

- it identifies challenges and possible directions for consideration by the international community and encourages implementation of the principles and practices necessary for a global and prosperous minerals and metals industry committed to sustainable development.

THE CANADIAN CONTEXT

Minerals and Metals in the Canadian Economy

The minerals and metals industry is vital to the Canadian economy. In 1995, it contributed 4.3 percent to our gross domestic product, provided more than 340 000 jobs for Canadians, and was the economic foundation for 150 communities throughout Canada. Canada is the world's third largest minerals producer and is the largest exporter of some sixty different minerals to over one hundred countries. Canadian companies, investing more than \$100 million annually in research and development, have achieved significant progress in mitigating environmental impacts such as acidic drainage; advancements in remote sensing for exploration, remote-controlled mining, automatic loading, and traffic control in transporting; and greater efficiency and effectiveness in recycling as Canada is also a major exporter of downstream, value-added minerals- and metals-related products and environmentally sound technologies.

Multistakeholder Consultation

Provincial governments are responsible for the exploration, development, and extraction of mineral resources, and the construction, management, reclamation, and closeout of mine sites in their jurisdiction. The federal government's responsibilities pertain to the following:

- international affairs, trade, and investment, including development assistance;
- fiscal and monetary policy;
- science and technology;
- Aboriginal affairs;