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- respecting the needs and values of all resource users, and considering those needs and values in government decision making;
 - maintaining or enhancing the quality of life and the environment for present and future generations; and
 - securing the involvement and participation of stakeholders, individuals, and communities in decision making.

In defining sustainable development in the context of minerals and metals, it is recognized that the economic and social benefits of mineral development are not all consumed by the present generation. Current investments in human and physical capital benefit future as well as present generations.

Objectives of the Minerals and Metals Policy

The policy's six major objectives are:

- to integrate the concept of sustainable development in federal decision making affecting the minerals and metals industry;
- to ensure the international competitiveness of Canada's minerals and metals industry in the context of an open and liberal global trade and investment framework;
- to advance the concept of sustainable development of minerals and metals at the international level through partnerships with other countries, stakeholders, and multilateral institutions and organizations;
- to establish Canada as a global leader in promoting the safe use of minerals and metals and their related products;
- to promote Aboriginal involvement in minerals- and metals-related activities; and
- to provide a framework for the development and application of science and technology to enhance the industry's competitiveness and environmental stewardship.