June 20, 2025

Notice of Proceeding – Information Requests and Engagement

EA2021-01 – Pine Point Mine Project, Pine Point Mining Limited

In its Terms of Reference (TOR) for Pine Point Mining Ltd's (PPML or the developer) proposed new mine (the Project), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) described the topics and related impacts that need to be examined during the environmental assessment (EA) of the project. Most of these topics and impacts should and will be addressed by PPML in its *Developer's Assessment Report* (DAR). However, there are also important questions that are best answered by Indigenous Governments and organizations. In particular, the Review Board noted that it would like to hear from Indigenous Governments and organizations about potential impacts on well-being (Section 4.4.2 of the TOR) and culture (Section 3.4.3 of the TOR).

The Review Board expects that receiving information directly from potentially affected groups (ideally before PPML submits its DAR) will support a better assessment of these impacts during the EA. This improved understanding should help PPML identify mitigations and design options to reduce impacts, and enable the Review Board to reach the best environmental assessment decision possible.

Well-being and culture information requests from the Review Board to Indigenous Governments and organizations

The Review Board has drafted two general questions and described the reasoning for its request (see attached). The Review Board has also included some ideas that each group may wish to consider when responding to the questions. These information requests will be posted on the Online Review System, where parties can provide answers when available.

The information requests are intentionally broad. The intent is for Indigenous Governments and organizations to determine which things are important to their membership, and to determine how to gather relevant information to respond.

The Review Board understands that answering these questions may be challenging due to capacity and resource issues. Participant funding for environmental assessment is typically provided by the Northern Participant Funding Program. Seven Indigenous Governments or

organizations and five individuals received participant funding for the project in 2021.[1] In 2023, this funding was carried over to future years.[2] For questions about using Northern Participant Funding Program funding to respond to the Review Board's information requests, please contact Nicholas Pfeiffer-Major, Program Officer with CIRNAC, at nicholas.pfeiffer-major@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

The Review Board understands that the PPML has provided several groups with funding related to Indigenous Traditional Knowledge studies. Indigenous Governments and organizations are invited to respond in whatever way they feel is most appropriate, including combining the responses to the Review Board's IRs with one another or with other Indigenous Traditional Knowledge studies they are working on. Indigenous Governments or organizations that have concerns about confidentiality should contact Review Board staff (the Review Board has processes available to protect confidential information).

Engagement with Indigenous Governments and organizations on how they would like to respond

Review Board staff have begun reaching out to potentially affected Indigenous Governments and organizations about these requests. This Notice of Proceeding includes the text of the information requests to support further engagement with parties on their ability to respond, and about practical timing details. The Review Board will engage with Indigenous Governments and organizations about the time they need to respond to these questions. Review Board staff will set an initial deadline on the Online Review System, and will engage on this date and adjust it as needed.

Timing in relation to the rest of the environmental assessment schedule

The Review Board is hoping the answers are available in time for the developer to consider the responses in its *Developer's Assessment Report* (currently expected in Q1 2026). If the responses to these information requests are available in time for the developer to consider them in the DAR, it should do so. If the responses are not available early enough in the EA process for that, then the developer will be given an opportunity to provide its views and update its impact predictions later.

Next steps

Review Board staff will continue to reach out to Indigenous Governments and organizations to determine a suitable time to visit in person over the summer. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Melissa Pink at (867) 766-7052 or mpink@reviewboard.ca or Catherine Fairbairn at (867) 766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca.

[1] List of parties that received participant funding for EA2021-01.
[2] Letter from PPML to CIRNAC asking to carry funding over.

Understanding potential impacts on well-being

Directed to:
Potentially affected Indigenous governments and communities

Preamble:
Well-being considers how the various parts of the biophysical and human environment come together and interact to affect people's overall wellness. Section 4.4.2 of the Terms of Reference observes that

> "…human health, economic resilience, vibrant community, and strong culture all contribute to the lasting well-being of communities, but the local social, cultural, and historical contexts may affect the importance of each item. Small or large adverse impacts may combine into an overall project impact on well-being that could be significant. Part of understanding impacts on well-being is working with Indigenous governments and communities to understand what well-being means to them".

The Review Board is interested in hearing from Indigenous governments and communities about whether and how they think the project could affect aspects of their well-being. In your responses, you might wish to consider:

- the interconnections and pathways between current use of lands and social, economic, health, and Indigenous culture for each community;
- traditions, perspectives, values, worldviews, and knowledge of Indigenous communities;
- within communities and Indigenous groups, resilience of youth, women, Elders, two spirited people and people of various gender identities and orientations (2SLGBTQ+), and any others who may be affected in different ways (some in more ways than one);
    - Community strengths that would help the community adapt
    - Existing challenge or problems that the project could make worse
- some impacts have the potential to be long-lasting, legacy impacts
- health and wellbeing of families and communities
    - locally relevant and developed definitions of well-being or related goals of the potentially affected communities.[3]

Questions:

1. What could be the long-term effects of the project on well-being?
2. Please describe any project changes or mitigations that could avoid lasting impacts on well-being.

[3] For example, in community wellness plans and any other work on well-being indicators.

Understanding potential cultural impacts

Directed to: Potentially affected Indigenous governments and communities

Preamble: Understanding the impacts of a project on culture is an important part of understanding the overall impacts of the proposed project on people's well-being. Understanding these impacts to culture requires information unique to each Indigenous group; this can include information about land use, social and community conditions, traditions and laws, teachings, language, heritage resources, and more. Many of the questions related to potential impacts on culture are best answered by the Indigenous groups they concern.[4]

The Terms of Reference requires the developer to work with individual Indigenous governments and communities to identify, characterize, and assess the impacts on culture. However, the Review Board wishes to hear directly from Indigenous groups about whether and how they think the project could affect aspects of their culture. Examples of things you might consider include:

- inherent value, spirituality, or importance of cultural and heritage resources
- use of language or place names
- stories or traditions
- Indigenous law
- ability of Indigenous groups to govern, manage, and steward the land or water
- values and sense of place in the landscape
- cultural continuity across generations and the transfer of knowledge, and
- cultural strengths and vulnerabilities

Questions:

1. Please describe if, and in what ways, the proposed Pine Point Mine Project is likely to affect aspects of culture that are important to your community or organization.
2. Do you have suggestions for how to avoid or reduce (mitigate) potential impacts?

[4] See Section 4.3.4 of the Terms of Reference for more detail.