



The Honourable Scott Fielding  
Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

January 20, 2022

Dear Minister Fielding,

On behalf of the Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association (MPDA) we congratulate you on your recent selection as the Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development. Additionally we applaud the move of the critical mineral sector to the new department.

Manitoba's mineral resources have the potential to improve the lives, workplaces, and economic prosperity of all Manitobans and we look forward to supporting that change.

The MPDA represents the minerals and metals exploration and development sector in the province, which is one that works closely with northern communities, Indigenous groups, tradespeople, academics and more. The two distinct industries, exploration and extractive sectors have the potential to bring immense economic value to the province, however Manitoba has lagged behind other provinces in developing and modernizing our industry. As a result Manitoba is the lowest-ranked Canadian mining jurisdiction when considering the Fraser Institute's Policy Perception Index, meaning that Manitoba's exploration and extractive policies make it the least attractive jurisdiction in Canada for companies to operate in.

At the top of our agenda for 2022 is to improve the trilateral relationship between mineral companies, local communities and the Manitoban government. For this relationship to have balance, mineral companies must work ethically and honestly and respect the land and communities that they operate in, local communities must be transparent in their values, objectives and communications with their partners, and the Manitoban government must be a catalyst to turn these cooperative agreements between mineral companies and communities into economic value for the province.

This trilateral relationship has severely deteriorated over the past several years and as a result we are deterring investment in our province. The MPDA looks forward to working closely with your government to improve the state of affairs and build a foundation for future economic growth.

We suggest establishing a new Mineral Sector Advisory Team with representation from well established Manitoba mineral associations including the MPDA, the MSPDA, the Mining Association and Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA). Additionally, we strongly urge that the group include strong representation from Indigenous organizations and experts from the Manitoba government.

We request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these critically important issues.

Sincerely,

MaryAnn Mihychuk  
President, MPDA