UNBC, Royal Roads



Guiding Principles

- For Sustainable Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples, Approved by the Board, September 15, 2009.
- AME BC recognizes that building respectful and sustainable relationships with Aboriginal Peoples will assist its members to having access to land & resources, security of tenure, access to services & labour, and to operate according to standards of good corporate practice.



AME BC Strategic Plan

Priority Areas

Embracing a flexible, inclusive and progressive approach, AME BC will accomplish its mission by focusing on six key priority areas, as follows:

- 1. Successful exploration
- 2. Aboriginal relations and engagement
- 3. Public awareness and stakeholder education
- 4. Socially responsible exploration
- 5. Membership engagement
- 6. Mineral Exploration Roundup

Aboriginal Relations & Engagement

AME BC will play a leadership role by providing its membership with clarity about how to engage with First Nations and by defining what constitutes appropriate engagement by industry and consultation and accommodation by government.

AME BC will provide First Nations with information to better understand the mineral exploration and development industry to ensure they can reasonably participate in the mineral exploration permitting process and ultimately achieve social and economic benefits from mineral development.



Aboriginal Relations Committee (ARC) Objectives

- Advocate government to clarify and simplify their consultation and engagement requirements and responsibilities.
- Facilitate education and awareness among aboriginal communities about how the mineral exploration and development industry works and communicate the opportunities for achieving lasting economic and social benefits from mineral development.
- Support the increased engagement, training and participation of aboriginal peoples in the mineral exploration and development industry.
- Support and educate AME BC members to enhance their work and relationships with aboriginal communities and business leaders.
- Foster ongoing relationships with key aboriginal communities and associations to open dialogue about the impact and benefits of mineral exploration and development.
- Advocate government to encourage the settlement of land claims and treaty negotiations with aboriginal communities.



The Gathering Place

- 3 years old
- Showcase Sessions
- Fireside Chats
- Leadership Panel
- CEO Panel
- Workshops
- Cultural performances
- Safe space



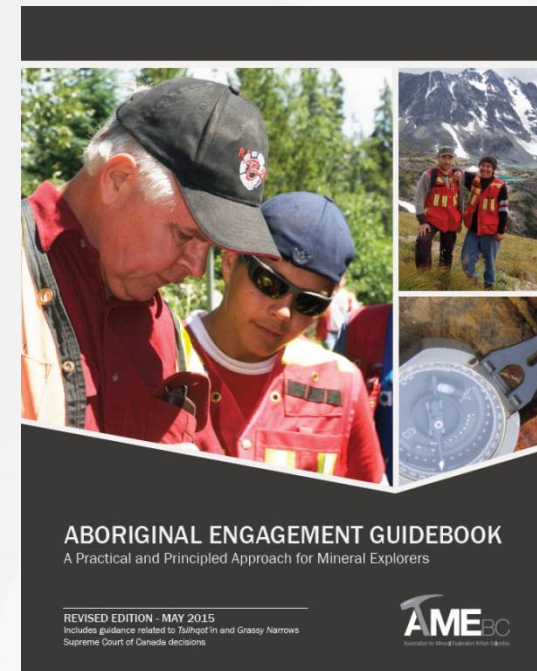
ARC Outreach

- Directly to Aboriginal communities
- Via Exploration Groups
- Contributions to community events
- Training programs support



Aboriginal Engagement Guidebook

- Aboriginal Engagement Guidebook – A Practical & Principled Approach for Mineral Explorers
- Released at Roundup 2014
- 2250 copies distributed
- Revision May 2015
- www.amebc.ca



Contents of the Guidebook

- A Brief History of Aboriginal Peoples in BC
- Aboriginal Law in Canada
- Regulation of Mineral Exploration Activities in BC
- Aboriginal Engagement During the Mineral Exploration Process
- Recommended Practices and Suggestions for Carrying Out Effective Aboriginal Engagement
- Exploration Stage Agreements

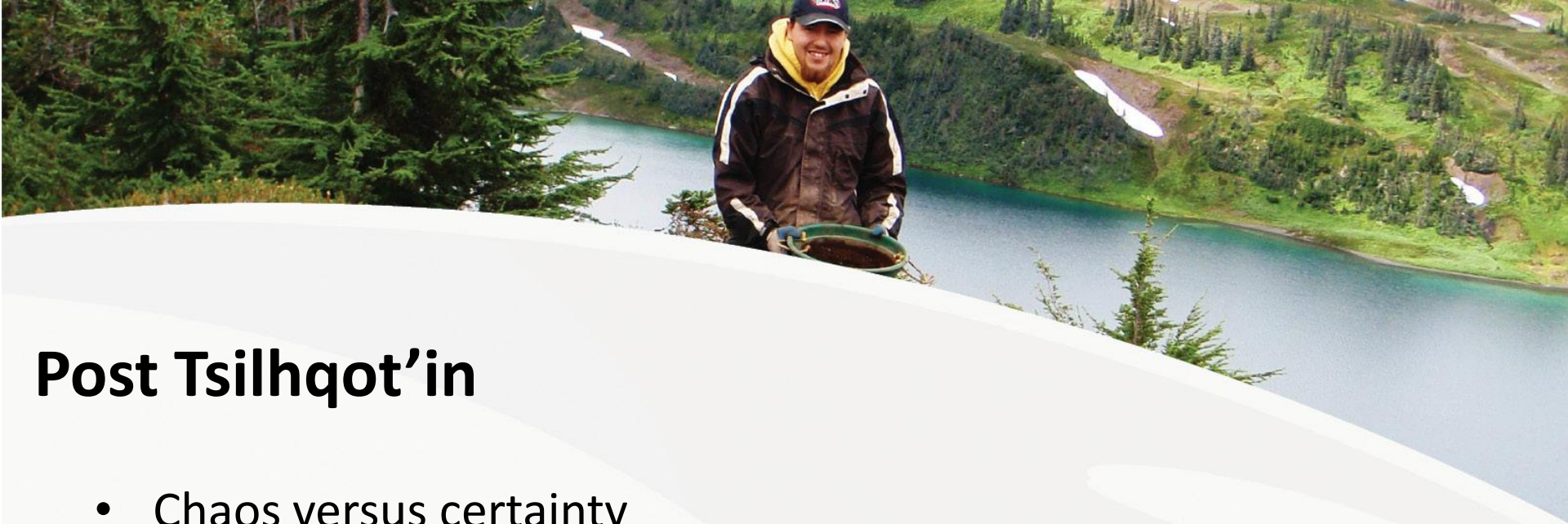
Early Aboriginal Engagement

- Helps to manage expectations
- Establish a good basis for a longer term relationship
- Can help facilitate timely, predictable & favourable permitting
- Can contribute economically to the local community
- Can assist a project to proceed to the development stage in a more timely & cost effective manner
- Can increase the value of an exploration project -

Meaningful Aboriginal Engagement

- Focused on relationship building
- Trust is built on respect & understanding
- Open & transparent communication
- Listening – what are the issues?
- Speaking the language
- Do what you say
- Concept of “time” is paramount





Post Tsilhqot'in

- Chaos versus certainty
- First Nations rightful place in the discussion about resource development
- Embrace change
- Still comes down to early & meaningful engagement – relationship building

Finding a Way Forward



- Aboriginal Content in Roundup ‘mainstream’ programming – Showcase Session
- Dr. James Morin Workshop: Cultural Geology Related to Aboriginal Territory
- Taking the Gathering Place ‘outside’ of Roundup
- Signing of MOU with First Nations Energy & Mining Council (FNEMC)
- Team BC

Other Publications

Mineral Exploration Life Cycle Brochure

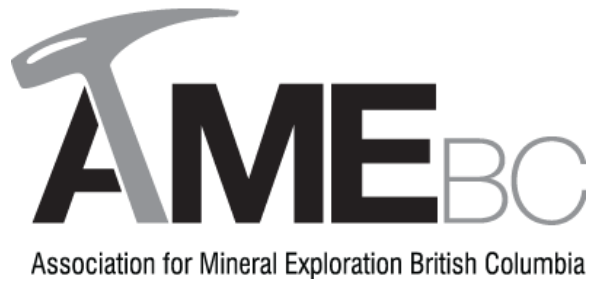


- ICMC – Good Practice Guide – Indigenous Peoples & Mining (March 2011)
- Exploration & Mining Guide for Aboriginal Communities (Revised 2013)

Mineral Exploration Roundup 2016



- Over 6,600 participants from 35 countries
- New Show Case sessions
- Discovery Day
- Expanded trade show exhibits & more juniors
- Innovation in Exploration
- January 25-28, 2016
- Same great location at Canada Place



For further information, contact

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