

NEWS RELEASE

B.C., Territories falling behind on mining exploration permit approvals

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For Immediate Release

CALGARY—Some Canadian provinces and territories could move faster and be more transparent when approving permits for mining exploration, according to a survey of mining company executives released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian policy think-tank.

“Time is money, and if permit approval times are unnecessarily long or lack transparency, confidence plummets, overall costs increase and investors will take their money elsewhere,” said Kenneth Green, Fraser Institute senior director of energy and natural resources and co-author of *Permit Times for Mining Exploration in 2016*.

Based on the experiences and opinions of industry professionals, the study compares the efficiency, transparency and certainty of the exploratory mining permitting process in Canada and various jurisdictions around the world.

While Canadian provinces and territories fared well compared to international competitors when it came to issuing permits in a timely manner, some provinces certainly have room for improvement.

For example, according to 60 per cent of survey respondents, permit approval wait times in British Columbia lengthened over the previous 10 years, compared to just 38 per cent in Quebec. In Saskatchewan, not a single respondent said permit wait times had lengthened over the past decade.

Saskatchewan also ranked first in another category—approval within six months or less—with 91 per cent of respondents saying yes, compared to 88 per cent in Quebec, 80 per cent in Ontario and only 73 per cent in B.C.

While most Canadian jurisdictions are competitive globally when it comes to the time it takes to approve permits, jurisdictions in the United States, Australia and Scandinavia performed better when it comes to transparency in the permitting process and the confidence explorers have that they will eventually receive their necessary permits.

“Policymakers should strive to correct delays in the permit approval process, and continuously work to make the process more clear to help unlock more revenue potential and increase attractiveness for investors,” said Taylor Jackson, senior policy analyst with the Fraser Institute and co-author of the study.


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MEDIA CONTACT:

Kenneth Green, Senior Director, Natural Resource Studies
Fraser Institute

Taylor Jackson, Senior Policy Analyst, Natural Resource Studies
Fraser Institute

For interviews with Ken Green or Taylor Jackson, or for more information please contact:
Bryn Weese, Media Relations Specialist, Fraser Institute
Tel: (604) 688-0221 ext. 589
E-mail: bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org



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