

## BACKGROUNDER

### Context

- April 1, 2024 [Devolution Agreement](#) comes into effect transferring administration and management of lands and resources to the GNWT.
- August 21, 2019 Legislative Assembly passes the [Mineral Resources Act](#) but it is still not in force due to the need for regulations to implement it.
- Three public engagements on the mining regulations are held in 2022 and 2023.
- ITI held no public engagements on the development of regulations for the Mineral Resources Act between February 1, 2023 and October 28, 2025, a period of 33 months.
- September 5, 2025 access to information request submitted to ITI for “All records related to communications between the staff of the Department of Industry, Tourism (including the Minister’s Office) and the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines or individual mining companies regarding the development of regulations under the Mineral Resources Act between January 1, 2025 and the receipt of this request.”
- November 28, 2025 a review is requested by the Information and Privacy Commissioner as no records were provided.
- December 16, 2025 Information and Privacy Commissioner issues a [legally-biding order](#) that: “the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment shall, within 20 business days after receiving this review report and order, provide her response to the applicant’s September 5, 2025, access to information request.”
- January 27, 2026 ITI charges \$256.24 for access to 807 pages of records for “partial access to the requested record. Portions of the records requested contain information that is excepted from disclosure.” Numerous redactions were made using: Section 14 – Advice from Officials; Section 16 - Intergovernmental Relations; Section 23 – Personal Privacy of Third Party; and Section 24 - Disclosure Harmful to Business Interests of a Third Party.
- February 3, 2026 review request submitted to the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the redactions and fees.
- To see the 807 pages of records of communications between ITI and the mining industry, click [here](#).

## What's in the records and conclusions

- ITI has frequent meetings (11 over a one-year period August 2024 to September 2025), phone calls, emails, presentations, documents, comparative reviews, and other information with the mining industry. There is no disclosure of this information to the public or on the exchanges with the mining industry.
- Ironically, ITI and Chamber of Mines hold discussions on transparency during secret meetings on January 14 and February 28, 2025.
- No other party enjoys such frequent and high-level access to senior GNWT officials.
- This unprecedented and privileged access happens for an economic sector that is also regulated by the same Department. In direct conflict, ITI is also responsible for securing a fair share of royalties and benefits for public and Indigenous governments from the same sector.
- There is strong evidence of regulatory capture where the MRA regulations policy intentions reflect industry positions and interests which are not the same as the public interest.
- Moving forward, these insights show a need for much greater transparency and accountability with the development of the Mineral Resources Act regulations and implementation of the new regime. For example:
  - making all comparative reviews and research public;
  - public release of all submissions on the development of the regulations by those outside government, including detailed written responses;
  - disclosure of meetings and correspondence;
  - multi-stakeholder engagement; and
  - a public registry with user-specified notifications.

**Link to the full Access to Information Response Package (warning, 807 pages, large file, over 20 MB):** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ud5GSrvOeWH4uEusou-RkML7xVPNIUue/view>

**2025-2026 Submissions by Alternatives North and Ecology North  
on Mining Regulations**

**Engagement 1: Mineral resources administration policy, drill cores, and removal of minerals.**

Covering Letter December 3, 2025: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/North-Ecology-North-MRA-Regulations-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-1-Covering-Letter-December-3-2025.pdf>

Comment Table: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Alternatives-North-Ecology-North-Submission-on-MRA-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-1-Dec.-3-2025.pdf>

**Engagement 2: Benefit Agreements and socio-economic policy.**

Covering Letter December 19, 2025: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/orth-Ecology-North-MRA-Regulations-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-2-Covering-Letter-December-19-2025.pdf>

Comment Table: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/North-Ecology-North-MRA-Regulations-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-2-Comment-Table-December-19-2025.pdf>

**Engagement 3: Mineral Rights Review Board, and transition of existing Interests.**

Covering Letter January 30, 2026: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/North-Ecology-North-MRA-Regulations-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-3-Covering-Letter-January-30-2026.pdf>

Comment Table: <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/0North-Ecology-North-MRA-Regulations-Policy-Intentions-Engagement-3-Comment-Table-January-30-2026.pdf>

**ITI Minister's Response Letter December 23, 2025** <https://alternativenorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2025-12-23-Response-Letter-to-Alternatives-North-on-MRA-regulations.pdf>

Prepared by Alternatives North  
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