

# Guide for Junior Exploration Companies and Prospectors



***Building a Dialogue  
with Aboriginal Communities  
Is Critical . . .***



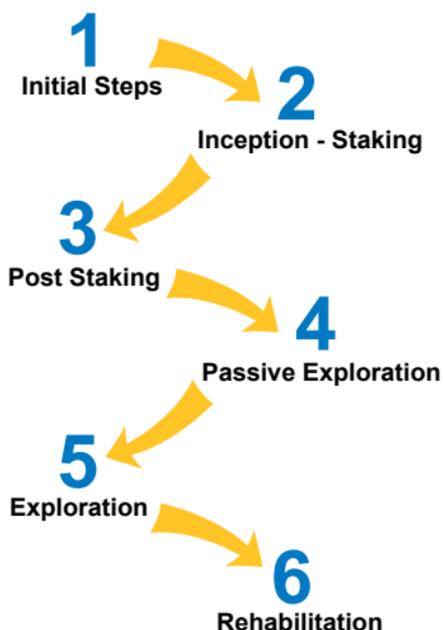
*The Government of Ontario announced the creation of the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council (OMICC) in 2003. Junior exploration companies identified the need for a high level ‘tip sheet’ that could be used as a portable, in the field, tool to assist them in approaching Aboriginal communities. In response to this need, the OMICC sponsored the production of this Guide. The content, of recommended best practices was developed by the OMICC Aboriginal Working Group which is made up of members from industry, associations and government. For more information visit [www.omicc.ca](http://www.omicc.ca).*

## **This Guide Assists Mineral Resource Exploration and Development Project Proponents in Engaging and Working with Aboriginal Communities**

**Why:** Community involvement and open, regular communication are essential for a successful working relationship.

**How:** Make contact with the aboriginal community as early as possible. Good communications build trust laying the groundwork for ongoing engagement and a productive relationship.

# Respectful Contact Throughout the Sequence Means Continued Dialogue



## 1. Initial Steps

- Contact the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines for assistance in determining the First Nations with interests in the area.
- Ask the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources which aboriginal community uses a particular trap line, and ask that community whether the trap line usage information is correct. There may be an overlap of traditional land use areas and you want to determine which communities to approach on this matter.
- Consider and ask the community about other indicators or trails, campsites, portages, burial sites, gathering sites, etc.

## 2. Inception - Staking

- Engagement with an aboriginal community should take place at the earliest possible stage to begin the relationship-building process. Relationship-building should be seen as a strategic investment in the future that will over time, contribute to a more certain business climate.
- When possible, pre-staking discussions with the community should be considered. Even non-specific/general discussion is an opportunity to start establishing mutual trust.
- A confidentiality agreement may need to be considered.



### 3. Post Staking

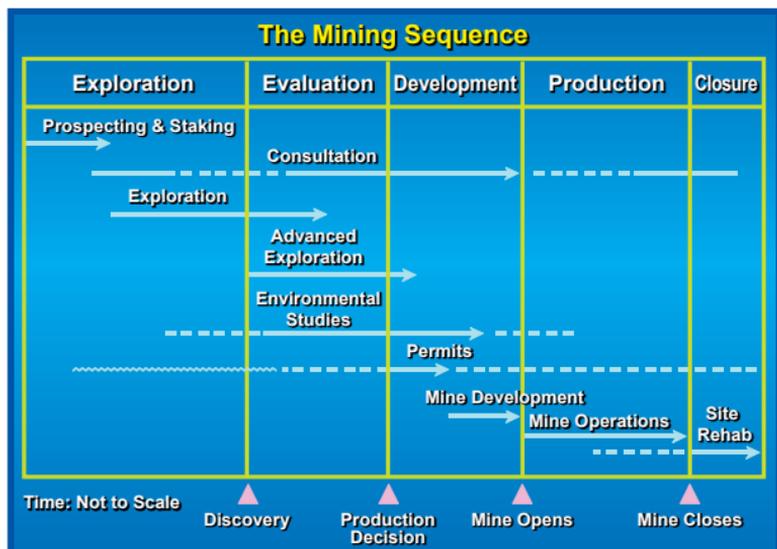
If you have not yet done so, now is the time to discuss the nature and timing of the program.

- Introduce yourself and your company to the community, explain what you want and why.
- Ask how the community would like to be involved. Listen to the community's concerns regarding any sensitive times or sensitive areas, i.e. animal migration, burial grounds, etc. Try, together, to find a way to accommodate these concerns.
- Ensure the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is aware of the exploration program.
- Engage community members in the work where possible.
- Present work plans as initial thoughts. Encourage comments and incorporate these into future plans wherever possible. During the early stages, be sure to keep the community informed of accomplishments and milestones.
- Consider hiring a key community person as a liaison (Aboriginal Liaison Co-ordinator) to help implement, monitor and promote the company's policies.
- Throughout the process, use visual aids for maximum clarity when presenting the subject matter to the community.

## 4. Passive Exploration

Consider negotiating some form of agreement (Letter of Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding/Corporation; or a Socio-Economic Participation Agreement earlier than an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA)).

- Hold off on promises related to profit, at least until a pre-feasibility study has been completed to avoid raising false expectations.
- Consider linking the benefit to how well the project does, so that the community can share on the up-side.
- Keep negotiations in proportion to the scale and duration of a program to avoid costs becoming prohibitive.



## 5. Exploration - Drilling

- Learn about local labour, businesses, services, and skill sets.
- Adapt work proposals to accommodate the learning and development priorities the community has identified.
- Seek a meeting with the community at large through a request to the Chief and Council. As well, most Bands have a community radio station which offers an excellent means of sharing the project's news, presentations and Q&A sessions.



## 6. Closure - Rehabilitation

Raise potential environmental concerns and proposed mitigation measures with the community to allow opportunities for creative and collaborative solutions. Closure and rehabilitation planning call for ongoing discussions with periodic reviews and updates. This way changes in the project itself or in technology throughout the life of the project can be accommodated.



***Success at each stage  
requires that all  
parties work together.***



# Additional Resources

Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities  
[www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/abor-auto/mine-kit\\_e.htm](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/abor-auto/mine-kit_e.htm)

Maps of Aboriginal Communities  
[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/on/mcarte\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/on/mcarte_e.html)

AMEBC-Mineral Exploration, Mining and Aboriginal  
Community Engagement  
[www.amebc.ca/sitecm/u/d/6e830ba41323eb5f.pdf](http://www.amebc.ca/sitecm/u/d/6e830ba41323eb5f.pdf)

The Northern Miner - Mining Explained  
[www.northernminer.com/products/miningexplained/explained.asp](http://www.northernminer.com/products/miningexplained/explained.asp)

Service Ontario Mineral Exploration and Mining  
[www.serviceontario.ca/mining](http://www.serviceontario.ca/mining)

Ontario Mining Association  
[www.oma.on.ca](http://www.oma.on.ca)

Ontario Prospectors Association  
[www.ontarioprospectors.com](http://www.ontarioprospectors.com)

Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council  
[www.omicc.ca](http://www.omicc.ca)

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada  
[www.pdac.ca/pdac/programs/e3.html](http://www.pdac.ca/pdac/programs/e3.html)

Our Community . . . Our Future: Mining and Aboriginal  
Communities video available from Ministry of Northern  
Development and Mines and Natural Resources Canada  
[www.nrcan.gc.ca/ms/video/dvd/video-abg\\_e.htm](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/ms/video/dvd/video-abg_e.htm)

