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Form #: MDD – MIP – PA – PG  
Version #: 02  
Version Date: 2020-05-01

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## **PROSPECTORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

(Effective: April 1, 2020)

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## SECTION 1: PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Prospectors assistance funding is designed to support prospecting activities in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to share some of the costs associated with such activities. The guidelines presented here, govern the application and reimbursement process of the Prospectors Assistance (PA) Program and as such, must be adhered to.

All self-employed individuals must carry out their work according to Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

## SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

- a) Applicants for a Prospectors Assistance Grant (grant) must be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador, and be at least 19 years of age.
- b) All relevant sections of the [Prospectors Assistance 2020 Application Form](#) must be completed and the declaration must be signed and dated.
- c) Subject to availability of funding, applicants may apply for a second grant. A second grant can only be applied for once all requirements for the initial grant have been fulfilled and a final report, including a Prospecting Report Form, has been submitted and approved.
- d) One grant application is limited to a maximum combined total of five mineral licences and/or areas of Crown Land. Applicants whose grant(s) will cover multiple areas should refer to Clause 7(b) of the Final Report Section of these guidelines.
- e) All applications for PA funding are reviewed by a Selection Committee (committee) comprised of three members of the Mines Branch staff.
- f) The committee reserves the right to limit funding to specific properties and/or prospecting activities. The committee also reserves the right to limit funding for the same property or piece of Crown Land to one applicant.
- g) Any proposed changes to approved exploration programs **MUST** be submitted and approved in writing in the form of an **Amended Agreement** prior to the work being completed. Proposed changes must be accompanied by all necessary documentation (e.g., map(s), rationale, summary of activities, expenses to date, etc.).
- h) Prospecting may not be conducted on private property unless permission has been granted by the owner of the property. Prospecting cannot be conducted in Wilderness and Ecological Reserves; National/Provincial Parks; or in any area that has been designated as Exempt Mineral Lands in Schedule A of the Mineral Regulations (1143/96).
- i) Directors and/or principals of publicly listed exploration companies are not eligible for funding.

## SECTION 3: EXPLORATION APPROVAL

- a) An Exploration Approval is required for all exploration being conducted on mineral licences in the applicant's name and/or for which he/she is a joint owner. If Exploration Approval has not been obtained, an [Application for Exploration Approval](#) must be submitted to the Mineral Lands Division, as required in Subsection 5(4) of the *Mineral Act*.
- b) Prospecting completed without Exploration Approval is in contravention of Subsection 5(5) of the *Mineral Act* and is considered an offence, and will **NOT** be funded.

- c) Prospectors engaging in traditional prospecting on Crown Land, open for staking, are not required to obtain Exploration Approval. However, Exploration Approval is required for claims staked on any area of Crown Land that was previously approved for funding. Work carried out on claims and in the absence of Exploration Approval will **NOT** be eligible for funding as per Clause 3(b) above.

#### SECTION 4: PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AGREEMENT

When exploration is to be completed on one or more mineral licences not registered directly in the applicant's name, a [Property Ownership Agreement](#) must be registered with the Mineral Claims Recorders Office (Mineral Lands Division) prior to the start of exploration under a PA grant.

#### SECTION 5: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

##### a) Regular Grant

Applicants may apply for up to **\$6,000** to assist with traditional grassroots exploration on Crown Land, open for staking and/or claims staked in the applicant's name. This includes claims registered with the Claims Recorders Office as being jointly owned between two or more individuals. Prospectors may also apply for additional funding towards air support, up to a **maximum of \$6,000**, to access remote properties.

An exploration work plan **MUST** be included with the Prospectors Assistance 2020 Application Form (Regular Grant) and consist of:

- A summary of the underlying geology of the mineral licence(s) and/or areas of Crown Land.
- Previous work completed on the property by the applicant, including promising assay results with accompanying assay certificates, and a summary of historical exploration (i.e., third-party exploration) in the area.
- Description of the planned exploration program(s) for the upcoming field season.
- Rationale for continued work on each mineral licence(s) and/or area(s) of Crown Land.
- Location map(s) outlining the proposed sampling plan **MUST** be submitted for each mineral licence(s) and/or area(s) of Crown Land the application pertains to. A digital option, Google Earth Pro (other software programs such as QGIS, MapInfo, etc. are acceptable as well), has the capacity to create basic exploration maps. Maps created using Google Earth Pro can outline sampling area(s) and grids, geophysical surveys, etc. and are satisfactory for the purposes of application.

Please refer to the [Sample Exploration Work Plan – Regular Grant](#) that outlines the format all applicants must follow.

##### b) Advanced Grant

Applicants may apply for up to **\$12,000** to assist with exploration on an advanced property that has been staked in the applicant's name (including claims registered with the Claims Recorders Office as being jointly owned between two or more individuals). Prospectors may also apply for additional funding towards air support, up to a **maximum of \$6,000**, to access remote properties.

An exploration work plan **MUST** be included with the Prospectors Assistance 2020 Application Form (Advanced Grant) and consist of:

- Previous work completed on the property by the applicant, including promising assay results with accompanying assay certificates, and a summary of historical exploration (i.e., third-party exploration) in the area.
- Advanced exploration work to be supported by the grant.

- Rationale for performing the requested work.
- Location map(s) outlining the proposed sampling plan MUST be submitted for each mineral licence(s) the application pertains to. A digital option, Google Earth Pro (other software programs such as QGIS, MapInfo, etc. are acceptable as well), has the capacity to create basic exploration maps. Maps created using Google Earth Pro can outline sampling area(s) and grids, geochemical/geophysical surveys, trenching program(s), etc. and are satisfactory for the purposes of application.

The committee reserves the right to determine if a property and/or activity should be considered advanced. Criteria used to evaluate whether a project is advanced include (but are not limited to):

- Historical exploration and previous results.
- Active exploration by the applicant including type (e.g., prospecting, surficial geochemical survey(s), trenching, etc.).
- Successive advancement of previous exploration activities.

Please refer to the [Sample Exploration Work Plan – Advanced Grant](#) that outlines the format all applicants must follow.

## SECTION 6: EXPLORATION EXPENSES

All expenditures incurred before the Effective Date and/or on locations not approved on Schedule A of the Prospectors Reimbursement Agreement will **NOT** be funded.

The **Effective Date** of the Prospectors Reimbursement Agreement is the date the complete application is received by the Mineral Incentive Program (MIP) and can be dated no earlier than April 1, 2020. If your initial application is declined, the applicant will have to resubmit a new application with all the required information and all supporting documentation included. The Effective Date will become the date the new completed application is received by the MIP.

In the final report for a regular grant, the total of all other eligible expenses (e.g., meals, accommodations, fuel, etc.), excluding air support, can total a maximum of 50% of the grant total. Eligible expenses for sampling and analysis funding must comprise a minimum 50% of the grant total. For example, if eligible sampling and analysis expenses total \$1,000, the additional eligible combined expenses can total a maximum of \$1,000.

In the final report for an advanced grant, the total of all other eligible expenses (e.g., meals, accommodations, fuel, etc.), excluding air support, can total a maximum of 40% of the grant total. Eligible expenses for sampling and analysis funding must comprise a minimum 60% of the grant total. For example, if eligible grant expenses total \$10,000, sampling and analysis expenses must form at minimum \$6,000 of this total and all other eligible combined expenses can form a maximum of \$4,000.

### a) Sampling and Analysis

- i) The applicant MUST identify the laboratory to be used for analysis at the time of application. The use of a local business is strongly encouraged. If applicants wish to use non-local laboratories, a written request that includes an explanation as to why they require a non-local laboratory must be included with the application. If a laboratory, other than as identified on the application and Schedule A of the Prospectors Reimbursement Agreement is used, the associated analytical expenses (and all other related expenses) will **NOT** be funded.
- ii) Sampling and analysis, excluding air support, must form at least 50% (regular grant) and at least 60% (advanced grant) of the grant total, and can comprise the full amount of either grant type. This includes the cost of sample bags and the costs associated with shipping of samples to the laboratory for analysis.

- iii) Trace element geochemistry (30+ elements) and gold analyses are required for all samples. Pre-approval from the MIP is required for select analysis (e.g., mineral indicator analysis, whole rock analysis, etc.)
- iv) Advanced grant funding towards trenching, geochemical/geophysical surveys, and drilling programs can be allocated under sampling and analysis. Approval for such funding is at the discretion of the MIP.

**b) Meals**

- i) The daily food allowance for field work is **\$30** and is only valid for grant holders. Receipts are not required and this funding category may form a maximum of **15% (regular grant)** and **7.5% (advanced grant)** of the grant total.

**c) Supplies**

- i) A list and cost breakdown of supplies to be purchased must be included at the time of application.
- ii) Eligible supplies under a grant must be prospecting-specific and can include such equipment as gold pans, hammers, shovels, field stationary, etc.
- iii) Back-packs, clothing, footwear, or safety supplies are not eligible for funding.
- iv) Applicants are encouraged to have a soil auger to aid in sampling. A maximum of **\$150** will be provided towards this **one-time-only** purchase.
- v) Applicants are encouraged to have a Global Positioning System Receiver (GPS) to aid in sampling. A maximum of **\$150** will be provided towards this **one-time-only** purchase.

**d) Fuel**

- i) Fuel costs (e.g., trucks, ATV's, snowmobiles, etc.) may form a **maximum of 25% (regular grant)** and a **maximum of 15% (advanced grant)** of the grant total.
- ii) All fuel receipts **MUST** coincide with exploration activity on the Daily Log of the Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form. Receipts **MUST** clearly show that fuel was purchased. Handwritten receipts **MUST** have a corresponding, itemized cash register receipt for reimbursement.

**e) Rentals**

- i) Rentals such as an ATV, boat, heavy equipment, etc., must be from independent, non-related individuals or commercial dealers. Two separate quotes must be included with the application. Rentals do not cover costs associated with a motor vehicle rental such as a car, truck, etc.
- ii) In a case where two quotes cannot be obtained, written approval from the MIP is required.

**f) Accommodations**

- i) Accommodations funding of **up to \$50 per night** is available for the grant holder whose project area(s) is more than 150 kilometres from their home. The maximum amount for accommodations is **\$500** of the grant total.
- ii) Receipts from non-commercial residences must include the date of stay and the name, address, and contact information (i.e., phone number and/or email address) of the residence owner. Non-commercial residences must be from independent, non-related individuals and/or businesses.

- iii) Cabins, trailers, and motor home rentals (private and commercial) are considered “Accommodations” and as such, are subject Clause 6(f)(i) and (ii) above.

**g) Specified Help**

- i) Specified help refers to casual assistance required for manual labour and must be deemed essential by the MIP. It allows for a maximum of one person to assist during exploration field activities, with a daily allowance of **\$25** for labour and **\$30** for food. A detailed explanation for the required help must be included in the application.
- ii) A [Specified Help Declaration Form](#), signed by the helper and grant holder, and detailing the dates worked and amount paid, must be submitted with the final report.

**h) Mineral Resources Review (MRR) Conference**

- i) Applicants may apply for **75% of the costs** towards travel, meals (\$30 per Diem – receipts required), and accommodations, to attend the annual MRR Conference in St. John’s, NL. Funding for the MRR Conference can form a **maximum of \$500 for island-based prospectors** and a **maximum of \$1,000 for Labrador-based prospectors**.
- ii) **Registration costs are not covered for reimbursement.**
- iii) Applicants must present a written request to attend and partner with the Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room. The purpose of this assistance is for displaying and promoting mineral properties.

**i) Professional Geoscientist**

- i) A maximum allowable daily rate for consultation from a professional geoscientist (P.Geo.) is **\$450 per day** to a maximum of **20%** (regular grant) and **10%** (advanced grant) of the grant total.
- ii) A detailed explanation for the services of a P.Geo., if required, must be requested at the time of application. The P.Geo. must be registered with Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) and can be employed for mapping, interpretation, and related report writing. However, the P.Geo. will not be funded to prepare the grant holder’s final report. Funding approval for this category is at the discretion of the committee.
- iii) Applications from professional geoscientists will be excluded from using this funding.

**j) Air Support**

- i) Applicants may apply for **80%** of the total costs for air support (e.g., helicopter, float plane, aviation fuel) up to a **maximum of \$6,000** to access remote properties. For charter air support, two quotes from independent, non-related businesses must be included.
- ii) Air support requests must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the committee for approval. Approval will be based on technical merit, the location, size, and scope of the prospector’s work plan. The type of aircraft to be used during the program(s) must be included with the request.
- iii) Copies of all flight manifests, invoices, and receipts are required.

#### k) **Travel Allowance**

- i) One round trip may be covered from the island portion of the Province to Labrador (or vice versa) for the grant holder to access their approved exploration area(s).
- ii) Travel allowance funding **MUST** be requested at the time of application.
- iii) Original itemized receipts are required.

### **SECTION 7: FINAL REPORT**

Final reports must be submitted by **December 31, 2020** unless otherwise approved in writing by the MIP. Extension requests will be considered because of a delay in receiving analysis from the laboratory. The applicant **MUST** provide documentation from the laboratory stating samples were received by December 31, 2020 and the tentative date analysis will be completed.

The final report should only include details associated with mineral licence(s) and/or areas of Crown Land pertaining to the grant. Information outlined on the Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form must correspond to the information provided in the final work report.

**A final report consists of a Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form, a final exploration work report, relevant maps and assay certificates, and all receipts, invoices, and proof(s) of payment.**

#### a) **Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form**

- i) Expenses claimed in the Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form will only be approved for the activities and approved locations listed in Schedule A of the Prospectors Reimbursement Agreement.
- ii) A fully completed and signed Prospectors Assistance 2020 Final Report Form **MUST** be submitted before the final payment of the grant is issued.

#### b) **Final Exploration Work Report**

- i) A final exploration work report must include location and access, geology, work done, exploration highlights, and recommendations.
- ii) Sample location maps, showing all samples with corresponding sample numbers, **MUST** be included. A digital option, Google Earth Pro (other software programs such as QGIS, MapInfo, etc. are acceptable as well), has the capacity to create basic exploration maps. Maps created using Google Earth Pro can outline sampling area(s) and grids, geochemical/geophysical surveys, trenching program(s), etc. and are satisfactory for the purposes of application.
- iii) Applicants whose grant(s) cover multiple areas should report these areas separately unless they are related (e.g., contiguous mineral licence(s), regional exploration program(s), etc.).

#### c) **Receipts and Invoices**

- i) Receipts (proof of payment) and invoices for all expenses are required and **MUST** be submitted with the final report. All receipts and invoices **MUST** be in the name of the grant holder.



- ii) Receipts and invoices which pre-date the Effective Date of the Prospectors Reimbursement Agreement will not be eligible for funding.
- iii) Receipts and invoices that have been modified and/or altered (highlighted, marked up, cut, etc.) will not be eligible for funding.
- iv) Receipts smaller than 8.5" x 11" **MUST** be taped on all sides to 8.5" x 11" sheets (maximum of 4 receipts per page) in an organized manner (i.e. categorized fuel receipts, shipping receipts, accommodations, etc.). Unorganized/illegible accounting summaries will be returned.
- v) Scanned receipts and invoices are acceptable but must be legible.

## SECTION 8: CONFIDENTIALITY

The Department of Natural Resources will list the names and final grant payment amount(s) for successful applicants on the Natural Resources website.

## SECTION 9: DETAILED EXPENDITURE TABLE

Category	Details	Invoices and Receipts/Proof of Payment Required (see guidelines for details)
Sampling and Analysis	must be at least 50% (regular grant) or 60% (advanced grant) of grant total	Yes
Meals	\$30 per Diem; maximum 15% (regular grant) or 7.5% (advanced grant) of grant total	No
Supplies	must include list and cost breakdown	Yes
Fuel	fuel purchases (e.g., truck, ATV, etc.); maximum 25% (regular grant) or 15% (advanced grant) of grant total	Yes
Rentals	two quotes required or written approval from the Mineral Incentive Program	Yes
Accommodations	up to \$50 per night; >150 km from home (maximum of \$500 of grant total)	Yes
Specified Help	\$25 per Diem (labour); \$30 per Diem (food)	Yes
MRR Conference	75% of eligible expenses; up to \$500 (Newfoundland); \$1000 (Labrador)	Yes
Professional Geoscientist	up to \$450 per day; maximum of 20% (regular grant) or 10% (advanced grant) of grant total;	Yes
Air Support	80% of eligible expenses; up to \$6,000 to access remote properties	Yes
Travel Allowance	one round trip flight between island portion of NL to the Labrador (or vice versa)	Yes