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Following two years of consultation and a year of preparation, a Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia and an accompanying action plan were released in August 2011. The strategy honours the commitment made in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act of 2007. The strategy lists four overarching goals: collaborative leadership, sustainable resources development, strengthening research and knowledge sharing, and good governance. Achieving these goals will require a broad range of stakeholder and aboriginal engagement. Over the coming year the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) will be looking to begin collaboration on a wide variety of issues including: review of the Mineral Resources Act; development of best practices for mineral exploration and mine reclamation; improving the business climate for mineral exploration and development; creation of a minerals advisory panel to help guide NSDNR program planning; improving public education about mineral resources; revamping our integrated resource management process, improving access to information and support services and creating ways to more effectively engage Nova Scotians in planning and decision making about mineral resources. The province is committed to making the best possible decisions about the use and protection of all our natural resources. We must use our resources wisely to achieve a sustainable balance of economic, environmental and social benefits for current and future generations of Nova Scotians. Determining how Nova Scotia’s mineral resources will contribute to achieving this balance is the focus for NSDNR’s Mineral Resources Branch. Ensuring that all interested parties have the opportunity to engage with us on mineral resource issues is our priority.