

## Double Assessment Credits for Prospecting

### Background

Prospectors will be negatively impacted through Conversion to online staking in several ways:

- cost to acquire ground increases exponentially
- **loss of 50-100% of income derived from staking claims**
- loss of winter income
- competitive disadvantage with junior and major exploration mining companies due to:
  - trading bush skills for computer skills to “race” for ground against potentially high numbers of computer proficient stakers
  - Unpredictably slow internet as vast majority of prospectors live in rural areas

\*Please keep in mind prospectors must use their own funds to acquire and explore properties whereas companies use shareholders funds.

### Reasoning for Double Assessment Credit

- Simple and easy to regulate as it targets the activity of prospecting instead of who qualifies to as a prospector
- Costs government nothing
- Increases work for prospectors in the province of Ontario
- Encourages boots on the ground which generates new showings by promoting companies to hire prospectors
- Helps prospectors keep their ground active through assessment while still requiring work on the ground

### Suggested Parameters

- Must hold an Ontario Prospectors Licence and be a resident of the province of Ontario
- Only the prospector’s wage would be eligible for double assessment, not expenses as to prevent abuse
- Double assessment credit will be given specifically for the activity of prospecting which can be defined as examining rock for mineral potential and taking hand samples of such rock that has mineral potential
- Prospector must submit a prospecting report which:
  - Cannot be combined with any other type of work
  - Must include a map of GPS traverses, sample locations, and assays results
  - Must satisfy MNDM assessment report requirements
- Possible minimum requirements for either kilometres walked or samples taken per day to ensure honesty
- Both self employed prospectors working their own claims, and those contracted to prospect for companies would qualify for the program
- No cap on number of prospecting days eligible
- Double assessment not partial: keep it simple and effective