



**MEETING EDE 101-19-22**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022  
COMMITTEE ROOM A  
1:30 P.M.**

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**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
  - a) Briefing on the Mineral Resources Act Regulations and Implementation with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Honourable Caroline Wawzonek
5. In-Camera matters
  - a) Wrap-up discussion
  - b) Confidential Correspondence
    - i.2022-04-20 – Minister of ENR
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting: TBC Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 9:00am
7. Adjournment

**MINERAL RESOURCE ACT REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION  
– OPENING REMARKS  
MINISTER WAWZONEK**

**SCEDE – APRIL 22, 2022**

- Hello and thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. I look forward to discussing the development and implementation of the *Mineral Resource Act* regulations which is the largest project that Industry, Tourism and Investment’s mineral staff and the NWT mineral sector has undergone. Due to the large nature of this change to support our discussions, several staff from the department have joined us as subject matter experts. Pamela Strand, Deputy Minister, and Menzie McEachern, Assistant Deputy Minister Mineral and Petroleum Resources here in the room with me as well as Drew Robertson my Ministerial Special Advisor; Julie Ward, Director of Mineral Resource Act Implementation who will be presenting virtually; as well as our working group leads and subject matter experts, including Charlene Squibb, Manager of Mineral Resource Planning; Dianna Beck, Manager of Socio-Economics and Jessica Bos, Mining Recorder.
- I would also like to acknowledge that we are co-developing the policies for these regulations with Indigenous Government partners who we sit with on the Intergovernmental Council. I understand that we have representatives from the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat in attendance today, who are part of the technical working group collaboratively developing the *Mineral Resource Act* regulations. Together we are working towards regulations that will support and be supported by the people of the NWT.
- It is my understanding that members of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) have expressed an interest in jointly participating with ITI staff in presenting content of the regulations to SCEDE. I acknowledge the current GNWT briefing process is not conducive to this type of joint

briefing. I am open to working with my GNWT colleagues in Lands and Natural Resources (LNR) departments, and with IGC and SCEDE to explore a process enabling joint standing committee briefings in the future, where appropriate.

- A legislative project as large as the MRA is highly complex. This means that we have a greater understanding of and ability to plan in detail the near-term priorities, such as development of the regulations in this 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. But I would also like to acknowledge that there are a variety of implementation activities that will roll out over time, some before the regulations are in place and some longer-term implementation activities over time due to needing the certainty of the final regulations themselves. You will hear a few examples of each of these today.
- Implementation activities cover everything from policy and guidance documents for our clients as well as for internal purposes, organizational design and resource planning needs, training for staff and clients, and design and implementation of data and information management systems such as MAARS.
- With a legislative policy project like the implementation of the MRA, there is a need for a learn-, plan- and adapt-as-we-go approach. We look forward to keeping SCEDE updated with our MRA implementation planning as we advance this work.
- Today we hope to highlight some of the proposed policy changes knowing that there is this adaptive process in developing and refining regulations, and the regulations may undergo significant evolution as we move through development.
- I will now pass it back to the Chair and request that Julie Ward give a presentation, in advance of our discussion. Thank you.



# Mineral Resources Act Regulations and Implementation

For Standing Committee Economic Development and Environment  
Department of Industry Tourism and Investment

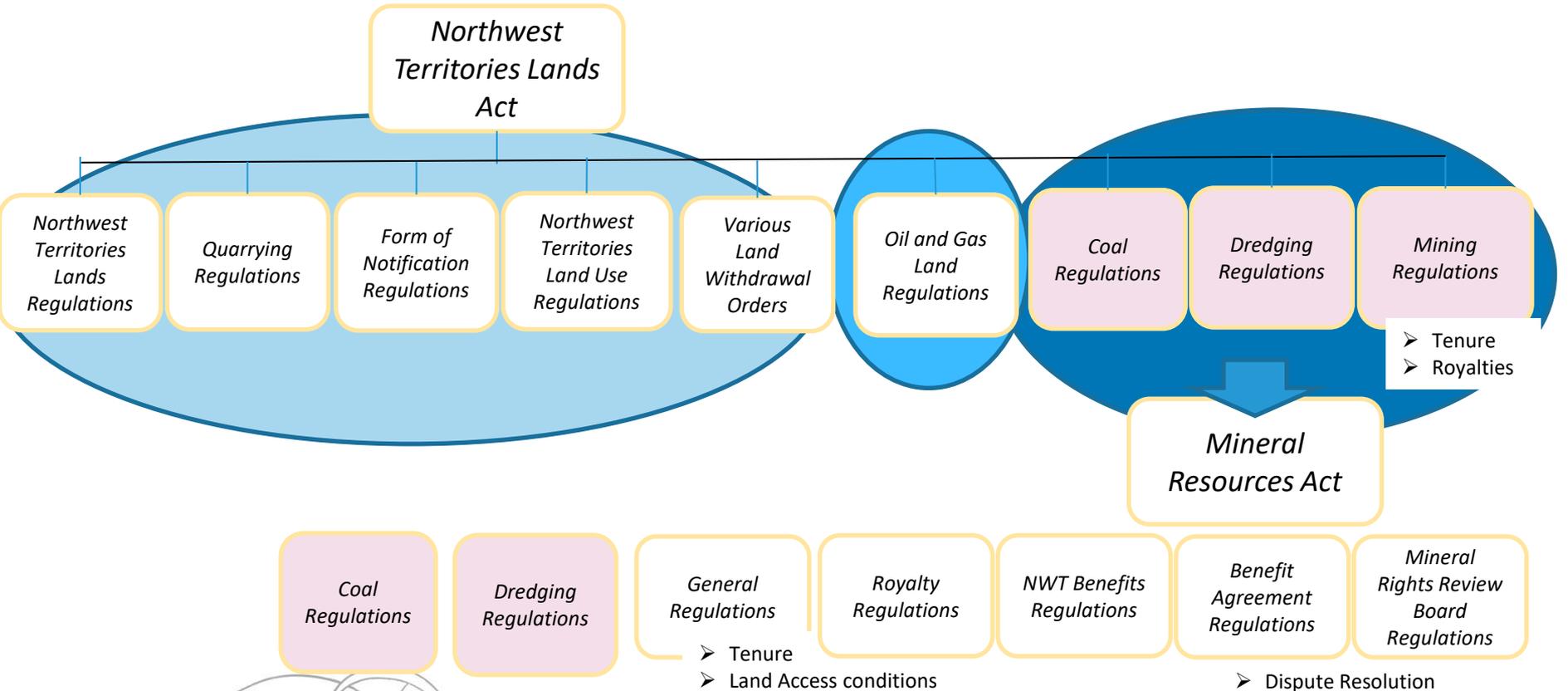
April 22, 2022

# Mandate

- Increase resource exploration and development
- Adopt a benefit retention approach to economic development



# Existing to New Regulations



# Purpose of the *Mineral Resources Act* (MRA)

- a) to regulate mineral interests efficiently, effectively and in a transparent manner;
- b) to support the economy of the Northwest Territories;
- c) to realize benefits from mineral development for Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the people of the Northwest Territories;
- d) to ensure that wealth generated by mineral resources will be used for the benefit of present and future generations of the people of the Northwest Territories;



# Purpose of the MRA (*continued*)

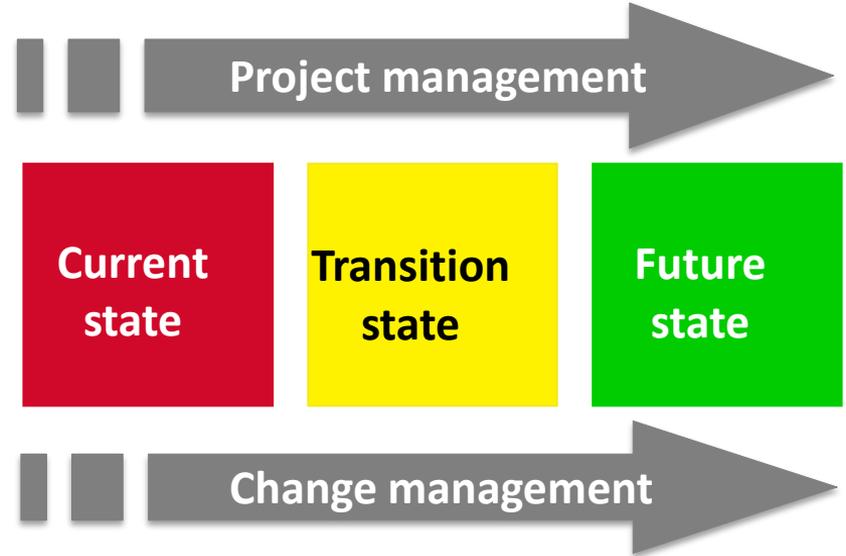
- e) to encourage positive relationships between proponents, Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- f) to respect Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- g) to complement the systems for collaborative management of land and natural resources in the Northwest Territories;
- h) to improve geological knowledge in the territory;
- i) to recognize sustainable land use



# Integrated Project and Change Management Approach

## Focus:

**Technical side** of moving from current state to future state



## Focus:

**People side** of moving from current state to future state

# Regulation Development Process

- *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Land and Resource Management* and associated Act (2014)
- Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management: Legislative Development Protocol (Dec 2020)
- Work with the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat (IGCS) to collaboratively develop regulations
- Setup a technical working group with IGCS (~March 2021)
- December 2021, other Indigenous Governments invited and started participating in technical working group



# Collaborative Development of Regulations

Notification of Application to Record	What regulations are required for IGO notice? What regulations are required for public notice? Approved form?	08.a.1-2	Land Access W	R		
	Indigenous Government Notification process			R	<a href="#">Research</a>	Discuss
				Y	Research updated	Progress to next step
				Y	Options paper	Progress to next step
				G	Recommendation	Progress to next step
				G	Issue Specific Policy Intention	

Example

# Highlights of Proposed Changes Occurring under the MRA Regulations



# Modernize Regulations

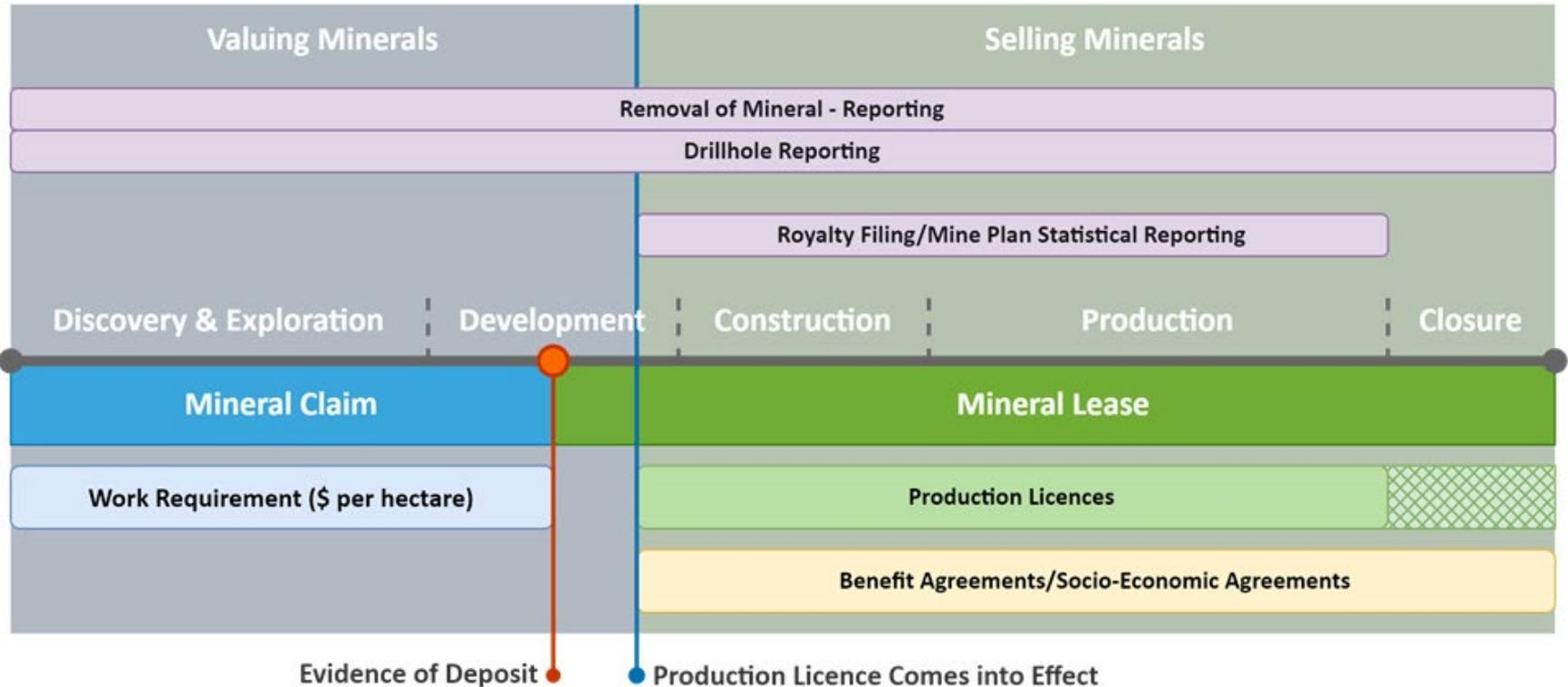
- Regulate mineral interests efficiently and effectively
  - Reduce manual administrative processes
  - Reduce burden on companies
- Build in transparency

# Modernize Regulations

- Move to merit-based tenure regime
- Increased reporting requirements from staking to production
- Increased transparency with Public Registry
- Increased tools for managing tenure
- Evidence of Deposit requirement
- Production Licence
- Ensure mineral administration is flexible to regulate future mineral types
- Transition to online map staking



# Mineral Administration



# Benefits for Northerners

- Review of royalties regulations to understand if changes could be beneficial
- Regulate requirements for NWT Benefits (i.e. Socio-Economic Agreements)
- Regulate requirement for completed Benefit Agreements

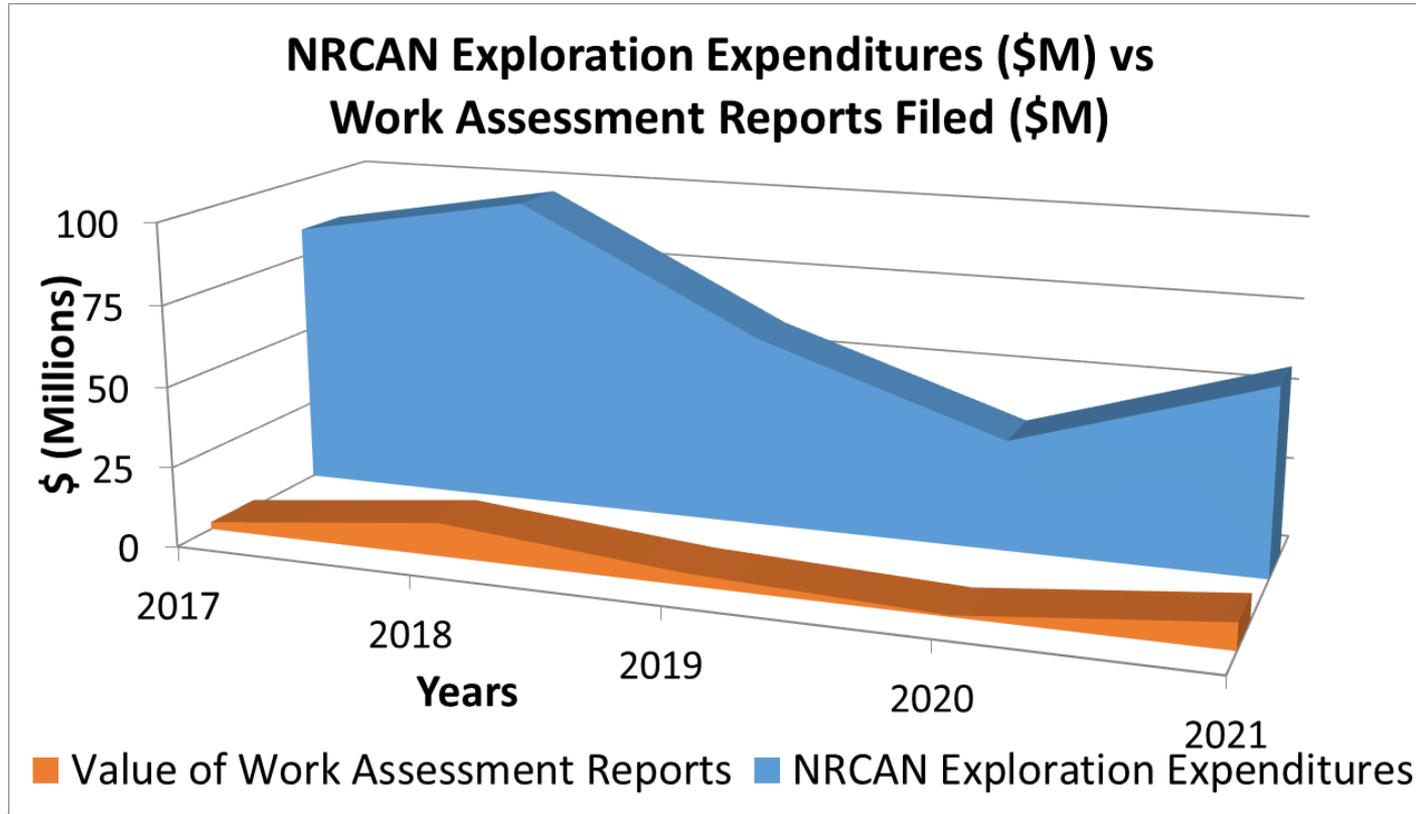


# Positive and Collaborative Relationships

- Prospector's Awareness Course
- Notification of Application to Record mineral claims
- Notice of Intended Work
- Opportunity for Indigenous Engagement Credits (under work requirements)
- Clarity in requirements for socio-economic agreements and benefits agreements
- Dispute resolution processes



# Improve Geological Knowledge



# Improve Geological Knowledge

- Update work requirements
- Data standards
- Drill cores – in field preservation and reporting
- Removal of Minerals (Bulk Sampling)
- Statistical Reporting (Production Data)



# Collaborative Initiatives

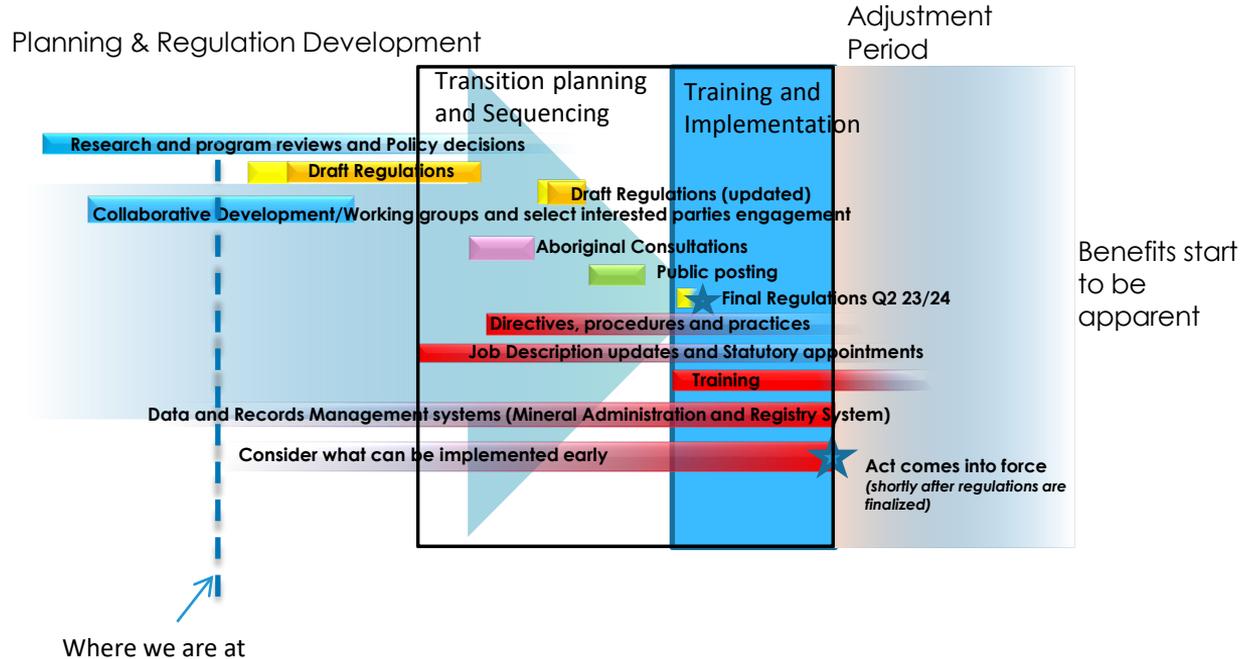
- Zones
- Temporary Restricted Areas



# Engagement

- Focused engagement with industry (January to July 2022)
  - Chamber of Mines
  - Producing Mines
  - Explorers
- Planned engagement with the public and regulators (boards, agencies and federal government) May to July 2022
- Public Posting of draft regulations ~Q2 22/23
- Coordinated policy approaches with GNWT departments

# Schematic of Proposed Timeline



# Implementation work

- Develop logic model and performance-based criteria
- Determine areas for early implementation and sequencing
- New policies, directives and procedures
- Implementation of Mineral Administrative and Registry System (MAARS)
- New job descriptions and staff training
- Guidance documents for our clients

**Thank you**

**Questions?**

