

July 24, 2017

Hon. Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
PO Box 9051 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fraser,

Re: Congratulations on Appointment as Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

On behalf of the Association for Mineral Exploration, I would like to personally congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

The Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) represents over 4,500 individuals and companies engaged in the exploration and development of valued mineral resources in BC. Formed in 1912, the association has worked closely with governments to represent the interests of mineral explorers and developers and ensure a responsible, competitive and enduring industry for the benefit of British Columbians. AME is seen by industry organizations and provincial government industries as a leader in developing tools and events that demonstrate the power of engaging indigenous peoples early and often in mineral exploration industry – including our *Aboriginal Engagement Guidebook* and AME's Gathering Place at our annual Roundup conference.

AME looks forward to establishing a productive and effective working relationship with you. We have been fortunate to maintain excellent dialogue and interaction with numerous employees of your Ministry, something AME values and wishes to continue. The ongoing success of our industry is key to a vibrant rural and provincial green economy, and we look forward to your leadership in ensuring its ongoing success.

Of specific interest to AME will be the ability of mineral explorers to access lands for exploration purposes, under reasonable regulatory oversight that enables the industry to proceed in a timely manner. We also believe that the province is exceptionally positioned to host additional mineral exploration and development, under responsible guidelines that recognize the interests of all citizens, and especially indigenous and local communities. We look forward to working with you to understand those key priorities as they relate to our industry and association.

We are hopeful that we can meet with you soon, and frequently thereafter as the BC Government moves forward. To start the conversation, I would like to extend a meeting invitation to you, knowing that you will be very busy in familiarizing yourself with your new role. I am proposing that we host you on a brief tour of an exploration site during the summer before the Legislature reconvenes. The tour will allow us to discuss various aspects of sustainable exploration with other tour participants such as the local exploration group, First Nations leaders and workers, proponents and local elected officials as well as potentially other Ministers and staff.

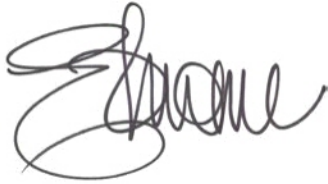
Because our members work and relationships span the province, we can be very flexible in the location and timing. We can work with whatever time and logistics work for you and your staff.

I can be reached at 604.630.3920 or **s.22**
at ethome@amebc.ca .

please also feel free to connect with me by email

Once again, AME wishes to congratulate you on your appointment – we look forward to meeting you in person very soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edie Thome', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Edie Thome
President & Chief Executive Officer
Association for Mineral Exploration

cc: Board of Directors, AME
Diane Nicolson, Chair, AME
Regional Exploration Groups

From: [McCann, Meghan EMPR:EX](#)
To: [Robb, Peter L. EMPR:EX](#); [Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Caul, Doug D IRR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Hunt, Melanie EMPR:EX](#); [Tates, Nancy FLNR:EX](#); [Howie, Matthew IRR:EX](#); [Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX](#); [Trumpy, Chris EMPR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Dec.1 Meeting Agenda
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 8:49:42 AM
Attachments: [AME-DM Agenda FINAL.DOCX](#)
[AME-DM Agenda Nov 29 - Annotated Agenda.docx](#)

Good morning,

Please see the revised materials for tomorrow's meeting. Thanks,

Meghan McCann

Senior Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister Dave Nikolejsin

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources

Direct: [250 952-0504](tel:250-952-0504)

From: McCann, Meghan EMPR:EX
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Robb, Peter L. EMPR:EX; Plecas, Bobbi ENV:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX
Cc: Hunt, Melanie EMPR:EX; Hansen, Erin ENV:EX; Tates, Nancy FLNR:EX; Howie, Matthew IRR:EX; Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX
Subject: Dec.1 Meeting Agenda

Good morning,

Please see the attached agenda for Friday's meeting, thanks.

Meghan McCann

Senior Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister Dave Nikolejsin

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources

Direct: [250 952-0504](tel:250-952-0504)

BC Government Deputy Ministers & AME Meeting

Friday, December 1, 2017; 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

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AME Representatives

Diane Nicolson, Chair of AME Board of Directors
Edie Thome, President & CEO
Glen W Wonders, VP (Gov. & Tech Affairs)
Diana Walls, Senior Director of Policy

BC Government Representatives

Dave Nikolejsin, DM - EMPR
Tim Sheldan, DM - FLNRO
Doug Caul, DM - MIRR
Mark Zacharias, DM – MoE & CC
Peter Robb, ADM-EMPR

AGENDA

General Purpose of Meeting:

To reconvene regular bi-annual meetings between key Deputy Ministers and senior Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) representatives to collaboratively discuss matters of importance to the Government of British Columbia and pertinent to the interests of AME. These interests are varied but will include subjects important to furthering responsible mineral exploration and development in British Columbia.

- 1. Welcome and Safety Message: Dave Nikolejsin**
- 2. Introductions, Confirm Agenda**
- 3. Updates on Previous Business: AME**
- 4. AME Comments and Priorities**
 - a. State of Sector**
 - b. AME Strategic Plan**
 - c. Report out on AME Government & Industry Workshop**
- 5. Alignment of Natural Resource Priorities**
 - a. Species at Risk (Caribou and Legislation)**
 - b. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**
 - c. Environmental Assessment Revitalization**
 - d. Land Use Planning**
- 6. Other Topics for Discussion:**
 - a. Water Sustainability Act**

- b. Nenqay Deni Accord and other Agreements
 - c. Integrated Land Access
 - d. Tenure Security
 - e. Mineral Exploration Incentives
 - f. Mining Jobs Task Force
 - g. Roundup 2018
- 7. Action Items and Next Meeting Date
 - 8. Closing Comments: Dave Nikolejsin

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Dave Nikolejsin, DM - EMPR
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Doug Caul, DM - MIRR
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Peter Robb, ADM-EMPR

ANNOTATED AGENDA

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 - **State of Sector**
 - **AME Strategic Plan**
 - **Report out on AME Government & Industry Workshop**
- 5. Alignment of Natural Resource Priorities – Dave Nikolejsin**
 - A lot has changed since our last meeting in the spring of 2016, so it's good we're maintaining this dialogue at our level to continue to work together and align our respective efforts to support mineral exploration and development.
 - We, as DMs and as ministries, continue to work together in an integrated and coordinated way. We're each tasked with new and different mandate commitments from government.

- The common themes are: reconciliation, environmental stewardship and economic prosperity for all British Columbians.
- Although we have our different mandates, there are some cross-cutting themes for the mineral sector that we want to speak to today.
- **Species at Risk (Caribou and Legislation) – Mark Zacharias**
 - One of the Minister of Environment’s mandate letter priorities is to enact an endangered species law in BC.
 - Legislation that supports concrete positive conservation outcomes is important.
 - By taking into account the social and economic interests of BC’s communities and promoting transparency in decision making, we can also better support ecologically sustainable development.
 - Building on the public engagement completed in 2016, ENV anticipates the public consultation, beginning in early 2018, will include:
 - A discussion paper posted to the public website to solicit written comments
 - Additional targeted stakeholder conversations to address specific issues
 - ENV intends to reach out directly to AME to alert them about the consultation and to provide updates about to the process.
- **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People – Doug Caul**
 - Every Minister’s mandate letter included a requirement to move forward on the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and fully adopt and implement UNDRIP.
 - The implementation of UNDRIP will be done in a manner that will create stronger partnerships between First Nations, our government, the federal government and industry.
 - Free, prior and informed consent is not the same as veto - veto is not mentioned in UNDRIP.
 - While we work with First Nations and other parties in the implementation of UNDRIP, the current legislation, regulation and policy environment prevails.
 - As the Premier has stated, as we move to implement UNDRIP, it will be done prospectively, not retroactively.
 - AMEBC has taken a leadership role in setting out best practices for engaging First Nations and can lend a strong voice to encouraging its members to continue on the path of engaging indigenous communities early and often in their projects.
 - MEMPR and MIRR will work closely with AMEBC and MABC as we start to engage indigenous leadership on improving the way in which aboriginal communities are more informed and engaged in mineral exploration and development.
- **Environmental Assessment Revitalization – Mark Zacharias**
 - EA revitalization is focussed on three objectives:
 - Pursuing Reconciliation
 - Enhancing Public Confidence
 - Protecting the Environment while Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth

- EAO will work collaboratively with Indigenous groups and engage proponents, the public, and other stakeholders.
- EAO is looking forward to receive AME's input in the EA Revitalization process in the coming months, and will ensure that the engagement process makes efficient use of engagement that AME has provided in other regulatory reviews

- **Land Use Planning – Tim Sheldan**

- Minister Donaldson's mandate letter stated: *Work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, First Nations and communities to modernize land-use planning and sustainably manage B.C.'s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth.* Modernized land use planning has strong linkages with a number of other government priorities including fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation, and in building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone.
- While government recognizes the need for a strong partnership model with First Nations, government also recognizes the role that communities, industry organizations, local government, NGOs, stakeholders and the public should play in a modernized land use planning framework. This includes meaningful input into new or updated land use objectives and direction. Organizations such as AMEBC are included in helping shape land use planning projects.

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Other Topics for Discussion:

- **Water Sustainability Act**

- AMEBC, BC Placer Miners Association (BCPMA) and the Cariboo Mining Association (CMA) were engaged in the development of the temporary exemption and provided valuable input on water use practices and use volumes for various aspects of the industries.
- To date, the temporary exemption has addressed the industries' concerns and no problems have been identified.
- The temporary exemption expires December 31, 2017 and a further one-year extension proposal has been forwarded for Government decision before the end of December. If approved, this will allow for further engagement with industry organizations, First Nations and the general public on making the exemption permanent.
- ENV/FLNR and EMPR will continue to work with AMEBC on the development of regulatory amendments leading to a more permanent authorization of industry related water use under regulation.

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- **Integrated Land Access - All**

- **Tenure Security**

- The Province understands that certainty on the landbase for the mining industry starts with security of mineral tenures.
- The Province has a strong legislative and regulatory regime that provides certainty for industry, in combination with the legal obligation of administrative fairness.
- The Premier has stated that if there are to be changes as the Province proceeds to implement the UNDRIP; it will be done prospectively – not retroactively.
- We understand that any changes to mineral tenuring will necessitate the need for deep consultation with the mining sector.

- **Mineral Exploration Incentives**

- The B.C. Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit provides a 20 percent non-refundable tax credit to individuals who invest in flow-through shares associated with BC flow-through mining

expenditures. The credit will expire December 31, 2017 but will likely be extended an additional year as part of budget 2018.

- The Mining Exploration Tax Credit program is a refundable tax credit equal to 20 percent (30 percent in Mountain Pine Beetle affected areas) of non-flow-through funded, eligible BC grassroots mineral exploration expenditures. As part of this past September's budget, the credit was expanded to include costs incurred for environmental studies and community consultations. The credit does not expire until December 31, 2019.

- In 2016/17, the B.C. Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit and the Mining Exploration Tax Credit and have been estimated to cost the Province \$50 million.

- **Mining Jobs Task Force**

- As you are aware we currently have an approved Terms of Reference for the Task Force and are currently engaging with FNEMC on potential candidates, we appreciate the suggestions AME has provided to date.
- Once this engagement is complete we are looking forward to launching the Task Force.

- **Roundup 2018**

6. Action Items and Next Meeting Date

7. Closing Comments: Dave Nikolejsin