

Online Staking in Nova Scotia - A Leap Forward

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For some time, the department's Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles has intended to enhance its service delivery to clients. For the Registry and its clients, "enhanced service delivery" includes the option of secure client self-service for online map-based claim staking and online payment, from any location, using the internet. A project is underway that will enable the Registry to achieve that goal. The project has two major phases.

The first phase is the modernization of the Registry's internal administrative processes, including migration from a predominantly manual system to an automated one. Existing client and right/registration information will be moved from manual files, ledgers and physical maps to a modern, stable open database that can be spatially enabled. Until the second phase is delivered, Registry staff will record and maintain client, prospector, and mineral, petroleum, underground hydrocarbon storage, and treasure trove tenure information as supplied by clients on existing forms.

The second phase is delivery of the self-service component for clients. Using the Internet, a client who is a registered user of the system will be able to access the online staking feature. The client will be able to select claims on a digital map of Nova Scotia, and submit electronic payment for those claims, thereby effectively submitting an application to the Registry. The client will also be able to track the status of their request(s). Selected maintenance activities on existing rights will also be available under the self-service umbrella: for example, regroups, renewals, and possibly transfer requests.

Land classification, including prohibitions and restrictions to exploration or development activity, will be integrated into the map display and into the staking and approval process. For example, it will be obvious where wilderness areas, water supply areas, or designated parks are located. Topographic base layers and geoscience layers will be readily available. Claims under application, and claims under existing rights, will be reflected in the map display in real time.

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