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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The Mining and Northern Development Lake Huron Regional Round Table took place on Wednesday February 22, 2017 at the Elders Hall at the Anishinabek Nation Union of Ontario Indians Head Office on the traditional territory of Nipissing First Nation. This was the first Regional Table meeting of its kind in the region as a result of the implementation of a new regional engagement framework put in place by the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI). This initial meeting was formulated as a meet and greet and was an opportunity for the participants to become further equated with the regional framework. Figure 1 below denotes the Lake Huron Region of the Anishinabek Nation (AN).



Figure 1 Map of the Anishinabek Nation

11 First Nation leaders, portfolio holders and technicians from the Lake Huron Region attended the Mining and Minerals Regional Table. In addition, the aforementioned 11 First Nation leaders were joined by UOI Lands and Resources staff who facilitated the Table discussions as well as representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM).

The following table notes those who were in attendance for the Mining and Northern Development Table:

First Nation Participants:

Andrew (Stitch) Manitowabi - Wikwemikong
Arvind Sharma – Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Darlene Solomon – Garden River First Nation
Esther Osche – Whitefish River First Nation
Grand Council Elder Gordon Waindubence - Sheguiandah
Lake Huron Regional Grand Chief Paul Eshkakogan – Sagamok Anishnawbek
Peter Nahwegabo – Aundek Omni Kaning
Peter Recollet – Aw Ji Jawk Resources (Wahnapiatae First Nation)
Robert Paishegwon – Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Ross Assinewe – Sagamok Anishnawbek
Chief Warren Tabobondung – Wasausking First Nation

UOI Participants:

Cameron Welch – Policy Analyst
Tammy Desmoulin – Program Coordinator

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Participants:

Bernie Hughes
Clayton Ralph
Karen Kettles
David Bell
Jamie Fairchild
Jennifer Simpson
Melissa Eva
Shannon Evers
Susan Hale

TABLE DISCUSSION:

The Regional Table was preceded by a First Nations Caucus in the morning. This Caucus allowed the Anishinabek representatives at the Table to discuss a number of issues and to identify a number of priority issues and training and information needs. The Caucus was then joined by representatives of MNDM when lunch was served. After all protocol was observed, members of the table introduced

themselves. MNDM personnel gave the Table some background on what types of work they do for the MNDM and briefly outlined how they could assist Anishinabek communities represented at the Table.

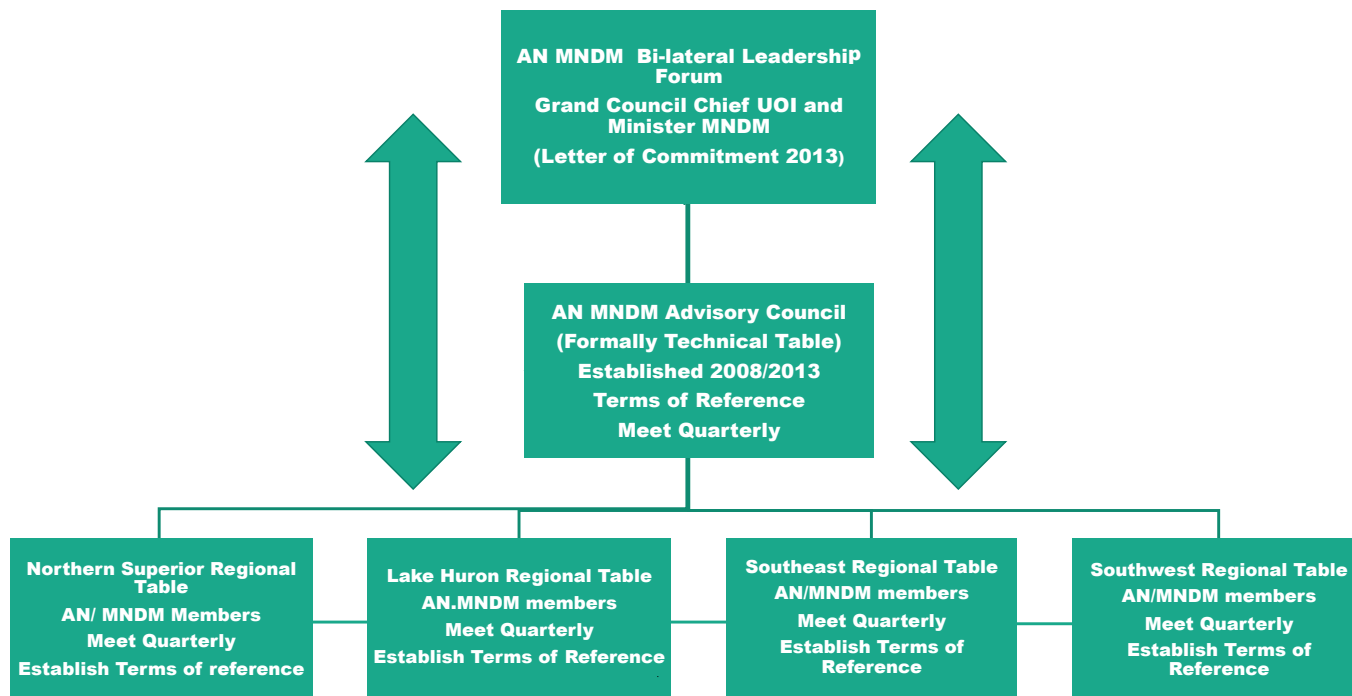
UOI staff shared the UOI and MNDM contact information sheets that had been distributed to the Table participants. They requested that each participant fill out a contact information form so that UOI staff could update contact lists and make future individual follow-up calls with representatives from each community in the Region.

A timeline outlining major activities and milestones of the MNDM and the UOI around the modernization of the Mining Act was presented by UOI staff and was followed by a number of comments and reflections by MNDM staff. The timeline is presented below:

Timeline of Mining Act Modernization

- 2006 Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy is announced
- Prior to Mining Act Modernization (MAM) there were discussions with Aboriginal organizations and communities that took place in 2007
- July 2008 – Mining Act Modernization announced (Bill 173) as well as the Far North Planning Initiative (Far North Act)
- August 2008 – Ministry's "Finding a Balance" Discussion Paper released (Phase 1)
- 2008-2009 – Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) starts initial engagements across Ontario with Aboriginal communities, organizations, Industry, prospectors, and public
- May 2009 – Bill 173 posted on the Environmental Registry for 60 days
- 2008-2009 – Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) receives funds from MNDM to carry out their own engagement sessions – 10 engagement sessions took place across Anishinabek Nation
- Engagement with the rest of the Province continues. MNDM continues to contact UOI First Nations on mineral exploration activities
- UOI and its First Nation representatives continue discussions and meetings throughout the Mining Act Modernization process
- 2011 Phase 1 ends
- January 27, 2011 - Mining Act Modernization Regulation Development with Union of Ontario Indians – Anishinabek in Toronto (Chiefs of Ontario Office)
- 2012- 2013 Mining Act Modernization continues (Phase 2) - Engagement sessions across the Province continue including UOI First Nations
- June 25, 2013 UOI and MNDM sign Letter of Commitment (LOC) - Technical Table is formed to support the meetings between UOI Grand Council Chief and Minister
- December 2013 – EBR posting
- 2013-14 Mining Act Modernization (Phase 3) - Engagement sessions across the Province continue including UOI First Nations
- 2015 Spring/Summer- Sessions on Mineral Development Strategy, Regulation 308, and MAM Phase 3 sessions are held
- 2016 – 2017 Mining Act Modernization (Phase 3) continues

What followed was an introduction to the MNM/Anishinabek relationship delivered by UOI staff. The Table was introduced to the Regional Table process and discussed the relationships between the Regional Table, the Advisory Council and Bi-Lateral Leadership Forum. Particular emphasis was placed on the Regional tables as a tool for relationship building and problem solving to be carried out by the AN representatives at the Table and localized or regional MNM staff. The figure below was shared with the Table and is a representation of the newly introduced regional framework for engagement between Anishinabek communities and the MNM:



The letter of intent that established the AN-MNMD Bi-Lateral Leadership Forum was presented and discussed. As was the evolving Terms of Reference (TOR), for the Regional Tables. Table participants agreed to use this document as a starting point for discussion of a TOR for the Regional Table moving forward. Table participants took particular note of the inclusion of the recognition and respect for the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe “One Anishinaabe Family” alongside recognition and respect for the aims of the Mining Act. The UOI facilitator stressed the utility of the Regional Table process and suggested that regional priorities for action related to mining and development should be discussed at the next meeting of the Table. A number of Table participants expressed the need of the Regional Tables, increased dialogue with MNM and between communities of the region. The floor was then opened up for discussion the Table explored what they would like to see the Regional Table accomplish.



Figure 3 Lake Huron Regional Table Discussion of Values Mapping

ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE TABLE:

Mining Sequence Training:

As this was the first meeting of the Table, a need for a refresher presentation on the mining sequence, commonly referred to as Mining 101, was identified. MNDM committed to facilitating such training or information sharing at the next meeting of the Table in the spring.

On-line Staking:

On-going modernization of the Mining Act was a major topic of discussion by the Table. Anishinabek representatives at the Table expressed concerns with the implementation of the on-line staking system, timelines for First Nation comment on Plans and Permits and capacity issues. AN representatives expressed the need for information and training on the particulars of the proposed on-line staking process. The MNDM committed to provide such information sharing at the next meeting of the Table.

Aggregates:

Several AN representatives at the Table expressed the desire for their communities to become more involved in the aggregates industry. They identified the need for additional information on proposed changes to the Aggregates Resources Act. Some frustration was expressed in relation to the difficulty experienced by the Anishinabek Nation leadership in getting the information that they need on programs and activities that are the responsibility of a number of provincial ministries. In response, there was discussion of MNDM attempting to coordinate multi-ministry discussions of the Aggregates Act and related issues at a supplemental meeting to future meetings of the Table. It was noted that the Aggregate Resources Act is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). MNDM agreed to follow up on the issue with other ministries (MNR and Ministry of Transportation Ontario). This discussion led to the additional consideration of the need to establish dialogue between the Table and ministries other than MNDM on additional issues as appropriate.

Values Mapping:

The need for values mapping to be completed prior to the implementation of phase III of Mining Act modernization was stressed by representatives of the AN. A proposal for a values mapping project submitted to Ontario by the UOI was discussed. Support for a potential project that helps to delineate traditional territories, identify land use and values mapping work already complete, and support for additional values mapping was expressed by the MNDM. There was agreement that such possibilities would be further discussed by the UOI and MNDM at the upcoming Southern Regional Table in Vaughan.

Prospecting Training:

Members of the Table expressed interest in prospecting training courses taking place in their communities. To this end, the MNDM representatives referred to the course offered by staff at the Ontario Geological Survey. Additional information and expressions of interests are to be shared at the next meeting of the Table in spring.

NEXT STEPS:

This first meeting of the Lake Huron Regional Table was very much a form for new UOI staff and their counterparts at MNM to meet with representatives of the Anishinabek communities of the region. The meeting was a success and Table participants expressed the desire to move forward with discussion of, and action on, many issues important to their communities. The next meeting of the Table is to take place in April or May of 2017 at a location to be determined. It is important that the next meeting of the full Table be preceded by a First Nation Caucus where community representatives can discuss a number of issues before being joined at that Table by representatives from the MNM.

Follow-up Items:

Action	Responsible Party(ies)
TOR for table to be reviewed	Table (all)
Mining sequence training next meeting	MNM
On-line staking training next meeting	MNM
Aggregates- follow up with MNRF and MTO	MNM
Values mapping proposal follow-up	AN and MNM
Prospectors training- Information	MNM
Prospectors training- Expressions of interest	Table/AN

