

EDT FPT Ministerial Report

Date: September 25 & 28, 2020

Title: Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) 2020
Held via Zoom weblink

Department: Economic Development and Transportation

Mines Minister, David Akeeagok

- Economic Development and Transportation was also represented by:
 - Bernie MacIsaac, Deputy Minister
 - Paul Budkewitsch, A/Director, Minerals & Petroleum Resources

- Department of Environment was represented by:
 - Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister
 - Andreane Lussier, Manager, Climate Change Mitigation

Agenda:

- September 25, Day 1, Session 1 – Economic Recovery and Competitiveness (pre-read deck)
- September 25, Day 1, Session 2 – Accelerating Canada's Recovery Through Mining (pre-read deck)
- September 28, Day 2, Session 1 – Indigenous Economies (pre-read deck)

Background

The 2020 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) was originally planned to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon July 26-28, 2020 co-chaired by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Seamus O'Regan, and the Honourable Ranj Pillai, Yukon Minister of Energy Mines and Resources. Due to the pandemic of 2020, decision to cancel the scheduled meeting was made in the Spring and the meeting deferred until the Fall. A summary as provided by NRCan follows:

Key takeaways:

- EMMC yielded four key outcomes
 1. creation of an FPT Hydrogen Working Group;
 2. agreement to collaborate on the development and deployment of SMRs;
 3. creation of an FPT Task Team to develop critical mineral value chains;
 4. release of the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP) Updated Action Plan 2020.

- The first-ever virtual annual EMMC was successfully piloted in the context of COVID. The virtual space facilitated a streamlined agenda that privileged substantive ministers-only discussions.

Session Summaries:

Session 1 (Sept 25): Economic Recovery and Competitiveness

- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** SMRs can be used across the country to generate electricity and reduce emissions, including in rural and remote locations and the oil sands. SMR technology can make Canada's energy market more competitive, attract investment, and enhance our uranium resources' value chains. Interested PTs agreed to advance collaboration on the development and deployment of SMRs in Canada.
- **Hydrogen:** Investments in hydrogen are picking up momentum globally. Canada has significant potential to expand its market foothold given its existing resources, expertise, distribution networks and the possibility to export from both coasts. Moreover, hydrogen can support emerging clean-tech innovation industries, such as batteries and energy storage. PTs broadly supported hydrogen use and deployment and the creation of an FPT working group on hydrogen.
- **Critical Minerals:** With growing geopolitical interest in this file, Canada, as a source of many critical minerals, can play a significant role in such initiatives, which in turn, could help strengthen Canadian value chains. It was noted that Canadian expertise should be developed in this area, as should mineral processing capability. Several jurisdictions are developing or have announced their mineral strategies. There was an agreement to create an FPT Task Team to focus on pan-Canadian mines to manufacturing approach to develop critical mineral value chains.

Session 2 (Sept 25): Accelerating Canada's Recovery through Mining

- **Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan – Pan-Canadian Initiatives:** Ministers from select jurisdictions championed the updates on the pan-Canadian initiatives that had advanced since the launch of Action Plan 2020 in March at the PDAC Convention. This included the PGS; the Canada Brand; and the renewal of the NOAMI. Status updates were also provided on Indigenous procurement in mining; innovation challenges; and the Canadians of Mining and mineral literacy hub.
- **Pan Canadian Geoscience Strategy:** The Strategy, led by the National Geological Survey of Canada (NGSC), will support accessible, high quality public geoscience, which is key to a competitive industry. In its interim report, the NGSC presented the vision, mission, and scope for ministers' consideration, which was informed by examining international best practices in public geoscience strategies and engagement with the mineral industry and stakeholders. The draft acknowledged the impacts of COVID-

19, how the pandemic has highlighted gaps in global supply chains, and the need for a modernized approach to geoscience that leverages disruptive technologies that further improves competitiveness. The new approach will also include a focus on critical minerals and a “minerals plus” scope (i.e., geoscience activities beyond those that directly support mineral exploration such as climate change, energy, land management and infrastructure decisions).

The CMMP, through the work of the NGSC, is moving forward on engagement with Indigenous groups, academia, and industry and aims to present the full strategy at EMMC 2021.

- Canada Brand: A strong brand will assist PTs in transitioning to a low-carbon economy, diversifying supply chains, fostering inclusive partnerships and building strong talent pools. Ministers supported the four themes of the Brand as presented in a placemat: leadership, excellence, partnerships, and values. The goal is to release the Canada Brand in time for PDAC Convention in 2022.
- Advancing Indigenous Participation: Mines ministers committed to series of conferences on Indigenous Procurement in mining, with an eye to increasing Indigenous business activity. Alternative forms of engagement are being considered for additional events and a compendium of best practices, success stories, and case studies will be published by 2022.
- Innovation and Mineral Literacy: It was noted that some progress had been made on the development of the virtual mineral literacy hub, which aims to spread the message that mining is essential to our modern society.
- Critical Minerals: As a new area of action and a signature initiative of the CMMP Action Plan 2021, agreement was obtained for the creation of a federal, provincial territorial task team to jointly develop a Canadian Critical Minerals Action Plan. This task team will support the development of a critical minerals list for Canada, take a coordinated approach to international engagement, and work collaboratively to establish an all-Canadian critical minerals and batteries value chain. Various jurisdictions signaled their interest in working together on the task team.
- National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative and Common Approach to Mines Reclamation: No concerns were raised with regards to NOAMI recommendations; however, a common approach to reclamation report recommendations was not approved. Ministers asked that officials prepare a report on best practices and lessons learned on reclamation instead (for EMMC 2021).
- CMMP Update to Action Plan 2020: The Update includes a narrative on the effects of COVID; highlights specific measures that industry, governments, Indigenous peoples and others have taken in response to the pandemic; provides an update on Pan-Canadian initiatives; and, sets out a new area for collaboration – critical minerals. Revisions to the CMMP

Update to Action Plan 2020 (i.e., removal of reclamation as a new area of collaboration) were approved by Mines Ministers, except for ON and SK who are not signatories to the CMMP. The Update was posted to Minescanada.ca. Jurisdictions will collaborate over the next year on the development of Action Plan 2021, which will further advance Pan-Canadian initiatives and bold new actions.

Session 3 (Sept 28): Indigenous Economies

This session was attended by leaders from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Métis National Council (MNC) and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN). The session was composed of two parts: a panel presentation on Indigenous economies; and a closed session with CYFN, NIOs and ministers.

The panel was composed of:

- Keith Matthews, President of the Council for Advancement of Native Development Officers, and member of Indigenous Business COVID-19 Response Task Force;
- Al Benoit, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor, Manitoba Métis Federation; and
- Mathieya Alatini, former Chief of Kluane First Nation, Member of the Yukon Minister Development Strategy Panel, Strategic Advisor to the Government of Yukon and Chief Strategist at GSD Strategies.

Panel discussion and closed session main themes: COVID impacts, inclusion, infrastructure issues, and procurement.

- COVID-19 Impacts: COVID-19 hit Indigenous communities hard and demonstrated that not all communities were equipped to deal with the pandemic. The pandemic highlighted systemic issues that will make the post-COVID economic recovery period more challenging for these communities.
- Inclusion: The inclusion of Indigenous partners in the post-COVID economic recovery planning is critical. There is a commitment to implement UNDRIP. It was noted by all NIO leadership that 'free, prior and informed consent' does not represent a 'veto' but should be viewed as shared decision making. Indigenous rights and interests identified in the constitution need to be respected and integrated into economic recovery planning.
- Procurement: Federal government procurement policies must be developed more inclusively, capturing the different interests and rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit through distinctions-based relationships. It was recommended the development of inclusive procurement policies, whereby individual communities, industry, and government all need to be at the table. This will further support Indigenous competitiveness and participation in the economy.

- Infrastructure: Improving infrastructure (e.g., high-speed internet, ageing infrastructure, sewage systems, housing) is a top priority for advancing competitiveness within natural resources sectors and will support Indigenous communities with post-COVID economic recovery and inclusion. To this end, PT leadership is key, along with land claim agreements and the structures that flow from them.

Session 4 (Sept 28): U.S. Elections: Potential Implications for Canadian Energy and Mining Sectors

- Ministers had a presentation on potential implications for Canadian energy and mining sectors by Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., Kirsten Hillman. Both Democratic and Republican parties are focusing on domestic issues.
- Areas of expected continued collaboration, regardless of the electoral outcome, include: Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals, nuclear, hydro, natural gas, and cybersecurity for energy infrastructure.

FPT meetings in which EDT is involved:

1. FPT Committee ADM and DM calls (Bernie MacIsaac, Jimi Onalik, Robert Connelly, Gabe Karlik; emails and phone calls)
2. FPT Intergovernmental Working Groups, Mines; Economic and Finance; Northern Minerals Sector (Paul Budkewitsch; emails and phone calls bi-monthly)
3. FTP Committees, National Geological Surveys (Paul Budkewitsch; emails and phone calls)
4. FTP Task Groups, Science, Technology, and Innovation; Global Leadership; Canada Brand; Economic Development and Competitiveness; Critical Minerals and Battery Value Chain (Paul Budkewitsch; emails and phone calls)
5. FPT Intergovernmental Working Groups, Oil and Gas; Communications (Annie Cyr-Parent; emails and phone calls)
6. FTP Task Groups, Indigenous Affairs (Ronnie Suluk; emails and phone calls)

Next Steps

Ministers to hold a virtual one-hour meeting in February 2021 (date to be determined). An in-person EMMC 2021 is in the early planning stages, hosted by Saskatchewan. Should the conference proceed, it is anticipated to be in Saskatoon either July August or September, pending the numerous COVID-19 logistical and public health measures which are changing month to month.

News release

In contrast to previous years' meetings, a joint Communiqué was not issued, however a post-conference news release from NRCan can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/10/energy-and-mines-ministers-focus-on-economic-recovery.html>

Attachments: Agenda
 News Release

ENERGY AND MINES MINISTERS' CONFERENCE (EMMC) 2020
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS' VIDEOCONFERENCE

Agenda - Friday, September 25, 2020 (Day 1)

1:30 – 4:35 p.m. EDT

Objectives:

- Explore options to increase Canada's competitiveness
- Identify opportunities in the mining industry for Canada's recovery

1. Introduction (10 min)

Minister O'Regan/Minister Pillai

- Welcome and introductory remarks

2. Economic Recovery and Competitiveness (80 min)

All

- Guiding Questions:
 - Given economic and environmental opportunities presented by hydrogen, SMRs and critical minerals, what will it take from all levels of government to foster robust market for these industries?
 - How can governments work with industry and the financial community to attract ESG investments?
 - What are you hearing from industry in terms of current and future labour gaps to drive recovery and long-term competitiveness?

3. Health Break (15 min)

4. Accelerating Canada's Economic Recovery Through Mining (75 min)

All

- Discussion on the state of the mining industry in the context of COVID-19 recovery with a focus on competitiveness and innovation (15:15 – 15:35)
 - Dialogue on mining operations, community and worker safety and outlook for years ahead
 - Identify competitiveness and innovation challenges and opportunities
- Update on Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan Action Plan 2020 and discussion on proposed areas of collaboration for the year (15:35 – 16:30)
 - Outline progress on Pan Canadian initiatives (15 min)
 - Discuss Critical Minerals areas of collaboration (15 min)
 - Explore Common Approach to Legacy Sites -Reclamation and Orphaned/Abandoned Mines (20 min)
 - Next Steps to Update Action Plan 2020 (5 min)

5. Concluding Remarks (5 min)

Minister O'Regan/Minister Pillai/Minister Eyre

ENERGY AND MINES MINISTERS' CONFERENCE (EMMC) 2020
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS' VIDEOCONFERENCE

Agenda - Monday, September 28, 2020 (Day 2)

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT

Objectives:

- Discuss Indigenous economies and increasing participation in economic recovery
- Reflect on the potential implications of U.S. elections on Canada's recovery

1. Introduction (15 min)

Minister O'Regan/Minister Pillai

- Welcome and introductory remarks
- Opening Prayer (Elder Allen)
- Opening remarks (2-3 min each) by Assembly of First Nations (National Chief Bellegarde), Métis National Council (Vice President Chartrand), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (President Obed) and Council of Yukon First Nations (Grand Chief Johnston)

2. Indigenous Economies (70 min)

Ministers, Indigenous leaders and Presenters

- Panel Presentation (15 min), followed by a Q&A session (30 min)
 - Keith Matthew, President of the Council for Advancement of Native Development Officers, and member of Indigenous Business COVID-19 Response Task Force
 - Al Benoit, Manitoba Metis Federation
 - Mathieya Alatini, former Chief of Kluane First Nation, Member of the Yukon Minister Development Strategy Panel, and Strategic Advisor to the Government of Yukon
- Ministers-only discussion with NIOs and Council of Yukon First Nations (25 min) (participants TBC) framed by Guiding Questions:
 - How are you integrating Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) views and concerns into economic recovery planning and beyond?
 - What strategies are envisioned to enhance partnerships in order to increase Indigenous participation in energy and mining sectors?
 - What type of procurement strategies could government implement to support the recovery of the indigenous economy?

3. Health Break (15 min)

All

4. U.S. Elections: Potential Implications for Canada (55 min)

Ministers/Ambassador Hillman

- Fireside chat with ministers only, followed by Q&A with Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., Kirsten Hillman, on the implications of the U.S. elections on Canada's energy and mining sectors

5. Concluding Remarks (10 min)

Minister O'Regan/Minister Pillai



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Energy and Mines Ministers Focus on Economic Recovery

From: **Natural Resources Canada**

News release

September 28, 2020
Resources Canada

Ottawa, Ontario

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Canada's energy and mines ministers concluded their annual conference with a shared vision to ensure the economic recovery attracts investment and supports the long-term competitiveness of the Canadian energy and mining sectors.

Co-chaired by the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources and the Honourable Ranj Pillai, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for Yukon, the 2020 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) was held virtually on September 25 and 28.

Ministers discussed opportunities to drive Canada's natural resources advantage — by building on Canada's strong environmental, social and governance performance record to attract investment, generate new value chains and create job opportunities across Canada, including for Indigenous businesses and communities. Ministers agreed that an inclusive approach that builds capacity and ensures diversity is a key ingredient to Canada's successful economic recovery.

Ministers also signalled their desire to work together on topics of common interest, including hydrogen, small modular reactors and critical minerals / batteries. Canada is globally recognized as an innovative leader in those fields. Ministers agreed that their collaboration can unlock new markets, attract investment, create jobs and drive decarbonisation to support industrial competitiveness. Against this backdrop, they agreed to:

- Build upon provincial and territorial plans on hydrogen and the forthcoming Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, to create a Hydrogen Working Group as a forum for multilateral discussions and advance cooperation.
- Recognizing the important contribution that small modular reactors (SMRs) can make to Canada's economic recovery, as well as clean energy and climate change objectives, interested Ministers agreed to advance collaboration on the development and deployment of SMRs in Canada.
- Work together to build an all-Canadian Critical Minerals and Battery value chain across sectors and pursue engagement with our partners in the U.S. and beyond.

Acknowledging the opportunity to accelerate economic recovery through mining, Ministers agreed to an update to the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan Action Plan 2020, highlighting industry challenges resulting from COVID-19 and progress on the pan-Canadian initiatives introduced in March. Responsible development of our rich and diversified mineral resources can lead the way to a green recovery and ensure Canada's prosperity in the future economy.

There was a special session with Indigenous leaders to gain a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous businesses and communities, and to discuss ways to increase Indigenous participation in energy and mining sectors and economic recovery planning.

Finally, Ministers heard from Canada's Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman about recent developments in the U.S. Ministers agreed to work collegially to ensure our collective interests are well represented in the U.S. going forward.

Quotes

"As the Canadian economy recovers and we build back better, our energy and mine sectors will play a key role in attracting investment, strengthening Canada's competitiveness in the future economy and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples."

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan

Canada's Minister of Natural Resources

"Canada's economy is in a strong position to recover and excel post-Covid because of our natural resource potential. All communities across Canada should play a part, whether it is contributing critical minerals to the supply chain, advancing innovative energy development or adding jobs and capacity to our remote and northern communities."

The Honourable Ranj Pillai

Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for Yukon

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