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Regional Adaptation Collaboratives

The Nunavut Mining Sector and Climate Change: Risks, Vulnerabilities and Good Environmental Practices Project

As part of the Northern Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC), *The Nunavut Mining Sector and Climate Change: Risks, Vulnerabilities and Good Environmental Practices* project will enhance the mining sector's resilience to climate change in Nunavut and inform adaptation in mining activities across the North.

Natural Resources Canada is partnering with the Government of Nunavut on this project, along with the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Newmont Mining, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay. Using a collaborative approach, the project will build capacity and advance adaptation to climate change in Canada's North, specifically with regard to infrastructure that is important to northern development and natural resources. The project theme areas are summarized below.

PROJECT THEMES

Vulnerability Assessment of Nunavut's Mining Sector to Climate Change

An assessment will be carried out of the vulnerability of Nunavut's mining sector and associated infrastructure, including that which is related to land and sea transport. Context for the assessment will be provided by a policy scan to determine the current state of mining in Nunavut, as well as future goals and policy instruments (eg. regulations) for the Territory.

Building on previous studies and reports, the assessment will address the magnitude of projected climate changes, but will focus on the climate-sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the mining sector. It will integrate the impacts of climate change with those of other drivers that impact the sector, and will identify key risks and suggest priorities for future action in terms of the need for additional knowledge (research) and policy action.

Documentation of Good Environmental Practices for Northern Exploration and Mining

Consultations will take place with the mining industry, regulators and other decision-makers to document current Northern mining practices, placing emphasis on those designed to address impacts of a changing climate. In addition, practices that have been proposed, but not widely implemented, will be reviewed.

A compilation of these efforts will then be assessed to determine what constitutes "good" environmental practices for Northern mining in the context of climate change, from exploration through to closure and reclamation. The final report will inform mine site planning and infrastructure design and maintenance and will also make recommendations for guidance and standards related to engineering and mine operations.

PARTNERS:

- Government of Nunavut - Department of Economic Development
- Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment
- Nunavut Impact Review Board
- Newmont Mining
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Hamlet of Cambridge Bay

REGIONAL LINK

- [Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development and Transportation](#)

NORTHERN RAC CONTACT

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http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/collab/no_e.php