Junior Exploration Assistance Performance Measures Evaluation
2022-23

Program Objective

Junior Exploration Assistance (JEA) aims to further the sustainability of the mineral industry and grow the mineral inventory of the province by:

- Supporting activities that may lead to the discovery of new mineral districts, occurrences, prospects, and/or deposits (new discoveries).
- Supporting the advancement of mineral discoveries through the stages of defining National Instrument (NI) 43-101 compliant mineral resources (advancing projects).
- Supporting grassroots exploration activity (grassroots).
- Enhance Newfoundland and Labrador's competitiveness as a world class mineral exploration destination (competitiveness).

The following metrics are performance measures to determine if JEA objectives are being met.

Summary

During 2022-23, a total of 37 companies fulfilled their work commitment on projects and submitted final report expenses requesting $4.75 million in rebates. A total of $1.43 million was available as rebates and supplied to companies, including $130,000 in unused Prospector Assistance Grant funds, as per the IET Policies and Procedures for the Administration of the Mineral Incentive Program.

JEA Performance Measures

1) Target: Support three projects undertaking grassroots exploration activities

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of Grassroots Projects	Amount of Investment	Grassroots JEA Rebates
2022-23	13	$3,350,610.17	$479,088.89
2021-22	13	$4,113,238.99	$581,269.52
2020-21	5	$1,608,187.46	$325,789.99

Conclusion: During 2022-23, for the second year in a row, there were 13 projects undertaking grass roots exploration activities. Also for the second year in a row, seven of these projects are by companies that are new to this province. The total MIP funding issued as JEA Rebates for grassroots exploration activities was $479,088.89.

Grassroots regional scale, and early stage, exploration is generating new mineral prospects. New companies are attracted to the province's exploration industry. Target has been met.

2) Target: Support three projects that have advanced beyond grassroots

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of Advanced Projects	Amount of Investment	Advanced Project JEA Rebates
2022-23	24	$12,143,746.66	$959,403.31
2021-22	18	$10,103,440.66	$894,566.72
2020-21	18	$11,625,621.16	$1,169,962.99

Conclusion: In 2022-23, 24 projects performed advanced stage exploration. There were a steady number of projects doing advanced stage exploration from 2019 to 2021. Following an increase in grass-roots exploration in 2021-22 and 2022-23, 2022-23 had an increase in advanced exploration projects. Target has been met.

3) Target: Support three projects with enough exploration investment to receive a maximum rebate

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of Projects Receiving Maximum Rebate	Investment by Maximum Rebate Projects
2022-23	24	$14,166,298.24
2021-22	17	$12,110,567.94
2020-21	14	$11,719,258.76

Conclusion: In 2022-23, 24 projects received maximum grant amounts indicating these are larger exploration programs. This is a significant jump from previous years and is supported by projects advancing past the grassroots to include advanced exploration actions such as diamond drilling. Target has been met.

4) Target: Support one project with updated resource statement/preliminary economic assessment (PEA) /feasibility study

Data:

Fiscal Year	NI 43-101 Statement or Update	PEA or Pre - Feasibility	Feasibility Study, or In Progress
2022-23	-	1	1
2021-22	1	-	2
2020-21	2	2	-

Conclusion: JEA rebates help advance mineral discoveries through the stage of defining National Instrument 43-101 compliant mineral resource and subsequent economic evaluation including Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), Pre-Feasibility Study, and Feasibility Study.. Atlas Salt completed PEA and have a Feasibility Study in progress on its Great Atlantic Salt Project. The data indicates projects are using JEA funding to advance to this later stage exploration. Target has been met.

5) Target: Attract three new exploration companies to participate in the JEA

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of projects by First Time Rebate Recipients	Investment by First Time JEA Recipients
2022-23	13	$4,147,799.08
2021-22	11	$5,650,130.33
2020-21	3	$1,001,501.00

Conclusion: JEA Rebates help attract new investment to the province by providing incentives to support first time JEA Recipients advance projects. During 2022-23, 13 companies participated in the JEA for the first time. Target has been met.

6) Target: Leverage greater than two times provincial JEA funding in exploration investment

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of Projects with Expenditures < 2 Times the Rebate	Number of Projects With Expenditures > 2 Times the Rebate	Number of Projects with Expenditures ≥4 Times the Rebate	Total Investment
2022-23	-	-	37	$15,494,356.83
2021-22	-	3	28	$14,216,680.65
2020-21	-	8	15	$13,233,808.62

Conclusion: JEA Rebates improve NL competitiveness by helping attract additional exploration investment. During 2022-23 all of the projects leveraged exploration expenditures at least four times the Rebate amount. Target has been met.

Of note, some companies submitted only enough expenses to receive the maximum rebate but invested significantly more in exploration on projects. Companies are employing this strategy to simplify their applications and reporting under the program, this has not reduced the actual exploration investment. However, it means the 'Total Investment' above does not capture the full amount of private investment leveraged by JEA funding.

7) Target: Fully disburse the annual JEA budget to support mineral exploration

Data:

Fiscal Year	Number of JEA Rebates	Total JEA Rebates	Per Cent of Available Budget Disbursed
2022-23	37	$1,438,492.20	100%
2021-22	31	$1,475,836.24	100%
2020-21	23	$1,495,752.97	100%

Conclusion: The total available JEA budget to support the province's exploration industry has been awarded. Target has been met.

8) Target: Support mineral exploration towards the goal of 5 new mines by 2030 as outlined in 'Mining The Future 2030: A plan for growth in the Newfoundland and Labrador Mining Industry'

Data:

Data: New Mine	Number of JEA Rebates	Notes
Argyle	1	Mined from August 2020 to January 2023
Valentine Gold Project	9	Mine under construction, production planned for Q1 2025

Potential New Mine	Number of JEA Rebates	Notes
Maritime Resources Green Bay Gold Project (Hammerdown)	9	Released from EA May 2021.

Conclusion: Since the release of **Mining the Future** one mine (Argyle) has opened, and one (Valentine Gold Project) is under construction. Both utilized JEA support to help establish its mineral resource. There is also one project that has utilized JEA support and progressed to being released from Environmental Assessment (EA), the first step in obtaining approval to begin operations. In addition to supporting projects through the stages of exploration, JEA has supported exploration projects in advancing toward mine development. The target is well on the way to being met.