Finding Common Ground
NGO and grassroots concerns

Lake Superior Binational Program
Mining Webinar
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Who we are....

_membership includes labour, indigenous, social justice and international development sectors._

Small staff with backgrounds in anthropology, ecology, biology, community development and administration.

Protect environment and communities from irresponsible mining practices.

Mining skeptics
Common Ground

MacIntyre Head Frame and Acidic Tailings

Vale Inco’s Whistle Open Pit Rehabilitation
MiningWatch on Closure

- Public participation and joint decision making
- Transparency
- Polluter (or potential polluter) pays
- Recognizing and addressing uncertainty
Uncertainty

“Pit lakes are science experiments with largely unknown outcomes, launched into the future for perpetual management by the trustees of the lakes. For better or worse, this management burden exists.”

(H. Kempton, SW Hydrology 2002)
A starting point for discussion

- Preliminary internet and literature review (community participation/engagement).
- Informant interviews
  - 2 Ontario, 1 NWT
- Workshops and informal discussions
- Using a format liberally borrowed from www.morennewmath.com
progress = contribution of leaders – contribution of laggards
AMD > technical challenge

= threat to way of life

= impact on waters with diverse values
closure > reclamation

Vacancy Rates 1993 to 2007

Source: Elliot Lake Retirement Living and City of Elliot Lake, January 2008
good communication =

(0.25 x what you say) +

(0.75 x how you say it)

It’s not what you say. It’s how you say it!
expert = smart person + PhD
community member = smart person – PhD
effective participants = people + resources
open house = dialogue - one side of discussion
perpetual care = risk + future generations
mandate \( \supset \) the whole problem

* a subset of
community life span
= mine lifespan + ???
Opportunities

✿ New legislation (Bill 173 and 1872 Reform)

✿ Include more discussion of broader closure issues in these and other workshops.

✿ Document successes
  - Where has participation created a win-win?
Your thoughts or comments please....

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