

The Mineral Inventory: How to Make it Relevant to Nova Scotians

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Informed land-use decisions can only be made when all of the relevant data sets available for consideration are used in the decision-making process. Unfortunately, land-use planners and municipal leaders, the groups preparing land-use documents in Nova Scotia, are for the most part without basic training in geology. Therefore, geological data sets, including the mineral inventory, are often overlooked when municipalities are preparing land-use planning documents. This oversight could have significant long-term implications for the health and safety of communities and the environment.

The Department of Natural Resources, the principal collector and compiler of geological data in Nova Scotia, has an inherent responsibility to disseminate this information to community decision-makers and planners. The Geological Services Division has been working on a plan to accomplish this task. The poster display will outline the steps taken in this process in 2006.

Many of Nova Scotia's rural communities are struggling to survive in a time when their populations are both shrinking and aging. There is a need for new economic opportunities to draw and hold young people in these rural areas. Mineral resource developments, such as that seen at the River Denys Marble Quarry, are one possible solution. The poster display will discuss the marble quarry and other mineral development opportunities in Nova Scotia.