# **Ministry of Mines**

# **Assessment Work – Work Types**



Mining Lands Section Policy Updated: May, 2023

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# **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to claim holders and decision makers with respect to early mineral exploration activities that can be performed and credited to meet the annual units of assessment work requirements pursuant to the *Mining Act*, R.S.O. 1990, M.14 (the Act), Ontario Regulation 65/18 (the Regulation) and the Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work.<sup>1</sup>

# **Background**

Claim holders must satisfy required annual units of assessment work to keep their claims in good standing. They must perform early exploration work and submit an assessment work report through the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS). The minister reviews the report and upon approval, assigns assessment work credits which are placed in the reserve of the mining lands on which they were performed.

The Regulation prescribes the types of assessment work that are eligible for assessment work credits. The Ministry of Mines (MINES) has prepared a document titled *Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work*, which sets out what must be included in the technical report for the type of work that is being submitted for credit. The Technical Standards document is available on the ministry's website at <a href="Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work">Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work</a>. The ministry has also prepared directives pertaining to assessment work reporting and revising the work submission. These documents are available through the ministry's website at <a href="Submit Report of Work">Submit Report of Work</a> on Crown Land and Revise a Report of Work Submission.

# **Required Exploration Plans or Exploration Permits**

All exploration plan and exploration permit requirements pursuant to Regulation 308/12 must be satisfied prior to commencing assessment work activities. Information is available on the ministry's website at <u>Plans</u> and <u>Permits</u>.

Early exploration proponents who wish to undertake exploration activities on mining claims, leases or licences of occupation are required to provide the ministry with an exploration plan or submit an exploration permit application for certain exploration

Mining Act: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m14">https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m14</a>
O. Reg. 65/18: Assessment Work: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180065">https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180065</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All statements regarding legislative and regulatory requirements are accurate as of the publication date of this Policy. However, legislation and regulations may change from time to time. Up-to-date copies of the *Mining Act* and O. Reg 65/18 are available at the following links:

activities. Proponents must adhere to the mandatory Provincial Standards for Early Exploration while their early exploration activities are being completed. Additional terms and conditions may also be included for the plan or permit. Work associated with meeting the Provincial Standards or meeting the terms of conditions of a plan or permit are eligible for assessment work credit. Before commencing exploration activities, please ensure you are familiar with <a href="Ontario Regulation 308/12">Ontario Regulation 308/12</a>. Unless the proper plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of an activity, assessment work credit cannot be granted for the exploration activity.

#### Closure Plan

Before advanced exploration or mine production can begin, a closure plan must be submitted by the proponent and filed by the ministry. A closure plan outlines how the affected land will be rehabilitated and the costs associated with doing so. An early exploration activity that falls within the boundary of a closure plan is eligible for assessment work credit if the exploration activity is listed as an eligible work type under the Regulation. Exploration activities to advance production are not eligible for assessment work credit.

# **Advanced Exploration**

All mineral-bearing material removed from the land during advanced exploration must be used for evaluation purposes and can be claimed for assessment work credit. Advanced exploration can occur on either a mining claim or leased land. Written permission from the Mineral Exploration and Development Section is required in order to test the mineral content of material removed from land which has not been leased. Information is available on the ministry's website at <a href="Advanced Exploration">Advanced Exploration</a>.

# **Work Types**

Subsection 2 (1) of the Assessment Work Regulation identifies the types of work that constitute assessment work. The Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work sets out what must be included in the technical report applicable to the type of assessment work being claimed for credit. The technical report for each type of work must include a detailed explanation of the geoscience work done, maps or plans, where required, and details of the expenses claimed for the work, together with supporting receipts, invoices and other documents for those expenses.

The types of work that constitute assessment work are further detailed in this policy.

# **Grass roots prospecting**

The Act defines prospecting as the investigating of, or searching for, minerals. The Assessment Work Regulation defines grass roots prospecting as **making traverses**, noting outcrops and minerals of interest and any associated collecting and assaying of hand samples.

For the purpose of this policy, grass roots prospecting is the first stage of the geological analysis of an area in the search for valuable minerals. At this the stage, the prospector is looking for signs of mineralization in outcrops, sediments or soils that can lead to the location of a mineral deposit. The grass roots prospecting stage is followed by mineral exploration.

Grass roots prospecting is eligible for assessment work credits when it is performed on Crown lands before a mining claim has been registered if the lands are included as part of a registered mining claim, if the work was performed within one year before the registration of the mining claim and an assessment work report claiming the work is submitted within one year following the registration of the mining claim. The Act specifies that no person shall, without a prospector's licence, prospect or register a mining claim on land that has not been registered as part of a mining claim and for which the mining rights are held by the Crown.

Grass roots prospecting is eligible for assessment work credit when it is lawfully performed on registered mining claims and other mining lands.

Refer to Assessment Work-Cost Policy for the value of assessment work credit that is eligible for grass roots prospecting.

Bedrock trenching, bedrock pitting, overburden stripping and related manual work including outcrop mapping, outcrop washing and brushing and sampling associated with this work such as channel sampling and plugger sampling

There are several ways to remove surface soil and expose bedrock and zones of mineralization for sampling and testing, and depending on their environmental impact, these activities may require an exploration plan or exploration permit before commencing. A plan or permit is required for mechanized trenching, bedrock pitting, overburden stripping and drilling. A non-exhaustive list of activities that do not require a plan or permit include hand stripping, outcrop washing and brushing, outcrop mapping and sampling associated with the work, plugger sampling and channel sampling.

Before commencing any trenching, pitting, stripping and other related activities, please ensure you are familiar with Ontario Regulation 308/12, which sets out the requirements for prescribed activities for exploration plans and exploration permits. Unless the proper plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of an activity, assessment work credit cannot be granted for the exploration activity.

# Taking samples for purposes of geoscience work

Sampling programs are used to determine the grade and size of known mineralized sites or deposits and include sampling trenches, pits, drill core or chip samples from hard rock drilling. Taking grab samples from outcrops or known showings, channel sampling and geochemical sampling are also other types of sampling programs.

When reporting on work types such as grass roots prospecting, stripping or trenching programs, geological mapping, drilling (including drill core re-sampling) and geochemical sampling the results of sampling must be included with that geoscience work.

NOTE: For permission to extract, test mineral content and dispose of minerals for work performed on mining claims, refer to Section 52 of the Act and Ontario Regulation 45/11 (General) made under the Act.

# Remote sensing imagery

Remote sensing imagery can help in the study of geological mapping by identifying geological characteristics of regions which would be of benefit to follow up by ground techniques. In order to receive assessment work credit for remote sensing imagery, the claim holder must provide a summary and interpretation of the remote sensing work or perform eligible ground exploration work over the region and include the remote sensing work with the ground work.

# Geological survey work

A geological survey is a systematic investigation of the geology beneath the ground by studying outcrops and landforms on surface. Geological maps are created to represent the geological information gathered from the survey. The results of all samples collected during the geological survey must be included with the geological survey.

# **Geochemical survey work**

A geochemical survey involves the systematic collecting of samples whether they be rock, soil, stream/lake bottom sediments or biological material. Geochemical maps are created to represent the chemical results of all samples and can provide an opportunity to discover and interpret the underlying geology. The results of all samples collected during the geochemical survey must be included with the geochemical survey.

# **Ground geophysical survey work**

Ground geophysical surveys collect data from the earth's subsurface using a variety of sensing instruments. The data is analyzed to interpret the properties of the earth.

Before commencing ground geophysical surveys, ensure you are familiar with Regulation 308/12 that sets out the requirements for prescribed activities for exploration plans and exploration permits. Unless the required plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of an activity, assessment work credit cannot be granted for the work.

# Airborne geophysical survey work

Airborne geophysical surveys produce 2D and 3D representations of the surface and subsurface of the earth over a region. When reporting an airborne survey, the costs and expenses must be reported on the mining lands where the assessment work was performed, proportionally to the size of each mining land. If some of the mining lands surveyed are held, leased or owned by other parties and/or if the survey covers less than 100 square kilometres of unregistered Crown land, then the costs and expenses must be proportionally adjusted to exclude these areas.

Regional surveys, including airborne surveys, that cover 100 square kilometres or more of unregistered Crown land are eligible for assessment work credits if a portion of or all the lands are now included as part of a registered mining claim, if the survey work was performed within one year before the registration of the mining claim and if an assessment work report claiming the work is submitted within one year following the registration of the mining claim.

Refer to Assessment Work-Cost Policy for the value of assessment work credit that is eligible for regional surveys.

Modelling or reprocessing of existing data in order to identify a new mineral exploration target

Geological modelling uses geoscience data to create a computerized representation of a portion of the earth's crust to identify potential ore deposits or more accurately outline an area of interest. When submitting modelling or reprocessing of existing data it is crucial to identify the existing geophysical or geological information data used and the software and technique used to process the data.

Compilation of previous or historical work is not acceptable as modelling or reprocessing of existing data.

# Line cutting associated with geoscience work

Line cutting that is associated with geoscience work is eligible for assessment work credit when it is included with that geoscience work.

Before commencing line cutting associated with geoscience work ensure you are familiar with Regulation 308/12, which sets out the requirements for prescribed activities for exploration plans and exploration permits. Unless the proper plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of an activity, no assessment work credit will be granted for the work.

**NOTE:** Establishing the perimeter of your mining claim by cutting or blazing the lines is not eligible for assessment work credit.

# Exploratory drilling by core or non-core method, including diamond or core drilling, and other drilling such as percussion, reverse circulation and auger drilling

Exploratory drilling is used to locate mineral deposits and establish geological structure. A plan or a permit is required for mechanized drilling for the purpose of obtaining sample(s) on mining lands. A plan or permit is required for the lands where the drill holes are collared and for the lands under which the drilling occurs.

Before commencing exploratory drilling by core or non-core method ensure you are familiar with Regulation 308/12 that sets out the requirements for prescribed activities for exploration plans and exploration permits. Unless the proper plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of a drilling activity, no assessment work credit will be granted for the work.

For clarification, if drilling work traverses multiple mining claims and/or parcels of mining land, the associated costs for the drilling work must correspond to the location of the drilling in the assessment work report (i.e. if drilling work crosses four mining claims, the

costs for the work must be reported proportionately for all four claims – the total cost cannot be reported on one of the four claims).

The results of all samples collected during the drilling program must be included with the report on the drilling program.

# Drill core or drill sample submissions

The Resident Geologist Program, under the Ontario Geological Survey, manages drill core libraries. If you wish to receive assessment work credit for the submission of drill core or drill sample to the library, contact your local Resident Geologist Office to inquire whether they are interested in the donation of the core or samples. If the Resident Geologist's Office agrees to the donation, costs incurred to package and deliver the core or samples to the appropriate drill core library are eligible for assessment work credit.

# Petrographic work, including microscopy, scanning electron microscopy and electron microprobe studies

The detailed analysis of minerals by optical mineralogy, microscopy, scanning electron microscopy and electron microprobe are eligible for assessment work if accompanied by the results identifying the chemical composition of each sample and coloured photographs of all samples.

#### **Environmental baseline studies**

The purpose of an environmental baseline study is to establish an information base against which to monitor and assess the impact of exploration and mining activities on the environment.

For clarity, costs and expenses related to environmental baseline studies for mining activities will be considered:

- 1. before the commencement of early exploration activities on mining lands
- 2. for activities that are required under a Closure Plan and are eligible for assessment work credit.

The continued monitoring of a site is not eligible for assessment work credit.

Rehabilitation required or permitted to be done under the Act, if done in accordance with the requirements in the Act or the regulations

For the purpose of this policy, rehabilitation means measures, including protective measures, taken in accordance with the prescribed standards to treat a site or mine hazard so that the use or condition of the site,

- (a) is restored to its former use or condition, or
- (b) is made suitable for a use that the Director of Mine Rehabilitation sees fit Before commencing any progressive or voluntary rehabilitation, ensure you are familiar with Ontario Regulation 240/00, Mine Development and Closure Under Part VII of the Act, that sets out the requirements and standards for rehabilitation.

# **Progressive Rehabilitation**

For the purpose of this policy, a proponent who submits to the Director two copies of a progressive rehabilitation report under subsection 139.1 (2) of the Act may claim assessment work credit if the same progressive rehabilitation report is submitted for credit in MLAS

# **Voluntary Rehabilitation**

For the purpose of this policy, a person who is granted written approval by the Director for the rehabilitation of the mine hazard and rehabilitates the mine hazard in accordance with the rehabilitation plan under subsection 139.2 (6) of the Act may claim assessment work credit if the same voluntary rehabilitation plan is submitted for credit in MLAS.

# **Contact Mining Lands Section**

For all inquiries about assessment costs please contact:

Ministry of Mines
Mining Lands Section
Land Tenure and Assessment Unit
B-3, 933 Ramsey Lake Road
Willet Green Miller Centre
Sudbury, ON P3E 6B5
Toll Free Telephone: 1-888-415-9845

Email: mlas.ltau@ontario.ca

# **Authority Detail**

#### Mining Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.14

#### Assessment work or payments

**65** (1) After a mining claim is registered, the claim holder shall perform or cause to be performed the annual units of assessment work required in accordance with the regulations or may, in the prescribed circumstances and to the extent permitted by regulation, make payments in place of assessment work in accordance with the regulations. 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 42 (1).

#### Report

(2) Every mining claim holder shall submit a report of the assessment work done and of any payments made for the purpose of complying with subsection (1), together with such other information as may be prescribed. 2009, c. 21, s. 33.

#### When report must be received

(3) The report must be received by the mining lands administration system on or before the anniversary date of the mining claim. 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 42 (2).

#### Same

(4) If a date earlier than the anniversary date is prescribed for the submission of a report regarding a specific type of assessment work, the report must be submitted to the mining lands administration system on or before the prescribed date. 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 42 (2).

#### **Credits measured in dollars spent**

(5) For the purpose of subsection (1), assessment work credits shall be measured in terms of dollars spent. 2009, c. 21, s. 33.

#### No dispute

(6) A recorder shall not receive and file, or record against a mining claim, any dispute relating to assessment work or to payments made in place of assessment work. 2009, c. 21, s. 33.

#### Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

#### Types of work eligible for credits, etc.

**66** (1) The types of work that are eligible for assessment work credits, the method of calculating and approving the credits for work performed or payments made in place of assessment work, and the distribution of assessment work credits to mining claims shall be determined in accordance with the regulations. 2009, c. 21, s. 34 (1); 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 43 (1).

#### Prospecting and regional surveys

(2) Prospecting and regional surveys performed on Crown lands before the registration of a mining claim are eligible for assessment work credits in such manner as is prescribed. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.14, s. 66 (2); 1996, c. 1, Sched. O, s. 17; 2009, c. 21, s. 34 (2); 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 43 (2).

#### Work on mining lands

(3) Assessment work performed on mining lands or payments made in place of assessment work may be allocated to contiguous unpatented mining claims in the prescribed manner. 2009, c. 21, s. 34 (3).

#### **Decision**

- (4) With respect to any report of assessment work or payments made under section 65 by a mining claim holder, the Minister shall, based on the prescribed rules, determine,
  - (a) whether the type of work reported is eligible for assessment work credits; and
  - (b) the amount of assessment work credits to be assigned to the work reported and the distribution of the credits to mining claims. 2017, c. 6, Sched. 2, s. 43 (3).

#### No appeal

(5) A decision under subsection (4) is final and is not subject to appeal. 1999, c. 12, Sched. O, s. 28

The Ontario *Mining Act* R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 14 and associated regulations can be viewed online at https://www.ontario.ca/laws

#### Ontario Regulation 65/18: Assessment Work

#### Types of assessment work and related expenses

- **2.** (1) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following types of work constitute assessment work:
  - 1. Grass roots prospecting.
  - 2. Bedrock trenching, bedrock pitting, overburden stripping and related manual work including outcrop mapping, outcrop washing and brushing and sampling associated with this work such as channel sampling and plugger sampling.
  - 3. Taking samples for purposes of geoscience work.
  - 4. Remote sensing imagery.
  - 5. Geological survey work.
  - 6. Geochemical survey work.
  - 7. Ground geophysical survey work.
  - 8. Airborne geophysical survey work.
  - 9. Modelling or reprocessing of existing data in order to identify a new mineral exploration target.
  - 10. Line cutting associated with geoscience work.
  - 11. Exploratory drilling by core or non-core method, including diamond or core drilling, and other drilling such as percussion, reverse circulation and auger drilling.
  - 12. Drill core or drill sample submissions.
  - 13. Petrographic work, including microscopy, scanning electron microscopy and electron microprobe studies.
  - 14. Environmental baseline studies.
  - 15. Rehabilitation required or permitted to be done under the Act, if done in accordance with the requirements in the Act or the regulations.

# Assessment work reports

**6.** (1) An assessment work report is required,

- (a) for the purposes of section 65 of the Act; and
- (b) in order for the minister to determine whether the assessment work performed is eligible for assessment work credits and the amount of assessment work credits to be assigned to the work in accordance with Part IV.
- (2) In order to receive assessment work credits, an assessment work report may be submitted to the minister by,
  - (a) a claim holder, with respect to assessment work performed on the mining claim; or
  - (b) the holder or owner of mining lands other than a mining claim, with respect to assessment work performed on those lands.
- (3) An assessment work report shall be submitted to the Ministry through the mining lands administration system.
- (4) A claim holder or the holder or owner of mining lands other than a mining claim may submit an assessment work report at any time after assessment work is performed on the lands, subject to the limitations set out in sections 12 and 13, in order to receive assessment work credits in accordance with Part IV.
- (5) An assessment work report shall include a technical report that,
  - (a) describes the performance of the assessment work and is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Technical Standards; and
  - (b) includes such plans, maps and other supporting documents that are required by the Technical Standards and prepared in accordance with the requirements in the Technical Standards.

#### How system works

- **9.** (1) The Minister shall review all assessment work reports submitted under section 6 and evaluate the assessment work described in the report in order to,
  - (a) determine in accordance with section 12 whether the work is eligible for assessment work credit; and
  - (b) determine in accordance with section 13 the amount of assessment work credits to be assigned to the work.

#### Work eligible for credit

- **11.** (1) The following types of work are eligible for assessment work credit:
  - 1. Assessment work that is performed on a mining claim.
  - 2. Assessment work that is performed on mining lands other than a mining claim, subject to subsection (2).
  - 3. Grass roots prospecting and regional surveys performed on Crown lands before the registration of a mining claim, subject to subsection (3).
- (2) Assessment work performed on freehold patented mining lands or mining rights shall be eligible for assessment work credit only if the relevant mining lands or mining rights are included on the current tax record maintained by the Deputy Minister under section 192 of the Act.
- (3) Grass roots prospecting and regional surveys performed on Crown lands before the registration of a mining claim shall be eligible for assessment work credit only if the following conditions are met:
  - 1. The grass roots prospecting or regional surveying is performed within 12 months before the mining claim is registered.
  - 2. The grass roots prospecting or regional surveying is performed on lands that are included in one or more cells that are part of the mining claim that is registered.
  - 3. In the case of a regional survey, it covers an area of not less than 100 square kilometres of land.
  - 4. An assessment work report prepared in relation to the grass roots prospecting or regional surveying is submitted by the holder of the mining claim within one year following the registration of the claim.

# **Determination of eligibility for credit**

- 12. (1) The Minister shall review an assessment work report to determine whether,
  - (a) the work set out in the report constitutes a type of assessment work described in subsection 2 (1) and is otherwise eligible for assessment work credit under this Part; and
  - (b) the costs and expenses being claimed in the report in relation to assessment work are those permitted under subsection 2 (2).

- (2) Work included in an assessment work report is not eligible for assessment work credit if the work was performed more than 60 months before the day the report is submitted to the Minister.
- (3) The costs of consultations with Aboriginal communities referred to in paragraph 10 of subsection 2 (2),
  - (a) are eligible for assessment work credit even though the consultations occurred more than 60 months before the assessment work report listing the cost is submitted to the Minister, despite subsection (2); and
  - (b) are not eligible for assessment work credit unless they are included in an assessment work report in which assessment work is being reported.
- (4) Line cutting that is associated with geoscience work referred to in paragraph 10 of subsection 2 (1) is not eligible for assessment work credit unless it is included in the same assessment work report as the geoscience work with which it is associated.
- (5) The Minister may determine that work is not eligible for assessment work credit if,
  - (a) there is evidence that the work has not in fact been carried out or that it has not been carried out in the manner described in the report;
  - (b) the technical report that describes the work does not comply with the applicable requirements of the Technical Standards;
  - (c) assessment work described in the report is in fact a duplication of assessment work previously performed on the same mining claim or mining lands and submitted in a previous assessment work report; or
  - (d) the data presented in the technical report consists predominantly of expressions of opinion or of compilations of previously published material or compilations of documents that were submitted in a previous technical report, or a combination of both types of compilations.

# <u>Assessment Work Technical Standard - Work Type Requirements</u>

#### O. Reg 308/12

Before commencing any of the above activities please ensure you are familiar with Regulation 308/12 that sets out the requirements for prescribed activities for plans and permits. Refer to the *Provincial Standards for Early Exploration* to ensure compliance with the requirements for carrying out early exploration activities. Unless the proper

plan or permit is in place prior to the commencement of an activity, assessment work credit cannot be granted for the exploration activity.

Activities that do not require a plan or permit include hand stripping, outcrop washing and brushing, outcrop mapping and sampling associated with the work, plugger sampling and channel sampling.

#### A plan is required for:

- Any geophysical surveys that require the use of a generator to be carried out.
- Mechanized drilling for the purpose of obtaining rock or mineral samples, if the assembled weight of the drill and its associated equipment, excluding drill rods, casings and bits, does not exceed 150 kilograms.
- Line cutting, where the width of the lines does not exceed 1.5 metres.
- Mechanized surface stripping where,
  - i. a single location is to be stripped and the total area to be stripped does not exceed 100 square metres, or
  - ii. two or more locations are to be stripped and the edges of a location where stripping is to be carried out are within 200 metres of the edges of another location, and the aggregate of the area of the locations to be stripped does not exceed 100 square metres.
- Pitting and trenching where,
  - a single pit or trench is to be dug and the total volume of the pit or trench to be dug exceeds one cubic metre but does not exceed three cubic metres, or
  - ii. two or more pits or trenches are to be dug and the edges of a pit or trench are within 200 metres of the edges of another pit or trench and the aggregate of the volume of the pits or trenches exceeds one cubic metre but does not exceed three cubic metres.

#### A permit is required for:

- Line cutting, where the width of the lines cut is 1.5 metres or more.
- Mechanized drilling for the purpose of obtaining rock or mineral samples, if the assembled weight of the drill and associated equipment, excluding drill rods, casings and bits, is greater than 150 kilograms.

- Mechanized surface stripping where,
  - i. a single location is to be stripped and the total area to be stripped exceeds 100 square metres but is less than the threshold for advanced exploration as set out in Ontario Regulation 240/00 (Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the Act) made under the Act, or
  - ii. two or more locations are to be stripped and the edges of a location where stripping is to be carried out are within 200 metres of the edges of another location and the aggregate of the total area to be stripped exceeds 100 square metres but is less than the threshold for advanced exploration as set out in Ontario Regulation 240/00 (Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the Act) made under the Act.
- Pitting and trenching where,
  - i. there is a single pit or trench and the total volume of the pit or trench exceeds three cubic metres but is below the threshold for advanced exploration as set out in Ontario Regulation 240/00 (Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the Act) made under the Act, or
  - ii. there are two or more pits or trenches and the edges of a pit or trench are within 200 metres of the edges of another pit or trench and the aggregate of the total volume of the pit or trench exceeds three cubic metres but is below the threshold for advanced exploration as set out in Ontario Regulation 240/00 (Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the Act) made under the Act.

#### **Assays and Chemical Analysis of Samples**

In accordance with the Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work, assays and the chemical analysis of samples must be included in the technical work reports for most types of work identified under section 2(1) of the Regulation. Where assay results or certificates of analysis of samples are required as part of the technical standards, they are to be:

- Provided or performed by an accredited laboratory. The Ministry considers the minimum acceptable accreditation for a laboratory to be ISO 9001 certification.
- Reported on the original or *an unaltered* copy of the Certificate of Analysis issued by the accredited laboratory and the following information is to be included:
- all header information such as the letterhead and company identifier (logo);

- the date the samples were submitted to the laboratory and the date the certificate was issued;
- the signature of a qualified laboratory official (e.g. laboratory manager, head assayer, etc.);
- all assay and quality control results.

Note: The only acceptable alteration to a certificate is the removal of samples that are not part of the assessment work report using a black marker. The submitter should also make a note explaining how and why the Certificate was altered.

#### Consultation

When consulting with Aboriginal communities, assessment work credit can be claimed for credit and the credit is eligible at 100% for consultation done after November 1, 2012 and:

- (a) are eligible for assessment work credit even though the consultations occurred more than 60 months before the assessment work report listing the cost is submitted to the Minister,
- (b) are included in an assessment work report in which assessment work is being reported.

Provincial Standards for Early Exploration

Section 52(1) Rights of a Licensee to Test Mineral Content

Ontario Regulation 45/11 Permission to Extract, Test Mineral Content and Dispose of Minerals

Ontario Regulation 240/00 Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the Act