

CRITICAL REFORMS: MINING IN MANITOBA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation in Mining Governance

Public participation in decisions about mining can help everyone understand the impacts of proposed and ongoing mining activities in Manitoba. It improves the transparency and accountability of decision-making processes. When public feedback is meaningfully considered, people have more confidence in the approved mining activities and the government responsible for overseeing them.

CURRENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

When talking about public participation in mining governance, “the public” includes a range of different people and organizations with different interests, concerns, and legal rights. For example, this may include Indigenous rightsholders, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), local community groups, recreational fishers and hunters, and other concerned individuals.

Indigenous rights-holders (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples) and private property owners also have additional opportunities to participate in mining governance processes throughout all stages of the mining lifecycle. Read more about this on the [Indigenous Rights Fact Sheet](#).

In Manitoba, public participation opportunities in mining governance processes are generally open to anyone who is interested in participating. There are some provincial legal requirements for public participation, but these opportunities are mostly limited to the impact assessment (IA) process under *The Environment Act*.

During the IA process, the public can provide comments on project proposals published in the Department of Environment and Climate Change’s public registry and participate in Clean Environment Commission hearings (if the Minister requires one is held). For more information see the [Fact Sheet on Meaningful Public Participation in Impact Assessment](#).

The Environment Act Licence of approved mining projects can also contain legal requirements for public participation during the construction, operation, closure, and reclamation stages of the development. This can include the creation and mandatory inclusion of the public on an Advisory and Monitoring Committee (see our [Fact Sheet on Monitoring](#)) and mandatory public reporting about project activities and monitoring data.

However, these types of licensing conditions are optional and are not guaranteed to be included in a project’s licence.



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Provincial mining laws, such as *The Mines and Minerals Act*, rarely require the public be included in mining governance processes. Opportunities for public involvement are limited to public hearings of the Mining Board and access to a narrow range of information, such as the information about mining permits, leases, and other approvals available through the Government of Manitoba's Integrated Mining and Quarrying System (iMaQs).

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Online sources of public information about mining activities in Manitoba include:

- **Manitoba ECC Public Registry**: provides information about the impact assessment and licensing of developments under The Environment Act.
- **MB Integrated Mining and Quarrying System (iMaQs)**: access information about provincial permits, leases, mines, quarries and assessments.
- **Government of Canada - Common Project Search**: federal registry of projects and assessments submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and Transport Canada.
- **National Pollutant Inventory Release (NPRI) Dashboard**: information about industrial facility (including mines and quarries) releases, disposals of, and transfers of pollutants

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Government of British Columbia** has made a series of legal changes in the past decade to improve the participation of the public and Indigenous rightsholders in mining governance processes. For example, there are **two new public registries** that provide a broad range of access to information about mining projects in BC:

- **Regional mines public engagement portal** - provides public access to mine permit applications currently open for public comment.
- **BC Mine Information** - provides a consolidated location for the public access to information about the governance of major mines by The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), Ministry of Environment and Parks (EP), and Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), including licensing documents and other approvals.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more info, use this QR code to visit the Project page on the Manitoba Eco-Network website.



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