

Fostering Networks and Partnerships

The first five years of the CSR Strategy demonstrated the importance of the Government's convenor role to the extractive sector. This role includes helping connect companies with practitioners in the areas of social, environmental and economic performance, as well as creating dialogue spaces and venues for bridge-building between companies, communities, and other interest groups. This helps create a positive climate for responsible investment, and improves the potential for the success of, and lasting local benefits from, Canadian extractive sector investments abroad.

Building on What Works

Beyond the typical business contacts, Canadian Trade Commissioners in South America and West Africa have helped build networks and engagement between extractive sector companies and civil society groups. In recognition of this innovative and effective work, the Government is strengthening its CSR-related support to missions to build extractive sector-related networks, dialogue and partnerships on the ground, around the globe.

Recognizing that the greatest mutual benefits arise from the constructive engagement of all relevant stakeholders, the Government is stepping up efforts to support engagement between companies and communities, including at the exploration stage. Meaningful and regular dialogue between companies, local communities, civil society and host country governments at all levels can be of critical importance to

Stakeholder Engagement: Key for Juniors Too

Including a full stakeholder mapping, an established community engagement strategy, and a community development plan can make a project more attractive to investors.

addressing potential conflicts and managing expectations associated with the development of extractive sector projects. It is also important to determine what each party will contribute to local development. The Government will increase its efforts to prepare Canadian Trade Commissioners in Canada and at missions abroad to provide country-specific guidance in this area.

The Role of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service

Canada's Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) is an important resource for Canadian extractive companies operating abroad. TCS officers at Canadian missions around the world promote Canadian industry, and can [help Canadian client companies](#) by providing local contacts, helping to solve problems, and assisting with market preparation and assessment. As part of the [enhanced CSR Strategy](#), Trade Commissioners will increasingly be able to provide contacts beyond the typical business services, to include those that could enable companies to conduct social risk analyses, or conflict analyses, as appropriate. Contacts such as these can provide companies with more fulsome market assessments on which to base their decisions and mitigation measures. Missions will also increasingly be able to provide contacts to assist in establishing partnerships between companies and development organizations, enabling companies to gain valuable expertise and information in areas such as community relations and building local capabilities. Trade Commissioners will play a proactive role in this regard as an integral part of their service to Canadian companies.

Canada's Offices around the World can Connect Extractive Companies with Existing Initiatives

One initiative that has already been of interest to extractive companies is the International Model Forest Network (IMFN). Developed by Canada, with its Secretariat housed in NRCan, the IMFN comprises more than 55 Model Forests in nearly 30 countries. Participation in a Model Forest offers extractive companies an opportunity to become part of transparent and lasting relationships with local communities and governments, and to contribute to sustainable local economic development and conservation efforts.