

*Tabled by the
Minister of
Energy & Technology
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Dance*

Junior Exploration Assistance Performance Measures Evaluation
Years 2019-20 to 2021-22

Program Objective

The Junior Exploration Assistance Program ("JEA") aims to grow the mineral inventory of the Province through the support of activities that may lead to the discovery of new mineral occurrences, prospects, deposits, and/or districts. The program also aims to advance mineral discoveries through the stage of defining National Instrument ("NI") 43-101 compliant mineral resources, and to enhance Newfoundland and Labrador's competitiveness as a world class mineral exploration destination. This will be achieved by the following performance measures:

1) Target: Support three projects undertaking grassroots exploration activities

Data:

Fiscal Year	# of Grassroots Projects	Amount of Investment	Grassroots JEA Rebates
2021-22	13	\$4,113,238.99	\$581,269.52
2020-21	5	\$1,608,187.46	\$325,789.99
2019-20	5	\$887,124.73	\$305,041.44

During 2021-22 there were 13 projects undertaking grass roots exploration activities. Importantly, 7 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 \$581,269.52.

Conclusion: 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	# of Advanced Projects	Amount of Investment	Advanced Project JEA Rebates
2021-22	18	\$10,103,440.66	\$894,566.72
2020-21	18	\$11,625,621.16	\$1,169,962.99
2019-20	18	\$9,196,657.01	\$1,010,015.46

Conclusion: There has been a steady number of projects doing advanced stage exploration over the last three years. Due to the large increase in Grassroots exploration in 2021-22, new mineral prospects generated will likely result in increased advanced exploration for 2022-23. This shows the JEA Rebate program is meeting this target.

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

Data:

Fiscal Year	# of projects receiving Maximum rebate	Investment by max rebate projects
2021-22	17	\$12,110,567.94
2020-21	14	\$11,719,258.76
2019-20	9	\$8,143,780.74

Conclusion: In 2021-22, seventeen projects received maximum grant amounts indicating these are larger exploration programs. This is an indicator of more advanced projects with better identified mineral potential. Project mineral potential is progressing with larger programs generally including Diamond Drilling as advanced exploration. This shows the JEA Rebate program is meeting this target.

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
2021-22	1	-	2
2020-21	2	2	-
2019-20	4	-	-

Conclusion: JEA Rebates help advance mineral discoveries through the stage of defining National Instrument 43-101 compliant mineral resource, PEA, Pre-Feasibility Study, and Feasibility Study. The data shows projects are using JEA funding to advance at this later stage exploration. This target has been met.

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

Data:

Fiscal Year	# of projects by first time Rebate Recipients	Investment by first time JEA Recipients
2021-22	11	\$5,650,130.33
2020-21	3	\$1,001,501.00
2019-20	6	\$1,656,843.53

Conclusion: JEA Rebates help attract new investment to the province through first time JEA Recipients by providing incentive support to advance their projects. This target has been met.

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

Data:

Fiscal Year	# of projects with expenditures > 2 times the Rebate	# of projects with expenditures ≥4 times the Rebate	Total Investment
2021-22	3	28	\$14,216,680.65
2020-21	8	15	\$13,233,808.62
2019-20	12	11	\$10,083,781.74

Conclusion: JEA Rebates improve NL competitiveness by helping attract additional exploration investment. Many of the projects received leveraged exploration expenditures at least 4 times the Rebate. This shows the JEA Rebate program is meeting this target. Of note is some of the larger companies submitted enough expenses to receive the maximum rebate, but completed much more exploration on projects.

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

Data:

Fiscal Year	# of JEA Rebates	Total JEA Rebates	% of available Budget disbursed
2021-22	31	\$1,475,836.24	100
2020-21	23	\$1,495,752.97	100
2019-20	23	\$1,315,056.89	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:

Mine	# of JEA Rebates	Year Mine Opened
Argyle	2	2020

Conclusion: Since the release of Mining the Future one mine has opened, and it utilized JEA support to help established its mineral resource. There are currently five projects that have utilized JEA support that have progressed at least to Environmental Assessment (EA), the first step in obtaining approval to begin operations.

Currently in EA: Marathon Gold - Valentine Lake (Federal); Search Minerals - Fox Rare Earth Element Properties; Matador Mining – Cape Ray Gold Project; and, Century Global - Joyce Lake.

Released from EA: Maritime Resources Corp – Hammerdown Gold Project

JEA continues to support the exploration on these developing properties. The target is well on the way to being met.

