

- Crown corporations and federal lands;
- environmental protection and conservation (a shared responsibility with the provinces);
- fisheries and fish habitat management;
- nuclear energy, including uranium mining; and
- regulation of all activities related to mineral development in the territories.

In September 1992, The Mining Association of Canada suggested a multistakeholder process to examine the challenges facing the mining industry to the mines ministers of all senior governments. Ministers agreed to cosponsor the Whitehorse Mining Initiative (WMI), which involved governments, industry, labour, Aboriginal peoples, academics, and the environmental community. In 1994, stakeholders signed the WMI Leadership Council Accord embracing a shared vision of a "socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and prosperous mining industry, underpinned by political and community consensus". The WMI accelerated the Canadian multistakeholder partnership approach toward implementing sustainable development in the minerals and metals sector.

The Minerals and Metals Policy

The Minerals and Metals Policy of the Government of Canada: Partnerships for Sustainable Development (1996) builds upon existing federal policy initiatives. It also accepts the World Commission on Environment and Development's (the Brundtland Commission) definition of sustainable development, namely, "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", as the point of departure. The policy then applies sustainable development to minerals and metals by incorporating the following:

- finding, extracting, producing, adding value to, using, reusing, recycling, and, when necessary, disposing of mineral and metal products in the most efficient, competitive, and environmentally responsible manner possible, using best practices;