

Introduction

- Orphaned and abandoned mines are often the cause for division and anxiety in the general public, confusion over what will be cleaned up (by whom and to what extent), and who is responsible for costly remediation.
- The effective remediation of a site depends a great deal on the capacity of the various communities involved.
- This presentation discusses best practices and pitfalls from northern Canada.

Community Capacity

- Type of clean up
 - Historical context
 - Contemporary context
 - Vision
- Human resources
- Indices of capacity
 - Governing First Nation
 - Culturally appropriate economic development
 - Level of support (complimentary governance)

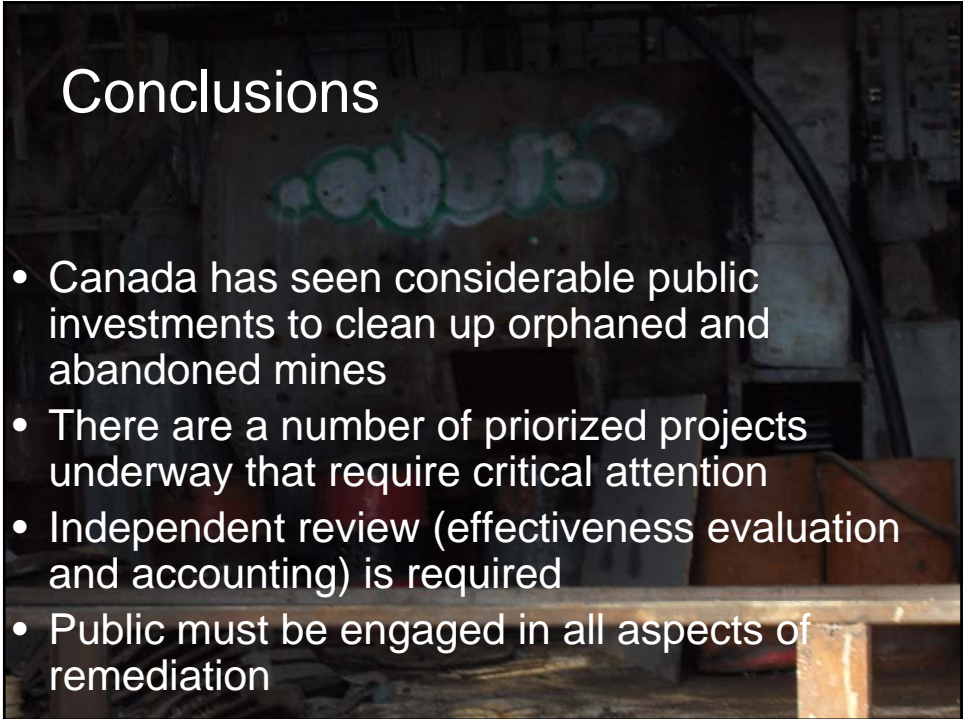
Best Practices

- Taking responsibility for OA mines
- National accounting of their cost/risks
- Full and meaningful consultations
- Clean up to agreed upon “independent” standard
- Engagement in capacity building so First Nations can participate in all levels of clean up
- Land use planning to avoid the mess



Pitfalls

- Poor grasp of public risk perceptions
- Alienation of public: directly impacted only!
- Remediation isolated from economic development
- Poor communications
- Underestimate of the capacity needs
- Poor project management
- Lack effectiveness evaluation/accounting



Conclusions

- Canada has seen considerable public investments to clean up orphaned and abandoned mines
- There are a number of prioritized projects underway that require critical attention
- Independent review (effectiveness evaluation and accounting) is required
- Public must be engaged in all aspects of remediation