THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

Engaging Stakeholders to Support Sustainable Outcomes from Mining: New Models for Mine Design

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The ways in which mines are designed and built shape their benefits and impacts. In this project, researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC) will examine stakeholder engagement strategies for mine design and engineering to assess which approaches yield mutually beneficial outcomes for companies, governments and communities. The research will explore the challenges and opportunities for mine development to address water, energy, and other core infrastructure needs of communities in proximity to potential future mine sites. This research is part of UBC's ongoing investigations into applied approaches to corporate social responsibility (CSR) within the mining sector.

The project will begin with a literature review to analyze academic theory as well as practitioner approaches to community engagement during mine development. A survey of exploration and mining industry personnel will be conducted in order to benchmark applied approaches.

Findings of the research will be used to develop a matrix of leading practice approaches for stakeholder engagement during mine development. The matrix will be complemented by a screening protocol for use in planning and undertaking community engagement. Final research results will be disseminated through public events and peer-reviewed research reporting to strengthen community engagement in the mineral exploration and mining industry.

The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, is internationally recognized as a global centre for research and teaching, and is consistently ranked among the top 20 public universities in the world.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Which strategies are most effective for enabling project stakeholders to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of mine development and provide feedback to mine planners as design options are being considered?
- Can stakeholder engagement support the identification of projects of mutual interest to communities and mine developers that could be the focus of benefit sharing and/or community development?
- Can early engagement increase awareness (and potentially acceptance) of mining projects among diverse stakeholders?

RESEARCH FUNDING AND SUPPORT

This research is funded by a Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Engage grant. SSHRC is the federal funding agency that promotes and supports research in the humanities and social sciences. The objectives of Partnership Engage grants are to apply academic theory to real-world challenges and to involve companies in high-quality, independent research.
Learn more at www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

SSHRC Partnership Engage grants require a partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. For this project, Erdene Resource Development Corporation (Erdene) is the industry partner, providing access for the research team to its personnel and mine development operations. Erdene is a publicly traded Canada-based resource company (TSX: ERD; MSE: ERDN) focused on the acquisition, exploration, and development of precious and base metals in Mongolia. Erdene will apply research findings, such as the screening protocol, as the company advances community engagement during the design of a proposed gold mine in Mongolia.
Learn more at www.erdene.com

The Environment and Social Responsibility Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metals and Petroleum (CIM) is supporting UBC to execute the research survey and to publicize the findings for the benefit of its members. CIM is the leading not-for-profit technical society of professionals in the Canadian minerals, metals, materials and energy industries.
Learn more at www.cim.org/subsites/societies/environmental-and-social-responsibility-society-esrs/

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ERDENE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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