



OBAC Briefing Note

Proposed Interim Action Plan for the Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy

September 21 2008

Background

The Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy is the first of the regional response strategies to be released (May 2008), and sets out seven recommendations. To support the recommendations, 23 specific actions are proposed. As each successive regional response strategy is developed, it is expected that there will be many common and interdependent recommendations and actions.

The purpose of this Interim Action Plan is to identify what work can effectively take place now, in order to ensure that: a) High priority (important and immediate) opportunities are addressed in a timely manner, and b) Individuals and organizations whose mandate it would be to undertake specific activities are informed and engaged in implementation.

The Interim Action Plan has been developed by reviewing the specific actions listed in the strategy, meeting with a cross-section of sector representatives to get input on implementation approaches, and reviewing the status of complementary initiatives (e.g., the BC Mining Plan). A draft of the Interim Action Plan was then circulated to the sector strategy working group with an invitation to comment further. The Interim Action Plan proposes 4 key areas where the OBAC can take a direct role to seeing the opportunities in the Minerals and Mining Strategy addressed:

1. Develop a stronger alliance between local government and First Nations leaders at the community and regional level¹;
2. Ensure mineral and mining sector needs are identified in the OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy;
3. Document a common community perspective on mine development and regulatory processes; and
4. Establish a regionally based process for tracking and reporting on achievement of sector strategy objectives.

OBAC does not have the mandate or resources to take on implementation of most actions in the Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy. However, in line with its role to advocate for regionally important community interests, it will work collaboratively with others to see they are addressed. As such, OBAC is seeking the support and involvement of the Ministers and provincial agencies to embark on the identified priorities in the interim action plan.

In addition to the above actions which arise directly from the Strategy, a general need for regional economic development capacity is becoming evident in a number of sectors. Implementation of the sector strategies will require a concerted project-management effort. This effort will need to be staffed and resourced in some manner.

¹ A separate proposal is being brought forward to address this issue in part through the Regional Community Relationships Strategy and a joint forum. Other, informal opportunities may arise in conjunction with the First Nations Mining Summit Oct. 7-9 in Prince George.



Recommendation

The OBAC Board of Directors recommends that the Minister adopt the interim actions in principle and direct staff to work with OBAC to develop the necessary detailed options, proposals or workplans and resource requirements for approval on or before the end of November 2008.

Attachments

Interim Action Plan, Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy.



INTERIM ACTION PLAN

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY

BACKGROUND

Motivated by the impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) was established in 2005 to “work to ensure sustainable development and resiliency” in the north-central region of British Columbia bounded roughly by Smithers, Valemount and Mackenzie. A key function of the OBAC is the development of a series of regional response strategies. When complete, these strategies are expected to address eleven high-priority subject areas ranging from industry sectors to community services.

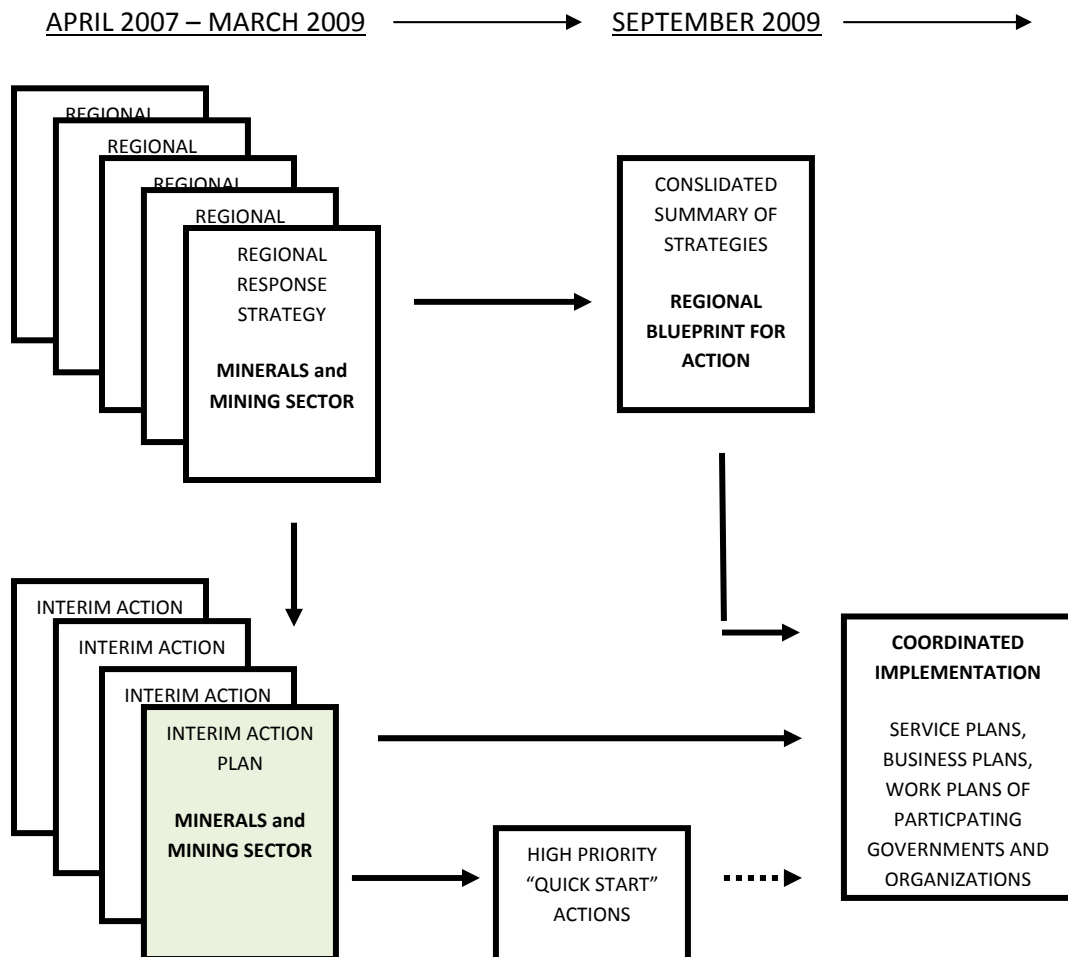
Each of the regional response strategies will provide an up-to-date profile of the current situation, analyze the opportunities and challenges associated with each subject area, and recommend a series of immediate and longer-term actions. Although each strategy is developed with broad stakeholder involvement, the final product remains advisory in nature – identifying what could be done by senior and local governments, industries, public institutions and others.

The Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy is the first of the regional response strategies to be released (May 2008), and sets out seven recommendations. To support the recommendations, 23 specific actions are proposed. As each successive regional response strategy is developed, it is expected that there will be many common and interdependent recommendations and actions.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Interim Action Plan is to identify what work can effectively take place now, in order to ensure that

- a. High priority (important and immediate) opportunities are addressed in a timely manner, and
- b. Individuals and organizations whose mandate it would be to undertake specific activities are informed and engaged in implementation.



As more of the regional response strategies are completed the Interim Action Plans will inform the implementation activities of a variety of government and non-government organizations. During that period it is expected that a longer-term implementation structure will be developed.

KEY OBAC ACTIONS SUMMARY

OBAC does not have the mandate or resources to take on implementation of most actions in the Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy. However, in line with its role to advocate for regionally important community interests, it will work to see they are addressed.

Although work will be undertaken to advance all the recommendations and specific actions identified in the Strategy, this does not mean that every action will be completed exactly as it is currently described – as work progresses actions are expected to fall into a number of categories:

- a. Addressed through existing initiatives,
- b. Implemented as described,
- c. Intent is achieved, but through different means, and
- d. Deferred or dropped due with reasons.

Appendix 1 describes each specific action and identifies steps the OBAC can take to encourage implementation. In many situations, the OBAC function will be to communicate the opportunity, encourage partnerships and advocate for action by the appropriate government or organization. Concurrent to the completion of all its regional response strategies, the OBAC will work with other levels of government to determine what type of collaborative model will be best suited to oversee the implementation, monitoring and adaptation of strategies over the longer-term.

In the meantime, the following actions should be undertaken with OBAC leadership:

1. **Develop a stronger alliance between local government and First Nations leaders at the community and regional level**
Target: a) A joint forum on community and economic sustainability functioning by April 2009.
b) A program to support community-level capacity for joint projects by April 2009.
2. **Document a common community perspective on mine development and regulatory processes**
Target: Complete a position paper (if possible showing common ground with work done by First Nations) by April 2009.
3. **Ensure mineral and mining sector infrastructure needs are identified in the OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy and advocate to have them addressed**
Target: Complete the strategy by September 2008.
4. **Put in place a sustainable, regionally managed method for tracking and reporting on progress toward strategy objectives** (see sample template for targets below).
Target: Process operational by September 2009.

Upon agreement in principle, a detailed proposal will be developed for each of these actions

In addition to the above actions which arise directly from the Strategy, a general need for regional economic development capacity is becoming evident in a number of sectors. Implementation of the sector strategies will require a concerted project-management effort. This effort will need to be staffed in some manner. The OBAC can begin to signal this need to senior governments.



SAMPLE FORMAT FOR SETTING TARGETS

As part of the interim action planning process, a proposed performance measure and target is identified for each recommendation. It is recognized that a number of parties will need to work together to achieve the targets, conditions will change and priorities may shift – all requiring an adaptive approach to implementing the Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy. It can also be assumed that the process of working together on common objectives will, in itself, move us toward our long-term goal.

1. OBAC, local governments and First Nations governments work together to identify regional and local expectations and needs.

Proposed success measure: *A joint forum to identify and communicate community expectations to industry and senior governments.*

Information source: *Survey of target audience.*

Proposed target: *TBA*

2. Maintain and improve regional infrastructure to help mining activity and to strengthen the OBAC region overall.

Proposed success measure: *Improvements to infrastructure to encourage mineral exploration and development.*

Information source: *Survey of industry / industry associations.*

Proposed target: *Determine based on initial survey and Integrated Infrastructure Strategy.*

3. Build upon existing expertise to become a centre of excellence for minerals and mining post-secondary education.

Proposed success measures: *Number of students completing relevant certificate, diploma or degree programs in the region. (or # of demonstration projects)*

Information source: *Post-secondary institutions*

Proposed target: *Determined based on initial baseline survey*

4. Increase public education and raise awareness of mineral exploration and mining sector activities and their benefits.

Proposed success measure: *Increase in public awareness*

Information source: *Direct surveys or through industry associations*

Proposed target: *Determined based on initial baseline survey*

5. Achieve excellence in safe and sustainable mining practice, knowledge and expertise.

Proposed success measure: *Recognized as one of the top regions in the world for “cradle to grave” management of mines.*

Information source: *Direct surveys or through industry associations*

Proposed target: *Determined based on initial survey*

6. Improve and streamline provincial and federal permitting processes and procedures.

Proposed success measure: *Improved efficiency (cost and timeliness)*

Information source: *survey industry and stakeholders*

Proposed target: *Determined based on initial survey*

7. Encourage and support geoscience activities to further identify viable resources in the region.

Proposed success measure: *Availability of high quality geoscience information for the region*

Information source: *Geoscience BC and Industry*

Proposed target: *TBA*



APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1 is based on the “specific actions” set out in Chapter 6 (pages 26-31) of the Minerals and Mining Sector Strategy.

Actions colour coded yellow indicate an immediate opportunity for OBAC



Actions colour coded green are considered to be already underway





MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 1: OBAC, local governments and First Nations governments work together to identify regional and local expectations and needs				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Convene a forum of First Nations, local community governments, and industry to discuss development goals and options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept discussion with FNMPBI and OBAC FN advisor. • Confirm objectives and agenda • Joint proposal for forum (workshops). • Secure funding partners. • Invite community leaders and youth • Convene forum • Follow-up actions / deliverables arising from forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBAC collaborate with FN • FNMPBI / FNFC partnership – possible funding from New Relationship Trust • NDIT to be invited to sponsor • Province and Federal Governments to be invited to sponsor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBAC “seed” funding, contract to assist organization • Co-organization and participant support from other funding sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership – co-host and full participation • Actively support follow-up
b) Develop a mechanism for continuing dialogue between First Nations and local community governments, identify opportunities to work together on mutual concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms could be developed from the workshops proposed in (a) above. • Youth component could play a role as community facilitators if funding is available. • Develop “best practices” and share with all communities. • Develop proposal and implement a program to provide capacity for action generated by dialogue. • Look at the function of the 16-97 Economic Alliance as one mechanism / model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial contact with FNMPB Initiative and FNFC • Encourage local contact • Work with those who are willing • NDIT to be invited to participate as a funder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some seed funding available through UBCM and other programs • OBAC “seed \$” for communities • Look into capacity funding to provide a staff person to community groupings wishing to undertake joint projects – possibly shared by Federal/Provincial and trust funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with FN MPB Initiative and FNFC. • Work with FN regionally – actively share sector strategies as they are done and keep the door open for participation. • Lead capacity for proposal development.



MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 2: Maintain and improve regional infrastructure to help mining activity and to strengthen the OBAC region overall.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Electrification of the Highway 37 corridor	This is a widely discussed project of strategic value. It is primarily a matter between the provincial government, utilities and the mining industry.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor • Provide support (e.g., letters, advocacy) as required.
b) Undertake a detailed evaluation of priorities for infrastructure improvements which will support the development of minerals and mining in the region. These include: assess the feasibility of smelter options; evaluate “green” infrastructure options; and upgrade the Mackenzie-Fort St. James connector road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address in greater detail in the <i>OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy</i>. • Some work has been done in the past by industry re: smelter feasibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining Association of BC (MABC) would be the lead on a smelter feasibility project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for smelter feasibility work would be government and/or MABC. • OBAC is funding the development of the Integrated Infrastructure Strategy and will identify specific cost items accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, publish and advocate implementation of the <i>OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy</i>. • Monitor

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 2: Maintain and improve regional infrastructure to help mining activity and to strengthen the OBAC region overall.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
c) Delay decommissioning of forestry roads and other infrastructure and determine priority roads to be maintained and options (including third party option) for assignment of long-term responsibility for these roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Resource Roads Act</i> is intended to address much of this issue. It was introduced but not passed by the Legislature. Identification of priority roads is widely supported, but safety and costs of maintenance is a major issue. Push-back on user costs and contraction of the forest industry point to significant funding issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Provincial Government has primary responsibility. Industry and communities (including First Nations) can identify priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious cost considerations. Options are “user pay” for all industrial / commercial users, an infusion of cash by government, or some combination. Policy decisions are required before a cost estimate can be provided. This is a long-term, multi-million dollar issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor. Encourage member communities to provide input to priority setting. Encourage the province to move forward with legislative and budget solutions.
d) Upgrade infrastructure in key areas: identify short-, mid-, and long-term needs for upgrades; remove barriers to the use of old mine infrastructure; provide purchasing options for old power lines; and upgrade airports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key aspects of this will be examined in the <i>OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province, Industry, BC Hydro and others will have a role to play, depending on the specific project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant costs over the long term – subject to policy decisions for some activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, publish and advocate implementation of the <i>OBAC Integrated Infrastructure Strategy</i>. Monitor

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 3: Build upon existing expertise to become a centre of excellence for minerals and mining post-secondary education.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Ensure collaboration and coordination across programs and post-secondary institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWCC School of Exploration and Mining provides entry-level skills. There is a need for engineering technology education, not just field workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary responsibility is with the post-secondary and training institutions. The Province (Ministry of Advanced Education) can encourage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily a public investment but supported by industry. Basic collaboration requires a commitment of time and energy, but relatively little funding. An initial workshop to generate dialogue and identify mutual actions could be held for about \$10,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and encourage institutions directly and through member communities. Act as a convener or co-convener for an industry/education dialogue.
b) Increase funding for post-secondary mining education and establish post-secondary mining program(s) in the north.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific proposals need to be developed with involvement of existing institutions, industry and the province. This could be an output of the dialogue suggested under (a) above. Consider using old mine sites as remediation demonstration projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary responsibility is with the post-secondary and training institutions and industry. The Province (Ministry of Advanced Education) should participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of working together to develop proposals would be about \$25,000 for contract help, meetings, etc. The cost of curriculum development and program delivery would depend on the baseline work, but could be about \$100,000/year net. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and encourage institutions directly and through member communities. Act as a convener for an industry/education dialogue to initiate planning and proposal development.

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY

Recommendation 3: *Build upon existing expertise to become a centre of excellence for minerals and mining post-secondary education.*

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>c) Put in place more responsive training and apprenticeship programs that include: increased industry engagement in co-op placements for secondary students, and mentoring, apprenticeship, training opportunities; allow small companies to share apprentices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate a dialogue targeted at concrete actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary schools Industry Training Authority Province – Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actual cost of programs would be determined through detailed planning work. The cost to convene a forum and develop an action plan would be about \$20,000 – this could potentially be cost-shared, with a small “seed” contribution by OBAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the need. Be available to act as a convener with other partners, to develop specific actions and programs.
<p>d) Build awareness and encourage the use of training programs that currently exist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and marketing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleges Provincial and Federal Government Industry Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to detailed planning, a communications and marketing program could cost anywhere between \$25,000 and \$100,000 per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the need. Support initiatives through advocacy.
<p>e) Review the Labour Market Task Force recommendations and provide support to the recommendations that will: address labour market needs, skill shortages, and improve recruitment and retention; and address training and skill upgrades needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry associations have done work on this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleges Provincial and Federal Government Industry Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs will have costs – subject to detailed planning and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the need. Support initiatives through advocacy



MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 4: Increase public education and raise awareness of mineral exploration and mining sector activities and their benefits.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Strengthen the primary and high school level education programs to raise awareness of the industry.	Examples include: encouragement of school and student involvement in the Minerals North Conference; Increase awareness of the Mineral Resource Education Program of BC (MREPBC); further develop existing curriculum modules to blend with school curricula.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Boards Province – Ministry of Education Industry 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the need. Support initiatives through advocacy.
b) Establish formal opportunities for local businesses and exploration and mining companies to meet and increase understanding about industry needs and local business suppliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is established practice with some groups. Examples include: local chambers of commerce invite mining reps to meetings to share information; the recent establishment of the Prince George Chapter of the Canadian Institute of Mining provides an organized means to share information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chambers of Commerce Canadian Institute of Mining Highway 16-97 Economic Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal additional cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the need. Encourage member communities to participate.
c) Provide community-specific information to the minerals and mining sector.	Examples include: create a local business and service directory for mineral and exploration companies; share asset mapping information; schedule meetings of industry representatives (the Minerals North Conference provides a good opportunity for these meetings).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smithers Exploration Group does some of this. Other industry groups and Chambers of Commerce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs are project specific. No major expenditures required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make industry groups, member communities and Chambers of Commerce aware of the need and encourage them to act.
d) Prepare general public		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Institute of Mining – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost will depend on approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make industry associations

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 4: Increase public education and raise awareness of mineral exploration and mining sector activities and their benefits.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
information that provides a fair, balanced and realistic picture of mineral exploration and mining.		North Central Branch, Prince George. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province - Ministry of Energy and Mines 	taken.	aware of the action and encourage them to act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support directly and through member communities, distribution of information.

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 5: Achieve excellence in safe and sustainable mining practice, knowledge and experience.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Map out current best practice in the region and worldwide with respect to safe and sustainable mining practice and site remediation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWCC School of Exploration and mining trains to national standards for entry-level workers. Further work is required to determine whether the objective of this action is to improve practices, or to make it known that they are being used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry organizations Province (Ministry of Energy and Mines) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost will depend on the specific objective and methods determined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make industry organizations and government aware of the action. Support activities and share information when requested.
b) Develop a plan to promote existing regional assets and knowledge of safe and sustainable mining practices to the industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work is required to determine the objectives and possible methods for this action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost will depend on the specific objective and methods determined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make industry organizations and government aware of the action. Support activities and share information when requested. Identify and communicate good examples.



MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY

Recommendation 5: *Achieve excellence in safe and sustainable mining practice, knowledge and experience.*

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
c) Provide increased government and industry funding to regional institutions engaged in safety and remediation research and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry (associations and individual companies) Research organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs will be driven by specific needs or proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support requests when appropriate.

MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 6: Improve and streamline provincial and federal permitting processes and procedures.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Establish a streamlined joint permitting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex issue due to a combination of Provincial and Federal jurisdictions. Industry indicates much of the bottleneck and redundancy is with the federal process. The federal government has put in place a pilot program to improve review and approval, but it only applies to new projects. Capacity is an issue – agencies need the capacity to process applications in a timely manner. Identify any obvious overlaps or redundancies (fisheries?) Encourage a comprehensive and timely review of options for a “one-window” approach to approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal (NRCan and other departments) and provincial (MEM and other ministries) governments have primary responsibility for this action. Industry has a responsibility to provide input. Communities have a responsibility to provide input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on the specific initiatives undertaken, costs could vary considerably. For example, a policy change to reduce the involvement of Fisheries Canada where the BC Ministry of Environment provides adequate protection would be relatively inexpensive. A full review and harmonization of legislation and regulations would cost \$1 million or more. Establishing a “one-window” regulatory organization would cost even more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly and strongly express the communities’ interests in effective and timely permitting. Actively monitor major permitting processes – report results to communities; publically acknowledge improvements; and address concerns with senior governments. Participate in processes to review models/options for improvement.
b) Provide long-term federal and provincial incentive programs, including long-term tax credits, to encourage the mineral exploration and mining sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This needs to be reviewed in light of overall tax policies and incentives in other Canadian jurisdictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and Provincial Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These incentives could cost several million \$ per year. Actual amounts would depend on detailed analysis and the options chosen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the Federal and Provincial Governments to consider this action and provide a response.



MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY				
Recommendation 7: Encourage and support geoscience activities to further identify viable resources in the region.				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
a) Support the development of partnerships that will lead to the expansion / enhancement of the Geoscience BC mapping services and the coordination of existing data sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoscience is part of the information infrastructure needed to encourage exploration and development. Much of the MPB impacted area has been “under explored” and geoscience can fill key information gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote understanding of, and support for geoscience work at the community and regional level. Support directly and through member communities, regional (e.g., NDIT) and provincial investments in geoscience. Recognize and communicate the improvements to geoscience information.
b) Continue the current geoscience initiatives which gather and share information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quest Project is investing in publically available geoscience information. The Federal and Provincial Governments, Geoscience BC and the Northern Development Trust are participating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoscience BC Federal Government (NRCan – Earth Sciences Section) Provincial Government Industry Northern Development Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote understanding of, and support for geoscience work at the community and regional level. Support directly and through member communities, regional (e.g., NDIT) and provincial investments in geoscience. Recognize and communicate the improvements to geoscience information.



MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGY

Recommendation 7: Encourage and support geoscience activities to further identify viable resources in the region.

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
c) Undertake additional geoscience in priority areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More intensive surveying is possible, as is the continued filling of areas and/or areas with dated information. • Use geoscience projects to train in state of the art processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoscience BC • Federal Government (NRCan – Earth Sciences Section) • Provincial Government • Industry • Northern Development Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the intensity desired, the cost could be from \$25 to \$50 million (or more). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote understanding of, and support for geoscience work at the community and regional level. • Support directly and through member communities, regional (e.g., NDIT) and provincial investments in geoscience. • Recognize and communicate the improvements to geoscience information.