

Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development North America

Towards Change

The Work and Results of MMSD North America



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Final Report,
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Imagine a thriving and profitable North American mining and minerals industry—an industry that was respected for its:

- contribution to people and the environment;
- capacity to care for the long term while performing effectively now;
- technical innovation and cultural sensitivity; and
- way of engaging implicated individuals and communities.

Since the spring of 2001, the work of MMSD North America has examined ways of moving the industry in the direction of sustainable development. *Towards Change*, MMSD North America's final report, offers 10 recommendations to encourage this shift:

The Legacy Issue

1. Expand efforts to deal with what's left from the past.
2. Strengthen rules, incentives and programs to prevent the same from happening in the future.

Improving Practices

Immediate Priorities

3. Pilot test the "Seven Questions to sustainability" assessment framework.
4. Build more effective ways to encourage success and discourage bad practices.
5. Improve dispute resolution mechanisms.
6. Encourage recycling while maintaining safety: adjust the rules and systems for designating and controlling recyclable material and hazardous waste.

Longer-Term Concerns

7. Build a capacity to address the equity issue.
8. Adjust the current financial/business/economic model to better address full social and environmental considerations.

Enhancing Capacity

9. Strengthen the learning and research support system.

Follow-up

10. Facilitate and report on MMSD North America outcomes.

For each recommendation, details are provided on the underlying issues, specific actions needed, leadership, timeline and the cost of inaction.

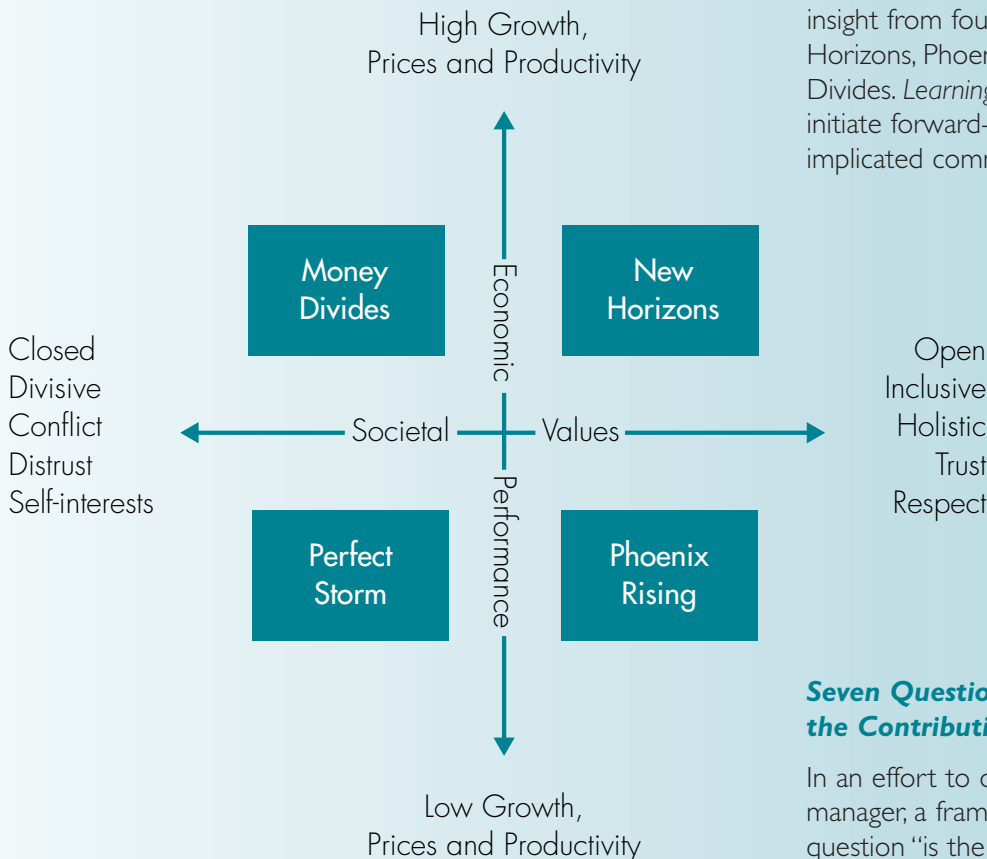
Our Reports

Industry in Transition: A Profile of the North American Mining Sector

In this monograph, Alistair MacDonald provides an innovative description of North America's complex mineral production system. *Industry in Transition* provides a powerful foundation for any analysis of change in the North American mining and minerals industry.

Learning from the Future: Alternative Scenarios for the North American Mining and Mineral Industry

Here, the Scenarios Work Group sets out and draws insight from four equally possible scenarios: New Horizons, Phoenix Rising, Perfect Storm and Money Divides. *Learning from the Future* is offered as a tool to initiate forward-thinking analyses by any or all of the implicated communities of interest.



Seven Questions to Sustainability: How to Assess the Contribution of Mining and Minerals Activities

In an effort to offer practical guidance to the field manager, a framework was developed to answer the question "is the net contribution to sustainable development positive or negative in the long term?" At the core are seven questions from which cascade ideal answers and a hierarchy of objectives, indicators and specific measurements. The approach can be used in aid of early appraisal; planning; financing and insuring; licensing and approvals; internal corporate reviews; corporate reporting; and external reviews by independent third parties. It is offered as a means to achieve efficiencies and practical improvements, reduce risks, bring consistency across applications, and clarify the meaning of—and case for—sustainability.

Scenario Framework. From *Learning from the Future*.

Towards Change: The Work and Results of MMSD North America

This final synthesis in book and CD-Rom form draws all of the elements of MMSD North America together.

Our Journey

Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) was initiated globally to develop suggestions on how mining and minerals can best contribute to sustainable development. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED, London) was commissioned to undertake the project working on behalf of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). In North America, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) has facilitated the MMSD project in partnership with the Mining Life-Cycle Center at the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada, Reno.

During the 10-month implementation phase of MMSD North America, six 30-person workshops were convened, the North American Dialogue brought together 100 people to focus on mining-related issues, and an additional several hundred were drawn into discussions through the work of sub-project teams.

To as great an extent as possible, participants were drawn from a range of interests including companies (juniors, intermediates, seniors, service); mining-dependent communities; indigenous people; government; labour; non-government organizations; industry and professional associations; and university teachers, researchers and students. Did we get everyone that we would have liked to? No. Did we have a broad range of interests involved? Absolutely.

While participants were asked to share their knowledge and expertise, they were not asked to “represent” any organization. Further, while a great effort was made to incorporate everyone’s perspective and reach consensus on issues, neither participants nor their affiliated organizations were asked to endorse the results.

The high quality, collaborative work achieved through MMSD North America has contributed to a sense that the mining/minerals industry—along with all of the implicated communities of interest—has reached a significant turning point. It remains to be seen whether the needed changes are implemented but there is every reason to be optimistic.



World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Towards Change: The Work and Results of MMSD North America is available in its entirety online at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2002/mmsd_towardschange.pdf.

Print copies are available for CDN\$15 each (plus shipping and handling) by calling 204-958-7700 or sending an e-mail to: info@iisd.ca.

Further information about Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development North America is available at <http://www.iisd.org/mmsd/>. For information about the global MMSD initiative, visit <http://www.iied.org/mmsd/>.

Cover photography: Left and centre photos by Tamra Rezanoff. Right side photo courtesy of IAMGOLD Corporation.