

Mineral Rights Adjudication Board

Activity Plan 2026-2029

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Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to present this Activity Plan for the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board, a category 3 entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. The plan covers the period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board (the Board) hears and decides grievances related to the **Mineral Act**. These most often involve mineral exploration companies and prospectors. The Board also has authority to deal with matters under the **Mining Act**.

This Activity Plan outlines the Board's key activities for the next three years as it carries out this role.

The plan has been prepared in consideration of the Provincial Government's Strategic Direction relevant to the mining sector and in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

My signature below is on behalf of the Board and is indicative of the Board's responsibility for the preparation of this plan and for achieving its stated objective.

Sincerely,



Liam O'Brien

Chairperson

Overview

Section 37 of the **Mineral Act** establishes the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board (the Board). Board members are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for three terms and may be reappointed. The Board meets only when grievances arise.

The Board is composed of three members. At least one must be a barrister and serves as Chairperson, and at least one member must have experience in the mining sector. If a member is unable to perform their duties, such as due to a conflict of interest, a temporary member can be appointed for a period of up to six months.

Pursuant to section 38 of the **Mineral Act**, the Board is responsible for hearing and deciding questions and disputes arising under the **Mineral Act**, the **Mining Act**, and related regulations. This includes matters related to licences, certificates and leases issued under these Acts and the associated rights and privileges those instruments convey.

As of June 4, 2026, the members of the Board are:

- Liam O'Brien (Chairperson)
- Nancy Normore (Member)
- Michael Regular (Member)

The Board does not have a separate operating budget. Administrative and financial support is provided by the Department of Energy and Mines.

Mandate

The mandate of the Mines and Mineral Development Branch of the Department of Energy and Mines includes overseeing matters related to the promotion, exploration and development of mineral resources and related industry activities.

The Board, through the hearing of grievances, supports this mandate by ensuring that the land tenure rights and development requirements applicable to mineral exploration and mining companies and prospectors are applied in a fair, consistent and transparent manner.

The Board has exclusive authority to hear and decide questions, disputes and other matters arising under the **Mineral Act**, the **Mining Act**, and related regulations. This includes decisions related to:

- the rights of persons to the issuance of licences, certificates and leases, including extensions of licences and leases;
- the suspension and reinstatement of a person's right to stake out claims;
- decisions of the minister to withhold approval of a transfer, assignment, mortgage, pledge or conveyance of a license;
- questions of priority respecting the right to obtain licences;
- all matters respecting the cancellation of licences and leases, including allegations of default of licence and lease conditions, and whether a misrepresentation by applicants for licences or leases are material;
- the rights of persons to certificates;
- matters pertaining to security deposits required by applicants for licences, including entitlements to refunds, forfeitures to the Crown, and the determination of refund and forfeiture amounts; and
- other matters respecting the rights, privileges, obligations or duties of persons holding or claiming licences or leases as conferred or imposed under the applicable legislation.

Process

Under section 39 of the **Mineral Act**, a person who is affected by a matter falling within the Board's mandate may file a notice of grievance with the Board for review.

Upon receipt of application of a grievance, the Board must hear the matter and issue a decision within 90 days, unless an extension is approved by the Minister of Energy and Mines.

Board members convene on a scheduled date to hear a grievance and deliberate on the matter. Where necessary, the Board may refer a question of law arising during the hearing to a judge of the Trial Division for an opinion before making a decision.

Once a decision has been made, the Board's decision is recorded in writing and provided to the grievor, any other parties affected, and the Minister of Energy and Mines.

Vision

Grievances under the **Mineral Act** and the **Mining Act** are adjudicated fairly and efficiently.

Primary Clients

The primary groups that file grievances with the Board are mineral exploration companies and prospectors who have rights under the **Mineral Act**.

For additional information about the Mineral Rights and Adjudication Board, please visit: <https://www.exec-abc.gov.nl.ca/public/agency/detail/?id=712&>

Strategic Issue

Mineral Rights Adjudication

The Board's primary responsibility is to hear and decide grievances filed under the **Mineral Act** and the **Mining Act**, while supporting the effective functioning of the mineral exploration and mining sectors. A modern and active exploration and mining industry depends on an effective dispute resolution mechanism.

Through its adjudicative role, the Board contributes to a stable, transparent, and predictable environment that supports the Provincial Government's objectives for responsible growth and development in the mineral sector.

The Board's central priority is to ensure that grievances are heard and addressed in a timely, fair, and consistent manner, in keeping with its legislative responsibilities. By maintaining an effective grievance resolution process, the Board supports the clear and equitable resolution of mineral rights matters, improving clarity and confidence for industry participants.

The following objective and indicators have been established by the Board and will apply to each year of the planning period. Performance results will be made available, in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

Objective

By March 31 each year, the Board will have reviewed all notices of grievance filed under the **Mineral Act** or the **Mining Act**.

Indicators

- Adjudicated all grievances in an efficient manner, consistent with Board procedures and the complexity of each case

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- Issued written decisions promptly following the close of grievance hearings and consideration of all materials

Annex A - Strategic Direction

A strategic direction is the articulation of a desired physical, social, or economic outcome that would normally require action or involvement by, more than one government entity. The following strategic direction has been identified by the Provincial Government for this planning cycle and is relevant to the operations of the Board.

Unearthing the Potential of Mining

Outcome: Position Newfoundland and Labrador as a globally competitive, top-tier jurisdiction for mineral exploration and development.

