



## **NSMA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

**Contact Person:** Whenever there is a risk that the aboriginal, treaty, or other rights of NSMA members might be affected by any type of project, including mineral exploration or research projects, the proponent should contact the NSMA to ascertain who the primary contact person will be. For consultations related to the biophysical or human environment, the contact point is:

**Environment Manager.**  
**fax # (867) 669-7442**  
**email: [enviromgr@nsma.net](mailto:enviromgr@nsma.net)**

**Consultation Protocol Agreement:** The proponent and NSMA's representative will work out a mutually agreeable process for completing the consultation, and record their agreement in a written community engagement protocol. This protocol will address, at a minimum:

- ∞ the quality and extent of information needed;
- ∞ the timing, location, costs, format, and participation in any site visits, meetings, or other discussions;
- ∞ the funding needed by NSMA to engage in the consultation;
- ∞ the criteria by which the engagement will be evaluated;
- ∞ a schedule for the completion of consultation events
- ∞ a record of agreement regarding the outcomes of the consultation, including the accommodations agreed to by the proponent, and the acceptance of those accommodations by the NSMA.

**Consensus Based Procedure:** In the event that meetings, discussions, or site visits have restrictions on participation, the NSMA will select the individuals to participate. Following any such restricted site tour, meeting, workshop, discussion or presentation, the participants will report to the rest of the interested NSMA community regarding their experiences, impressions, observations, and conclusions. The community will have a chance to ask questions and to add their comments. NSMA's formal position will be formulated after internal consideration of the community discussions and any independent technical advice deemed necessary, and will then be provided to the proponent and other appropriate parties in writing on NSMA letterhead, signed by the primary contact person.

**Expenses:** NSMA will advance the payments to participants selected to attend restricted community engagement events. Transportation and per diems, when required, will be paid at treasury board rates. Interested members who attend community engagement related events with unrestricted attendance will also receive a stipend to offset expenses and incidental costs. The proponent will be expected to make an appropriate contribution to NSMA to offset the costs of the necessary internal consultation between staff, political leadership, and members. This contribution will be reflected in the negotiated community engagement protocol.

**Confidentiality and Attribution:** If any personal information regarding NSMA members is provided, it will be provided in confidence only (as per the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy law and NSMA policy). Individual members may invite or permit any proponent, including governments, boards or agencies to communicate with them directly, at their prerogative. However, any such communications will take place on a personal level only, and shall in no way to be attributed to the NSMA community in general, or interpreted as NSMA's official position on any issue.

**Traditional Knowledge:** Traditional knowledge will be provided only after being vetted by the NSMA community, in a written statement by the NSMA. Traditional Knowledge belonging to the community is not to be released by individuals on an ad-hoc basis, or without a Traditional Knowledge Sharing Protocol Agreement being signed between the NSMA and the proponent. A more complete Traditional Knowledge Policy is under development, and will be included when approved.