



# **Giant Mine Oversight Board**

## **GMOB Community Survey: Phase 1 Results Report**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

**May 23, 2022**

**Gaea Consulting Ltd.**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of the Report

The *Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) Phase 1 Findings Report* presents the results from 215 on-line surveys completed between February 18, 2022 and April 15, 2022. The findings report is intended to inform the Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) about community awareness, knowledge, and interest in the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP). The survey results will further inform GMOB’s approach to future communication and public outreach initiatives.

### 1.2 Structure of the Report

The *GMOB Phase 1 Findings Report* structure and contents are abbreviated below for the readers’ convenience. The report is comprised of four sections and one appendix as summarized in the table below.

SECTION	CONTENTS
<b>Section 1.0</b>	Section 1 contains the report purpose and structure.
<b>Section 2.0</b>	Section 2 summarizes the GMOB Community Survey purpose, methodology and limitations.
<b>Section 3.0</b>	<p>Section 3 presents the survey results for Phase 1. This includes discussion of the reporting structure and themes developed to provide a framework for the individual survey questions. There are four themes presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme A: Awareness of the GMRP and Responsibilities</li> <li>• Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB Mandate and Role</li> <li>• Theme C: Areas of Interest in the GMRP</li> <li>• Theme D: Sources of Information and Communication</li> </ul> <p>Each theme is discussed in terms of the overall results and observations, supported by the results from the corresponding specific questions.</p>
<b>Section 4.0</b>	Section 4 contains the GMOB approach to Phase 2 of the community survey.
APPENDICES	
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Community Survey Questions

## 2.0 GMOB COMMUNITY SURVEY: PHASE 1

### 2.1 Survey Purpose

The purpose of the GMOB Community Survey Phase 1 is to assess, at a general level, the community's existing awareness, knowledge, and interest in the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP). The survey results, from Phase 1 (and planned Phase 2 & 3), will inform the GMOB's approach to future communication and public outreach initiatives.

GMOB anticipates that the survey results will also be beneficial to the GMRP Project Team as it continues its multi-faceted work.

The final survey results will be publicly available on the GMOB website and potentially in other documents, such as the GMOB Annual Report.

### 2.2 Survey Methodology

The Board's decision to conduct the GMOB Community Survey Phase 1 on-line, rather than the original methodology of doing in-person interviews, was as a result of the public health orders and limitations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The on-line method has the intent and the advantage of giving 'anyone in the community' who is interested, an opportunity to provide their feedback. Notwithstanding some of the recognized limitations associated with on-line surveys (e.g., lack of access control and a sampling frame, response rate etc., as discussed further in Section 2.3), the survey results have the benefit of providing a *general indication* of the perspectives and/or preferences of responders. What is incumbent on the reporting of on-line survey results is to acknowledge the limitations of the methodology, the caveats associated with the interpretation and reporting of the results.

The Phase 1 survey was conducted in the period from February 18, 2022, and April 15, 2022. The survey consisted of 21 questions. Appendix 1 contains the survey questions. Some of the questions include set response categories while other questions include both set response categories and open-ended response opportunities. The survey methodology established two reference variables to provide additional context and understanding of the survey results. The two variables are the respondent's community of residence (Q1) and age category (Q2). The results reporting uses rounded percentage numbers, as such total may not add up to 100%.

The survey was announced and advertised through the following strategy: The survey opened on February 18, 2022 and was promoted and advertised within the focused area of Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Dettah. The survey was hosted on the GMOB website. For Phase 1 of the survey, a formal press release was distributed to all media outlets on February 21, 2022, announcing the opening of the survey and encouraging the public to participate. The press release garnered interviews from *L'Aquilon* and CBC. At the same time, print ads were run with the *Yellowknifer* and the *Coffeebreak News*. A public announcement was also produced for CBC, CKLB, Cabin Radio, and True North FM linking with web banners posted on Cabin Radio and the Community Television Station.

All of these communication avenues were engaged for a period of three to six weeks. After the first six weeks, Facebook advertising began to continue the awareness campaign.

## 2.3 On-Line Survey Limitations

There are several recognized advantages and disadvantages associated with any on-line survey methodology. The main advantages and disadvantages are briefly summarized below.

### ADVANTAGES

The potential main advantages of on-line surveys include:

**Increased Response Rate:** The low cost and overall convenience, for the survey proponent and the respondent, of online surveys can potentially bring in a high(er) response rate. Respondents can participate on their own schedule.

**Low Cost:** Collecting data is relatively low cost compared to other types of survey methods (e.g., in-person or phone interviews).

**Real-time Access:** Respondents' answers store automatically so the results are quickly stored and accessible.

**No Interviewer and confidentiality:** Given that respondents are not disclosing their answers directly to another person, it is easier for them to be particularly candid and more honest.

### DISADVANTAGES

The potential main disadvantages of on-line surveys include:

**No Weighting:** The fundamental disadvantage is a function of the methodology: (a) there is no weighting of the results (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity) as representative of the overall community population) is applied to the data; (b) There is no margin of error given that many on-line surveys are not intended to be random or representative.

**Non-Response Bias and Survey Fraud:** This can be a key challenge, depending on the survey design (i.e., question complexity) and length of the survey. There is generally less accountability experienced by responders.

**Limited Sampling and Respondent Availability:** Certain populations or sub-populations are less likely to have internet access and to respond to online questionnaires. Language(s) and literacy may also be factors impacting people's interest and participation. Drawing samples is harder based on email addresses or website visitations.

**Possible Cooperation Problems:** On-line surveys could potentially be deleted and ignored if the responses are unfavourable.

**No Interviewer:** The absence of a trained interviewer to clarify the survey purpose or questions, if necessary, can contribute to less useful or reliable data.

**Reliance on Close-Ended Question Limitations:** Many surveys rely heavily on close-ended questions, meaning the respondent has no choice but to select an answer or choose “not applicable” or “other.” The survey design needs to consider the inclusion of opportunities for open-ended questions – as the GMOB community survey demonstrates.

### 3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

#### 3.1 Reporting Structure and Themes

The GMOB Community Survey – Phase 1 was an open-link on-line survey consisting of 21 questions. Some of the questions include set response options while other questions include both set response options and open-ended response opportunities.

The survey methodology established two reference variables to provide additional context and understanding of the survey responses and results. The variables are the respondent’s community of residence (Q1) and age category (Q2). The survey results for the two variables in presented below.

##### 3.1.1 Specific Questions Results

###### Community of Residence

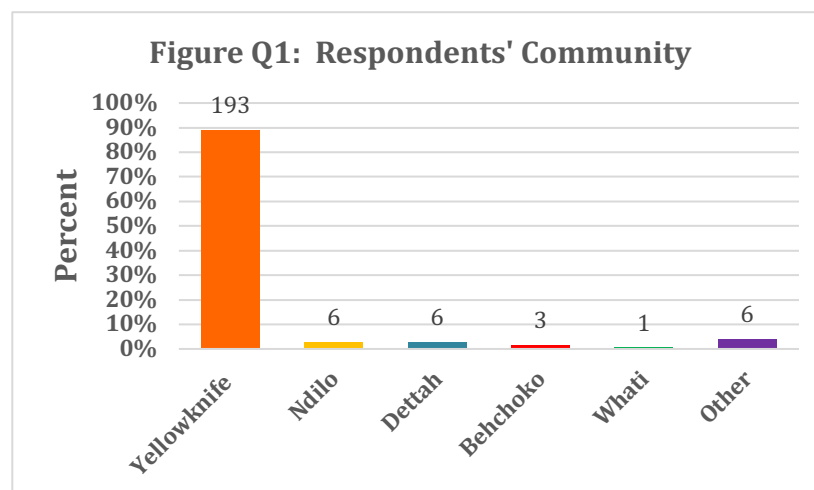
Q1. Which community do you live in?

Base: All respondents (n= 215)

- Yellowknife was the largest community of residence for 89% (n=193) of respondents.
- N’dililo and Dettah each represented 3% (n=6) of respondents.
- Behchoko comprised 1% (n=3) of respondents.
- The remainder of were grouped into ‘other’, representing some 4% (n=7).

###### Observations:

- The low number of respondents from Ndilo and Dettah is a concern given that these two communities are a key component of historical and current impacts of the GMRP.
- The GMOB should consider options for encouraging more response methods and options from these two communities in subsequent phases of the Community Survey.



## Age Group

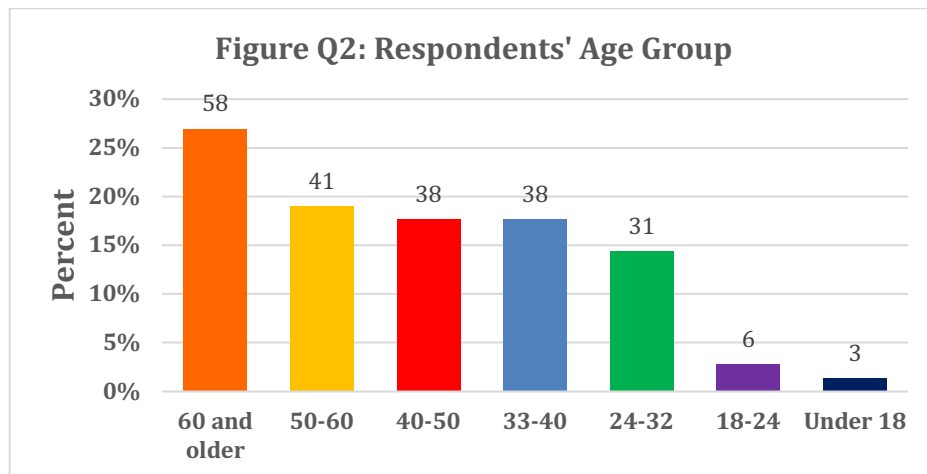
Q2. What is your age?

Base: All respondents (n= 215)

- The 60 years and older cohort represented the largest number of respondents at 27% (n=58).
- The 50 to 60 years cohort represented the second largest number of respondents at 19% (n=41).
- Taken together the 50 and older cohort represented 46% (n=99)
- The 24 years and younger cohort in total represented 18% (n=40) of respondents.

### Observations:

- There is a correlation between age group and the corresponding number of respondents. The correlation is highest among the 60 and older cohort, decreasing with each younger group, and lowest in the under 18 cohort.
- The GMOB should consider options for encouraging increased participation by the younger cohorts, including response methods and options.



### 3.1.2 Survey Themes and Corresponding Survey Questions

The 21 survey questions have been grouped into four themes to focus the drawing of findings into areas that correspond to the stated purpose of the GMRP Community Survey, principally to gauge community awareness of the GMRP and the GMOB mandate and role.

The four themes and the corresponding survey questions are presented in the table below. The questions are not necessarily sequential but rather fall into the associated theme.



Theme	Survey Questions
Theme A: Awareness of the GMRP and Responsibilities	Q: 3, 4, 5, 20.
Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB Mandate and Role	Q: 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17.
Theme C: Areas of Interest in the GMRP	Q: 6, 7, 8.
Theme D: Sources of Information and Communications	Q: 13, 14, 18, 19.

## 3.2 Theme A: Awareness of the GMRP and Responsibilities

### 3.2.1 Overall Results and Observations

#### General Observations:

- There was awareness of the GMRP (Q3) by 97% (n=208) of survey respondents. It is likely that most respondents were motivated to participate in the survey due to their prior awareness of the GMRP.
- In terms of responsibility for site remediation (Q4), 79% (n=169) identified the Government of Canada. It is noteworthy from a community communication perspective that 23% (n=50) selected the Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) as being responsible for site remediation. GMOB was established as an independent oversight entity and has no responsibility for the actual site remediation.

It is noteworthy that the three listed previous corporate owners of the Giant Mine were identified as being responsible for remediation by a relatively small number of respondents: Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd was identified by 22% (n=47), Royal Oak Mines was selected by 19% (n=41) and Miramar Mining Corporation was identified by 13% (n=28) of respondents

- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* informed to *somewhat* informed regarding the GMRP (Q5), comprised 84% (n=180) of all respondents. This could be expected given the responses to (Q3) – where 97% stated they were aware of the GMRP.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* confident to *somewhat* confident in successful remediation comprised 41% (n=88) of all respondents.
- An additional 9% (n=20) stated they were *not at all* confident in successful remediation. As a responding category, those who stated they were *not very* confident to *not at all* confident in successful remediation comprised 37% (n=81) of all respondents.

- Based on the results, the public’s understanding of the respective responsibilities and legal obligations from remediation is generally limited. This provides an important perspective into GMOB’s consideration for future communication and outreach initiatives.

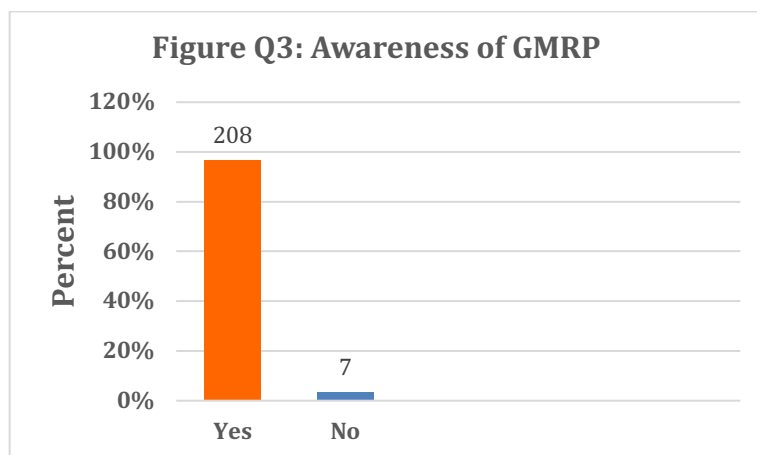
### 3.2.2 Specific Questions Results

#### Awareness of the GMRP

Q3. Have you heard of the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP)?

Base: All respondents (n= 215)

- 97% (n=208) of respondents had heard of the Giant Mine Remediation Project.
- Only 3% (n=7) of respondent had not previously heard of the Giant Mine Remediation Project.



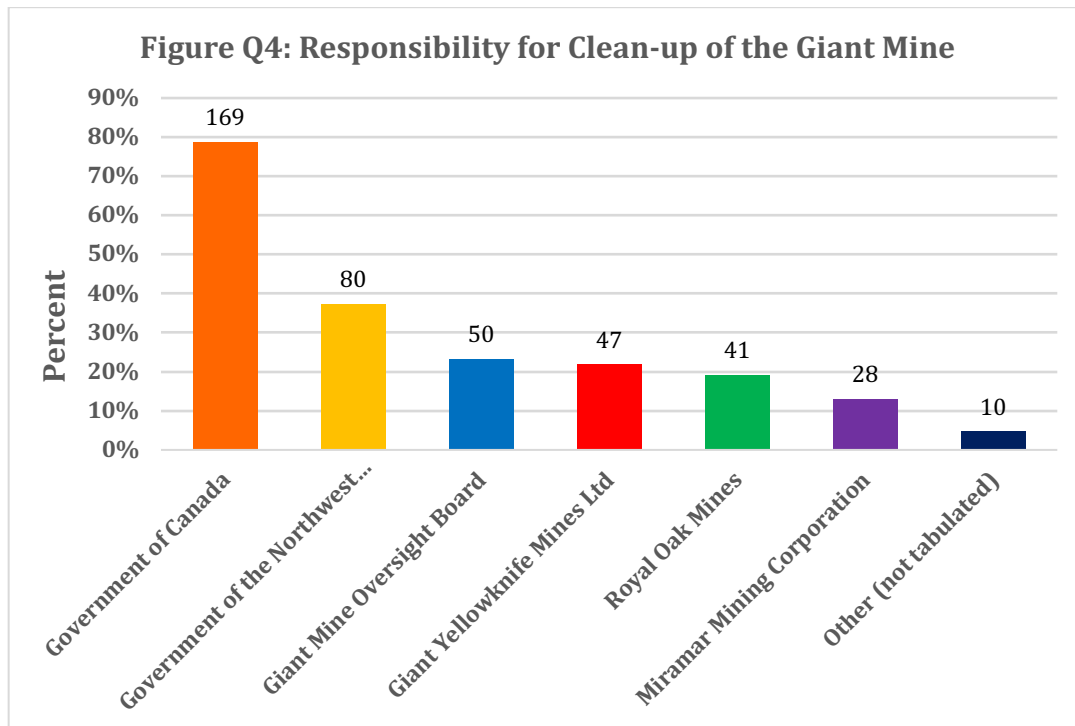
#### Responsibility for Remediation

Q4. Who do you think is responsible for the cleanup (remediation) of the Giant Mine site?

(You may select more than one answer).

Base: All respondents (n= 215). Multiple answers resulted in a total answer count of 425.

- 79% (n=169) identified the Government of Canada as being responsible for site remediation.
- 37% (n=80) identified the Government of the NWT as being responsible for site remediation.
- It is interesting to note that 23% (n=50) selected the Giant Mine Oversight Board as being responsible for site remediation.
- It is noteworthy that the three listed previous corporate owners of the Giant Mine were identified as being responsible for remediation by a relatively small number of respondents: Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd was identified by 22% (n=47), Royal Oak Mines was selected by 19% (n=41) and Miramar Mining Corporation was identified by 13% (n=28) of respondents.

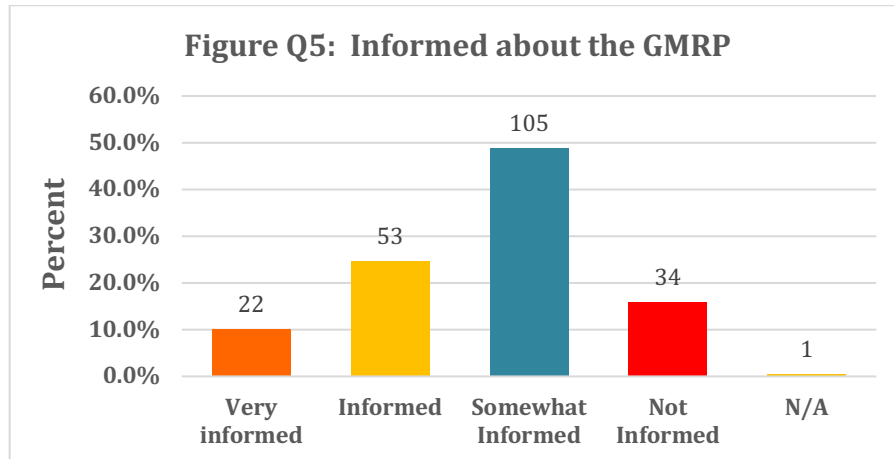


#### Extent of Knowledge about the GMRP

Q5. Remediation of Giant Mine includes the clean-up of the entire mine site, both surface and underground areas. How informed are you about the Giant Mine Remediation Project?

Base: All respondents (n= 215).

- 10% (n=22) stated they were *very* informed.
- 25% (n=53) stated they were informed.
- A further 49% (n=105) stated they were *somewhat* informed.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* informed to *somewhat* informed, comprised 84% (n=180) of all respondents.
- 16% (n=34) stated they were *not* informed.

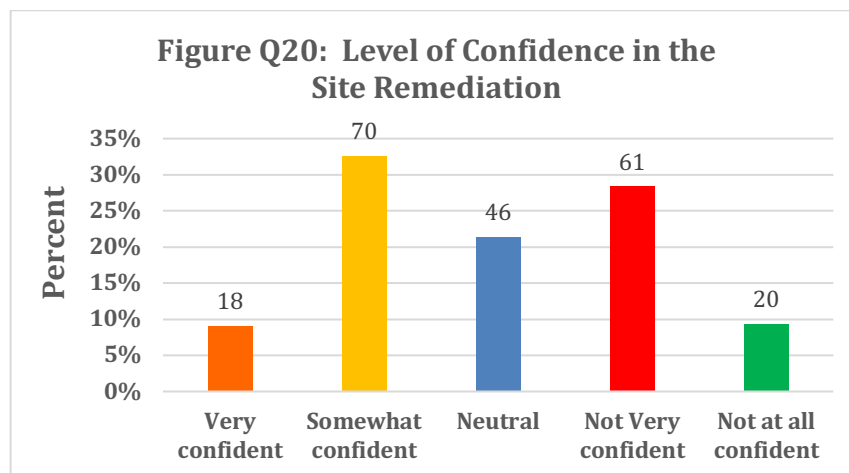


**Confidence Level in the Successful Remediation**

Q20. What is your current level of confidence in the successful cleanup of the Giant Mine site?

Base: All respondents (n= 215).

- 8% (n=18) stated that they were *very* confident in successful remediation.
- 33% (n=70) indicated they were *somewhat* confident in successful remediation.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* confident to *somewhat* confident in successful remediation comprised 41% (n=88) of all respondents.
- 21% (n=46) indicated they were neutral regarding their confidence level in successful remediation.
- 28% (n=61) indicated they were *not very* confident in successful remediation.
- An additional 9% (n=20) stated they were *not at all* confident in successful remediation.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *not very* confident to *not at all* confident in successful remediation comprised 37% (n=81) of all respondents.



### 3.3 Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB Mandate and Role

#### 3.3.1 Overall Results and Observations

##### General Observations:

- The majority (89%) had heard/were aware of the GMOB.
- Responses to first words or thoughts regarding the GMOB garnered a range of comments and perspectives both supportive and otherwise.

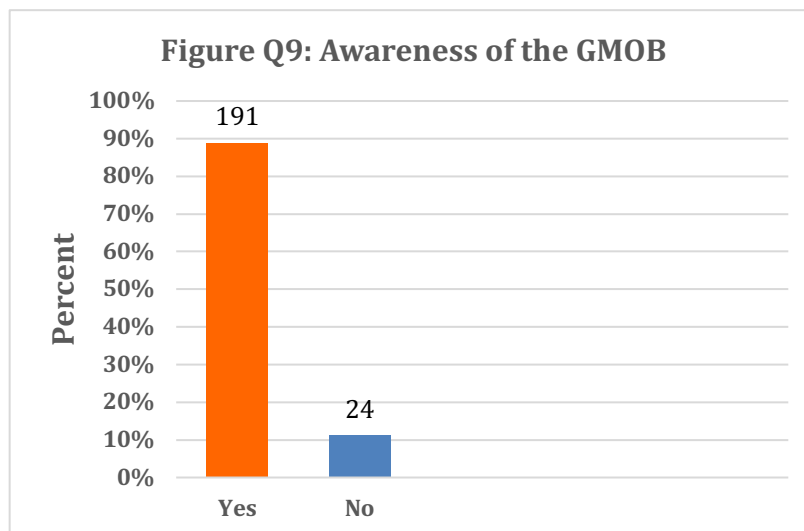
#### 3.3.2 Specific Questions Results

##### Awareness of the GMOB

Q9. Have you ever heard of the Giant Mine Oversight Board?

All respondents (n= 215).

- 89% (n=191) stated they *had heard* of the GMOB.
- 11% (n=24) stated they had *not heard* of the GMOB.



##### First Words or Thoughts Regarding the GMOB

Q10. What are the first words or thoughts that come to mind when you think about the GMOB?

All respondents (n= 215).

There were 203 comments provided, of which 12 responses were either double, empty or had no legible reply. While there were several singular points made, there were several common themes throughout

the comments regarding ‘*What are the first words or thoughts that come to mind when you think about the GMOB?*’

The following selected comments are representative of the range of responses received.

- *Environmental responsibility and compliance.*
- *Independent agency comprised of highly experienced and accredited individuals brought together to monitor and scrutinize the reclamation process and to keep the public informed of the process.*
- *Unprecedented, objective; empowered, community oversight.*
- *Non-profit/volunteer board? Not confident in its legal right to govern.*
- *... the distrust of the Federal Government is palpable; therefore, an independent review/oversite board is necessary for public trust in the project.*
- *Oversee what the government is doing with regards to the remediation and try to make sure the concerns and wishes of the people regarding the remediation are being heard.*
- *A partner and watchdog in the remediation process; local and professional expertise for permanent arsenic trioxide solution; communications with the public re the project.*
- *Arm’s length oversight of the remediation project.*
- *Well-meaning but government funded and therefore dependent.*
- *Responsible for the oversight ... bringing transparency to the public and those involved.*
- *Community engagement.*
- *Are the goals and objectives of the Board well thought out? Does the Board have adequate capacity to achieve them?*
- *Not taking fast enough action.*
- *Slow...underfunded.*
- *Redundant.*
- *A board we can trust to ensure accurate information is provided to the public consistently.*
- *Community guardian.*
- *Anti-mining messaging. Poor understanding of the mining industry. Focused on negative aspects of Giant mine and little to no consideration for the many positives.*
- *Needs improvement. Currently ineffective in communicating its responsibilities and demonstrating results for financial resources it receives and spends.*

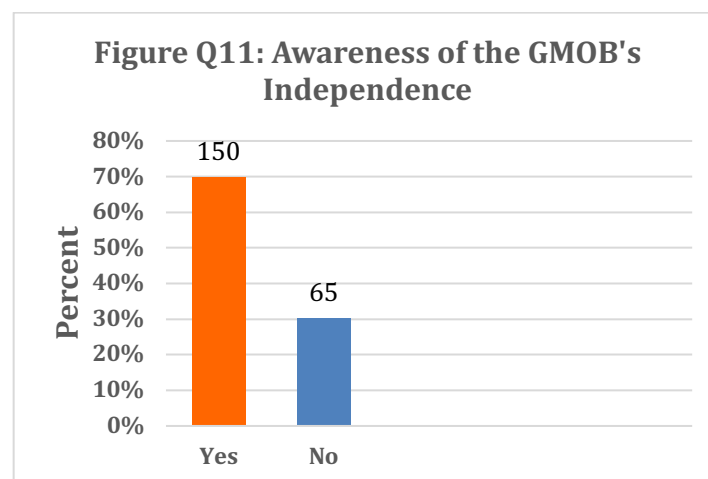
### General Observations:

- There was an emotional thread and a range of views in a significant number of comments that in many ways were reflective of the responses and comments provided in other survey questions (e.g., What does proper remediation mean? What does reconciliation mean?)
- The comments illustrate significant divergence and gaps in awareness and understanding of the mandate, degree of independence and functions of the GMOB. The question appears to have been challenging for some responders, especially for those with little knowledge/awareness of the GMOB or the GMRP.
- The comments run along a scale from where the GMOB is viewed as *'necessary and useful'* to *'redundant and not necessary'*. This appears to be influenced by one or more of the following factors: Responses to questions in Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB mandate and role; degree of trust or mistrust of 'government' (largely the Government of Canada) for not having taken action earlier to address this problem; and general community fatigue and frustration with the scale, impacts and protracted duration of the Giant Mine 'problem'.

### Knowledge of the GMOB's Independence

Q11. Did you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board operates independently from government?  
All respondents (n= 215).

- 70% (n=150) indicated that they were *aware* of the GMOB's independence from government.
- 30% (n=65) indicated that they were *not aware* of the GMOB's independence from government.



### The GMOB's Mandate

Q12. In your view, what is the mandate of the Giant Mine Oversight Board, and what are its main responsibilities?

There were 175 comments provided, of which approximately 35 responses were either double, empty, had no legible reply, or stated that they had no further comments or questions.

The following selected comments are representative of the range of responses received.

- *To ensure the safety of the community. But more generally, to educate the population.*
- *As an independent party that ensures cleanup of the mine site is accountable.*
- *To review the technical aspects of the clean-up and advocate for what's best for residents and communicate to residents whether they're supportive of what's being planned.*
- *Be a liaison for communication and audit for the project's progress.*
- *Monitor and report on the Giant Mine Remediation Project; Make recommendations on programs, research, and reports about the Project; Research a permanent solution for the arsenic trioxide stored underground at the Giant Mine site; and Communicate GMOB's activities to the Parties and the public. Maintain a publicly accessible archive records about the establishment, operation and remediation of the Giant Mine site.*
- *To oversee the rehabilitation and remediation phase of the Giant mine clean-up and to monitor and provide directive commentary on future remediation and management activities; to organize research into possible technologies and processes for neutralizing the threat of arsenic trioxide waste in the future; and, to communicate the nature and status of remediation to future generations.*
- *Monitor the project's government partners, keep the public informed, act as consultant for government re permanent arsenic trioxide solutions, ensure local economic opportunities and accountability.*
- *To ensure environmentally responsible decisions are being made to achieve the best results.*
- *Overseeing the strategy for remediation at Giant. Overseeing activities of the project management organization responsible for awarding work packages associated with conduct of work.*
- *To make sure MVLWB does their job properly.*
- *Assisting with reconciliation*
- *To ensure that the remediation of Giant Mine is conducted properly, in accordance with legislative and ethical obligations, and to identify any issues/discrepancies that may be important for the general public to know.*
- *Communicate to the public why the mine is not meeting its objective of training and hiring indigenous people. Applying pressure to the Giant Mine Remediation Team to do better with respect to building capacity of local industry through training, sole sourced contracts, and mentoring opportunities.*



- *Mandate appears to be anti-mining messaging, but I do not believe that is the actual mandate. The focus on negative aspects is damaging the actual mandates for reconciliation and acceptable level remediation.*
- *To watch how the project proceeds and ensure that the parties are following through on their mandates, although there is no way to independently track the long-term progress or effectiveness of remediation (on or off site), because no community-based measuring mechanisms have been established ... [the] most critical objective is to ensure that remediation of the Giant Mine site is carried out in a manner that is environmentally sound, socially responsible, and culturally appropriate and to take the highest possible overview of the many moving parts involved in dealing with the future of the mine site.*
- *GMOB overlooks all mining activities and abandon[ed] mine site, remediation projects.*

#### **General Observations:**

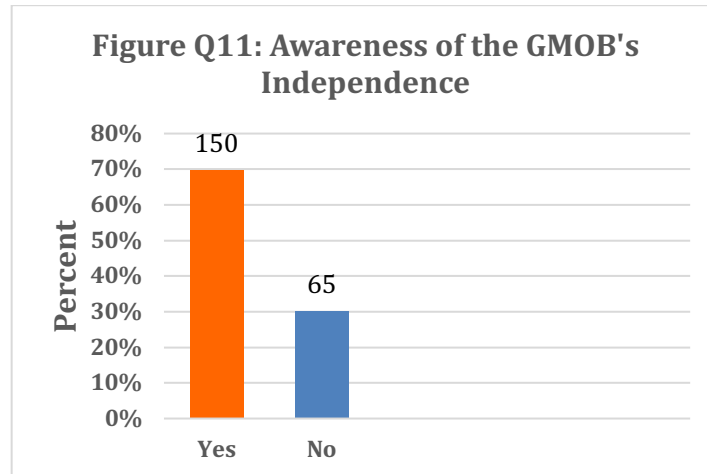
- The comments illustrate significant divergence and gaps in awareness and/or understanding of the mandate and responsibilities of the GMOB. Overall, the respondents who were able to provide their perspective regarding the mandate question, reflected to varying degrees the basic reason for the establishment of the GMOB as stated in the Board's approved *vision, mission, and mandate* statement.
- The question also appears to have been challenging for some responders, especially for those with little knowledge/awareness of the GMOB or its mandate and functions. Consequently, there were a notable number of '*I do not know*' comments regarding the GMOB mandate.

#### **Knowledge of the GMOB's Annual Report**

Q15. *Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board produces an Annual Report?*

All respondents (n= 215).

- 59% (n=127) stated they were *aware* of the GMOB's Annual Report.
- 41% (n=88) stated they were *not aware* of the GMOB's Annual Report.

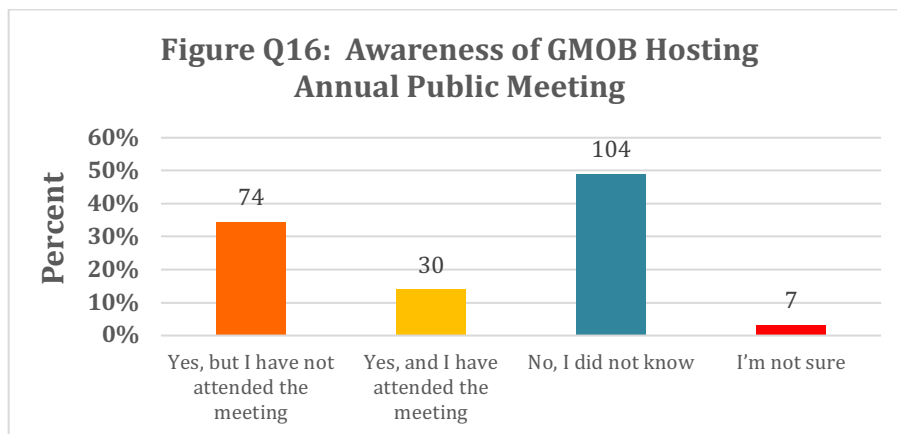


**Knowledge of the GMOB's Annual Public Meeting**

Q16. Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board hosts an Annual Public meeting each spring?

All respondents (n= 215).

- A total of 48% (n=104) were *aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting.
- 34% (n=74) stated they were *aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting but had not attended one. An additional 14% (n=30) stated that they were *aware* and *had attended* the annual meeting.
- 48% (n=104) stated they were *not aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting

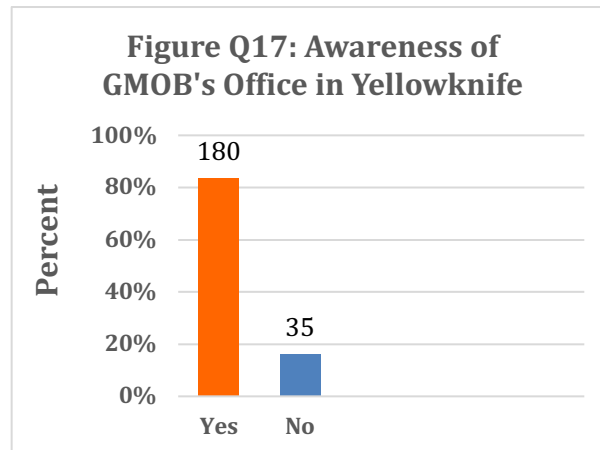


**Knowledge of the GMOB's Office in Yellowknife**

Q17. Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board has an office in Yellowknife?

All respondents (n= 215).

- 84% (n=180) stated that there *were* aware of the GMOB's office in Yellowknife.
- 16% (n=35) stated that there were *not aware* of the GMOB's office in Yellowknife.



### 3.4 Theme C: Areas of Interest in the GMRP

#### 3.4.1 Overall Results and Observations

##### General Observations:

- There was significant interest in or concern about remediation activities. Areas of particular interest, as reflected in the top five selected by between 67% and 57% of respondents were: Water treatment; Arsenic trioxide contamination; Future land use; Freezing of the arsenic chambers; and the extent of the contamination.
- There were several other comments with respect to areas of interest or concern, including: *Effects of climate change on ability to keep the site stable; The feasibility (and the current economics of gold prices) of building a modern mine at the site, which would include an autoclave to safely, and permanently, dispose of the arsenic trioxide; and the Perpetual Care Plan and future Funding.*

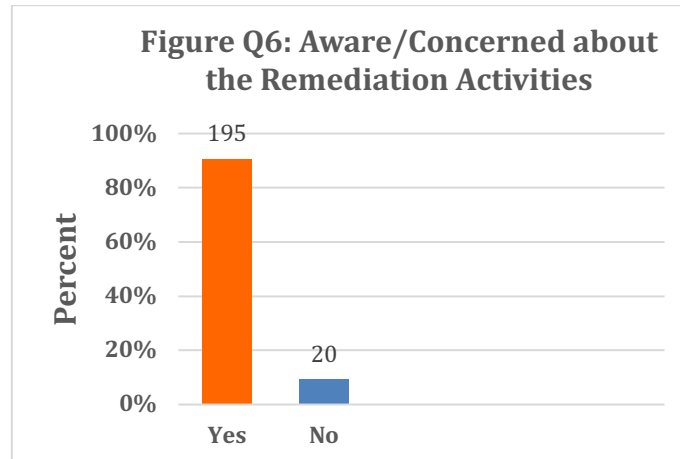
#### 3.4.2 Specific Questions Results

##### Interest in or Concern about Remediation

Q6. Are you interested in or concerned about the remediation (clean up) activities at the Giant Mine site? (You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n= 215).

- 91% (n=195) indicated they *were* interested in or concerned about the GMRP remediation activities.
- 9% (n=20) indicated they *were not* interested in or concerned about the GMRP remediation activities.



**Remediation Elements of Main Interest:**

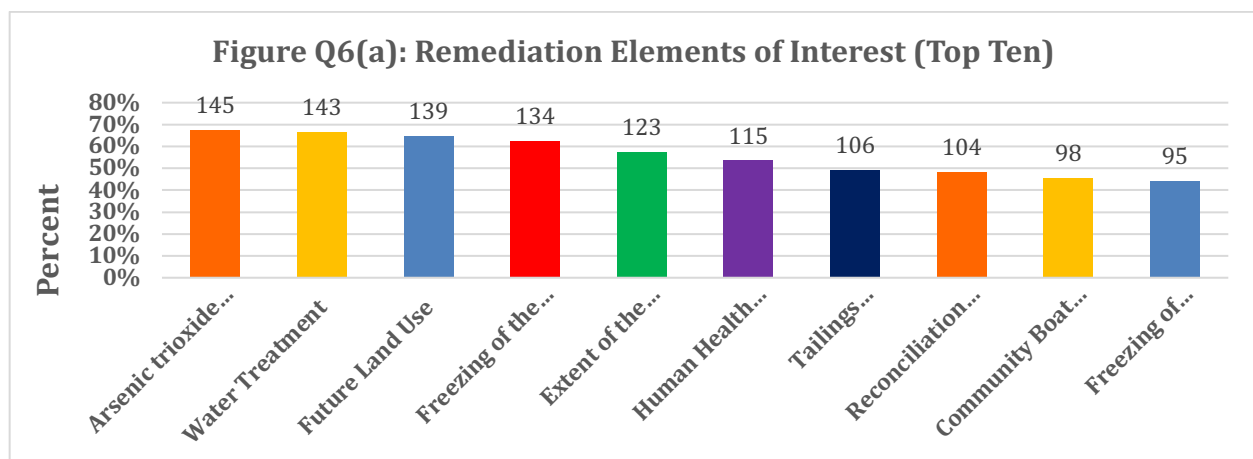
Of those who stated they *were* interested in or concerned about then GMRP remediation activities, the top ten areas of interest or concern were:

Percent	Areas of Interest
67%	Water treatment
67%	Arsenic trioxide contamination
65%	Future Land Use
62%	Freezing of the arsenic chambers
57%	Extent of the contamination
53%	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment
49%	Tailings remediation or tailings breach
48%	Reconciliation with the local Indigenous groups
46%	Community Boat launch
44%	Freezing of hazardous materials

**Other Identified Areas of Interest or Concern:**

There were several other comments with respect to areas of interest or concern, some of which were essentially variations on the top ten identified. The additional new comments, all singularly stated, included the following:

- *Effects of climate change on ability to keep the site stable.*
- *Heritage site.*
- *Consider the feasibility (and the current economics of gold prices) of building a modern mine at the site, which would include an autoclave to safely, and permanently, dispose of the arsenic trioxide. This approach would produce the best outcomes for the environment, local people, and Canadian taxpayers!*
- *Creating education resources for schools and incorporating Giant Mine 'legacy' into curriculum at various age levels.*
- *Perpetual Care Plan and Funding.*
- *Perpetual care by Yellowknives Dene First Nation.*
- *Fair and timely compensation to the YKDFN members.*
- *Compensation for sailing club members.*



### Views on Proper Remediation

Q7. *What does a proper remediation mean or look like to you?*

There were 203 comments provided, of which 12 responses were either double, empty or had no legible reply. While there were several singular topic points made, there were several common threads throughout the comments regarding *'what does a proper remediation mean or look like?'* The comments can be characterized and grouped into the following 'threads'. The threads are augmented by selected text or quotes from the submissions.

**General Observations:**

**1. Ethical Obligation and Commitment to do the Right Thing:**

There was an emotional component and a range of views in a significant number of comments with references that a *'proper'* remediation. The common element is the need for an ethical obligation and commitment to do the responsible and *right thing* from an environmental, social and cultural perspective. The remediation needs to be done through sustained meaningful engagement and collaboration with Indigenous peoples and communication with the public at large.

The YKDFN was the only group specifically referenced, about legacy impacts and compensation. There were no references in the comments regarding impacts on or compensation for the Metis (North Slave Metis Alliance), who are a party to the Environmental Agreement (2015), or any other Indigenous group.

- *Returning the environment and water to a condition that is safe for humans. Remediating the site in a way that properly incorporates, compensates, and supports the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.*
- *It means the not only fixing and making the land usable again but fixing the years of contamination to the people of yellow Ndilo and Dettah and the reconciliation with the indigenous communities listed above and any others affected by this.*
- *The scars on the land are no different than the scars on the people - they are just less obvious. The land remediation is costing approximately 1 billion dollars. How much are we spending to "remediate" the people?*

**2. Permanent Remediation Solution versus Perpetual Care:**

There is a divergent view between those who maintain that a *'permanent solution'* is ultimately needed, not a *'freeze in place'* short term option which requires perpetual care (and the associated impacts and implications), and those stating the need to eliminate or at least minimize any residual environmental and health risks. The latter group, represented the most comments submitted, expressed degrees of recognition and acknowledgment of the existing scientific, technical, and traditional Indigenous knowledge and capability limits, as well as existing environmental restoration feasibility constraints (e.g., ecological, hydrological) to return the site to a pre-mining state and, cost- benefit considerations on which the approved remediation plan is premised.

There is a clear message to ensure that mandated authorities and governments do not avoid the responsibilities and obligations regarding the research for a permanent solution – one based on science.

- *A permanent and complete solution to the problem of the stored arsenic trioxide. This means further scientific study to determine how it can be safely dealt with.*
- *Responsible, cost effective, appropriate, and timely implementation of the remediation plan consistent with value for money principle. Do not continue to look a magic solution where one does not exist - it is a management alternative.*
- *Proper remediation must consider all options. When seeking ideas and solutions, include industry experts - mining experts! Consider all benefits, environmental and social. Base decisions on science and social benefit not on politics and squeaky wheels!*
- *Surface soil, water, and sediment cleaned to appropriate guidelines; sites where this isn't viable for engineering/ecological reasons are clearly demarcated. Underground contaminant storage is secure and will not be vulnerable to long term landscape changes in drainage patterns. Rights holders, stakeholders, residents approve of process and results.*

### **3. Scope and Limitations of Remediation and Site Re-Purposing:**

There are divergent views between those who want to see the site restored to the extent possible and re-purposed for beneficial community use through Northern and Indigenous business economic opportunities and use, tourism and education, enable a return to traditional Indigenous harvesting, and recreation opportunities through remediation that extends beyond the current industrial standards, and those that represented the largest number of comments who acknowledged and stated that there are inherent limitations to which the site can be remediated and re-purposed given environmental and human health risks considerations.

- *All risks to the environment and human health are managed. Threats are properly monitored and mitigated to the extent that available technology allows, and work continues to determine how to further reduce the remaining threats to the environment (including people). A long-term plan is developed and regularly reviewed and revised as necessary to guide the work that is underway, planned for the near future, and anticipated to be required over time.*
- *A balance between environmental benefits and project budget and time expended to achieve goals.*
- *Perpetual containment and care of contaminants, on surface and underground; remediation of surface to the highest possible future use (e.g., residential use of town site, recreational use of boat launch; surface use of tailings areas; rehabilitation of pit areas; continuing monitoring of health impacts.*

**4. Government Transparency, Accountability, and Effective Responsibility:**

This thread was evident as an overarching component in a number of comments that encompassed the preceding threads. However, given the emphasis by responders it has been listed separately to ensure that the intent of the largely shared messaging is reflected and respected.

The messaging included a focus on the obligations to follow through on commitment and obligations by mandated authorities (e.g., regulators) and government with respect to fulfilling the requirements of the Environmental Agreement, approved Remediation Plan, monitoring, reporting and ongoing search on emerging potential options for a permanent solution to manage the arsenic trioxide in the underground chambers on site through the GMOB funded research program. Additionally, take steps to maximize local socio-economic benefits resulting from the remediation and on-going monitoring work through appropriate procurement and contracting practices.

- *Completed on schedule and budget to ensure proper use of taxpayers' money. Leaving a site that does not require active management forever. A project that provides benefits for the local community.*
- *A return of the land to pre mined state as much as possible; safe, effective and long-lasting management of the arsenic trioxide underground; accountability of the responsible parties; strong legislation that prevents this sort of situation happening again.*
- *Safe, effective, and long-lasting management of the arsenic trioxide underground; accountability of the responsible parties; strong legislation that prevents this sort of situation happening again.*
- *Government taking effectual responsibility today and in the future. ...Be honest with the public and base conclusions on science. Spend the money required [and] do not take short cuts.*
- *Remediation should involve transparency and timely updates to the public.*

**Views on Reconciliation**

Q8. *What does reconciliation mean to you, with regard to the Giant Mine Remediation?*

There was a total of 203, of which 15 responses were either double, empty or had no legible reply.

**General observations:**

- The term 'reconciliation' was generally interpreted as reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the Yellowknife area, where the environment is just one component. This question was interpreted quite broadly by many respondents.
- The comments reflect a range of emotional perspective, largely understanding, respectful and focused on how to move forward.



- There was a distinction made in several comments between the notion of ‘reparations’ for harms, of which ‘monetary compensation’ is just one of the components.

The following selected comments are representative of the range of responses received.

- *Reconciliation is an important staple that our society has to embrace for us all to move forward.*
- *Accepting what has happened and moving forward*
- *Making things right with the indigenous people in the surrounding area*
- *Including the Yellowknives Dene First Nation as an active partner in cleanup efforts, valuing traditional knowledge, acknowledging historical and ongoing impacts, providing compensation, jobs and training.*
- *That there is acknowledgement, apology, and compensation for past wrongs. That the Yellowknives Dene are provided an opportunity to contribute to the reclamation and future planning of the site.*
- *A process that follows free prior and informed consent [FPIC] and First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession [OCAP].*
- *OCAP principles. A process developed and implemented with YKDFN and TG. A formal apology.*
- *[Reconciliation means] ... Very little. Giant Mine is [the] history of the north. It was a mistake and should be seen as so. Mining in Canada today is the most ethically and environmentally responsible in the world. This should be showcased given many people are confused to what mining really means in today’s world.*
- *Reconciliation should be considered in all government actions. If the remediation project can economically improve reconciliation, then it should be considered.*
- *The truth begins... [with the] history to be presented as the backdrop to how this situation came to be. In order to reconcile one must bring all things out in the open and have the parties agree to the issues /wrongs of the past and then present the path forward with all the parties having the same intentions. Mutual understanding is fundamental to achieving genuine reconciliation - in this project - full transparency is critical.*
- *Socio-economic impacts on Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples whose culture and livelihoods have been affected by project operations (from early exploration through mine operations and remediation) are addressed in ways that are meaningful to them. This includes ongoing involvement in the remediation process by organizations representing their interests (including public and Indigenous governments).*
- *Many years of social and economic benefits were had by many at Giant Mine but with little to no benefit to local indigenous peoples. The remediation project now has an opportunity to make amends for those wrong doings and to provide reparations to Indigenous peoples through long term benefits.*

## 3.5 Theme D: Sources of Information and Communication

### 3.5.1 Overall Results and Observations

#### General Observations:

- There is a stated preference for digital options to access information and also for receiving communications from or about the GMOB.
- The most utilized options for accessing information were the GMOB website, media reports, radio and word of mouth.
- Additional sources identified included: Podcasts, web searches, local environmental organizations' reports, and GMOB videos.

### 3.5.2 Specific Questions Results

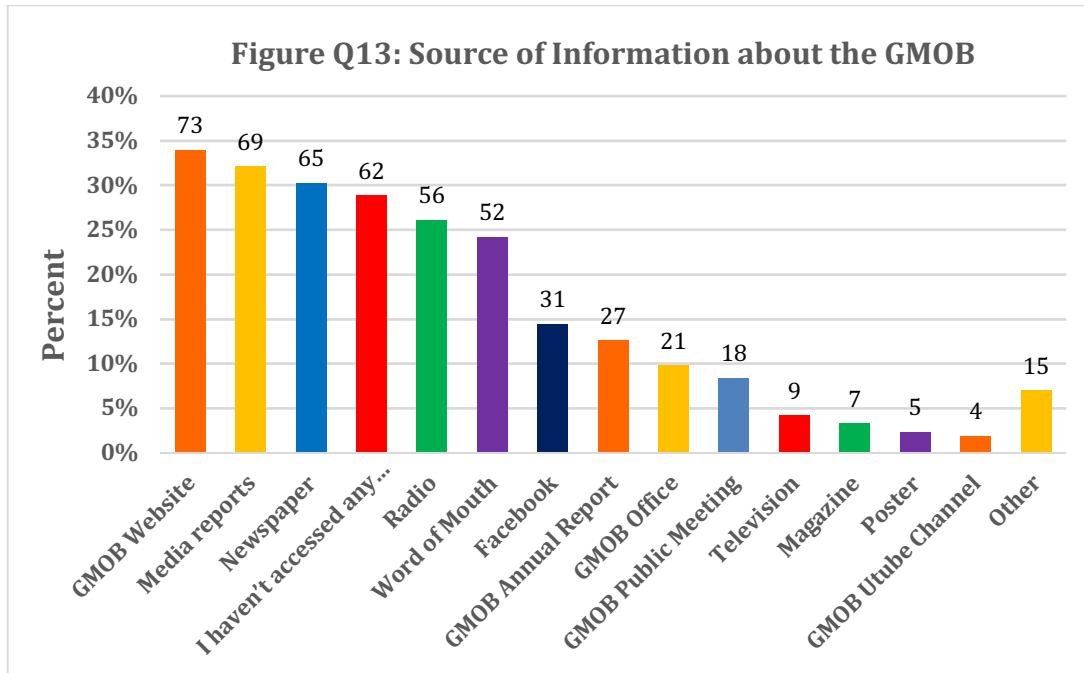
#### Accessing Information About the GMOB

*Q13. How do you access information about the Giant Mine Oversight Board?*

(You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n= 215).

- The largest number of responders 34% (n=73) indicated they had accessed information via the GMOB website.
- Media reports and newspaper were the next two largest sources, 32% (n=69) and 30% (n=65), respectively.
- Radio and word of mouth were identified as important sources of information, 26% (n=56) and 24% (n=52), respectively.
- The GMOB's Facebook (14%, n=31), GMOB Annual Report (13%, n=27), GMOB Office (10%, n=21), and, the annual public meeting (8%, n=18), were other notable sources of information.
- 29% (n=62) of respondents had not accessed information about the GMOB.



The responses also identified 'other' sources of information about the Giant Mine Oversight Board?  
The sources identified were:

- Podcasts (e.g., *Canada true crime*; *Commons by Canadaland*)
- Web searches (e.g., Google)
- Environmental organizations' reports, such as Alternatives North.
- GMOB information videos for viewing.
- Past and current workers at Giant mine Remediation Project
- YKDFN Environment Department.

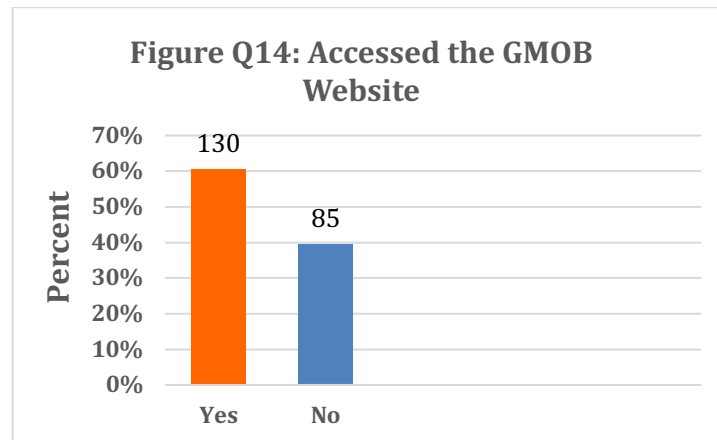
### Accessing the GMOB Website

Q14. Have you visited the Giant Mine Oversight Board website? If yes, what information on the website is of interest to you?

(You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n= 215).

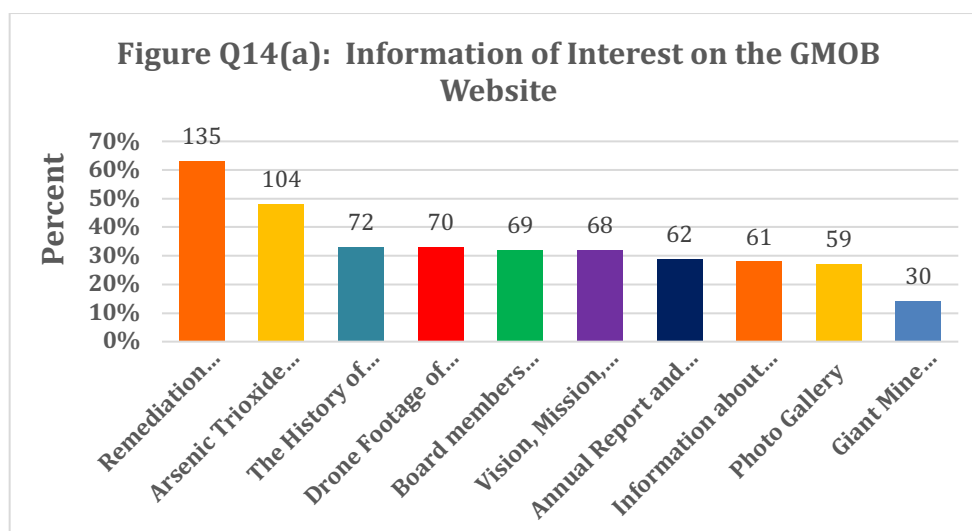
- 60% (n=130) indicated they *had* visited the GMOB website. This is somewhat inconsistent with the results from Q13 regarding sources of information where 34% (n=73) indicated they had accessed information via the GMOB website.
- 40% (n=85) indicated they *had not* visited the GMOB website.



**GMOB Website Information of Interest:**

The second part of the question asked respondents to list the types of information on the website they were interested in. The table below identifies the top ten areas of website information of interest.

- The two most noted areas of interest were ‘remediation updates’; (63%, n=135) and ‘arsenic trioxide research program’ (48%, n=104).
- The areas of interest are presented in the figure and listed as the top ten areas of interest in the table below. It is noteworthy that there was no specific reference to interest in ‘economic’ indicators. Perhaps the reference to interest in social indicators was intended to include the economic aspect.
- The ‘other’ response option received several comments. Some of the comments were largely restatements of the previous coded response options regarding areas of interest. There were some new singular comments, that included: Compensation payment to all YKDFN members, treatment of the first people of *Chief Drygeese Territory*, reconciliation, social indicators, and the boat Launch (status and plans for).



Top Ten Information Areas of Interest	Responses (n=)	Percent
Remediation Updates	135	63%
Arsenic Trioxide Research Program	104	48%
The History of Giant Mine	72	33%
Drone Footage of Giant Mine	70	33%
Board members and/or staff	69	32%
Vision, Mission, Mandate	68	32%
Annual Report and GMOB recommendations	62	29%
Information about the Giant Mine Remediation Team	61	28%
Photo Gallery	59	27%
Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Agreement	30	14%

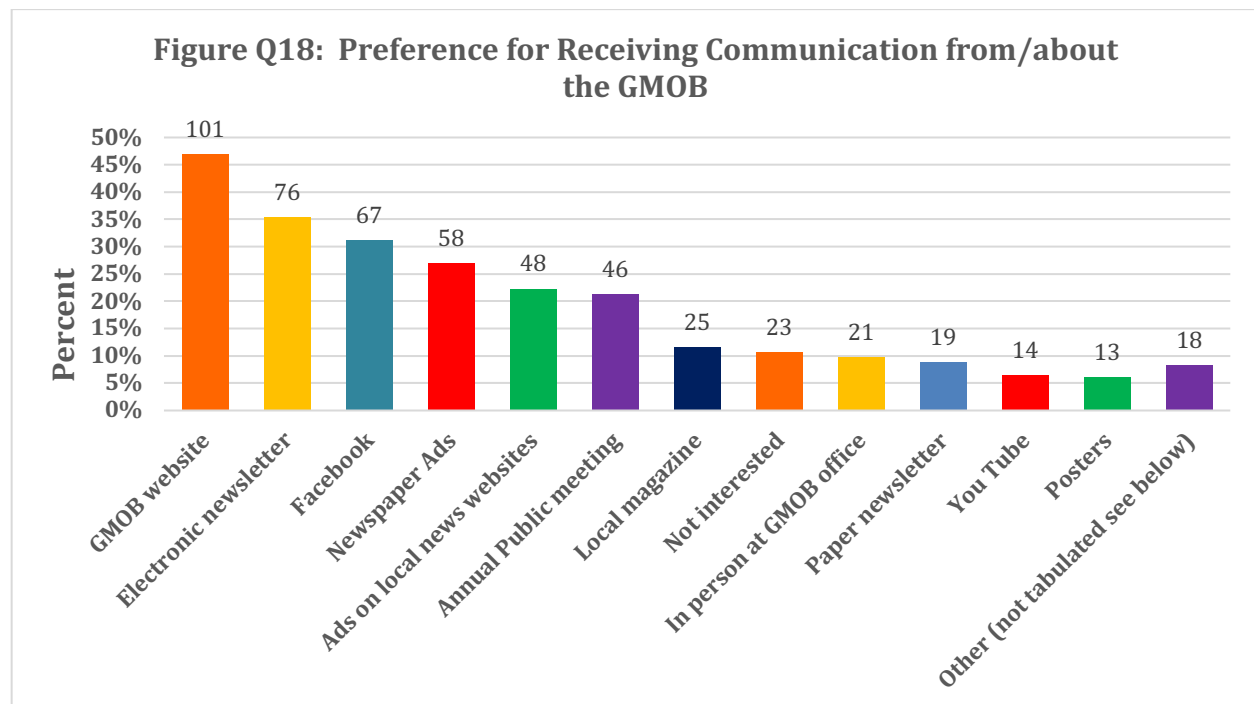
**Preference for Receiving Information from or about the GMOB**

Q18. Please indicate how you would prefer to receive communication from or about GMOB.

(You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n= 215).

- There is a stated preference for digital access options for receiving communications from or about the GMOB.

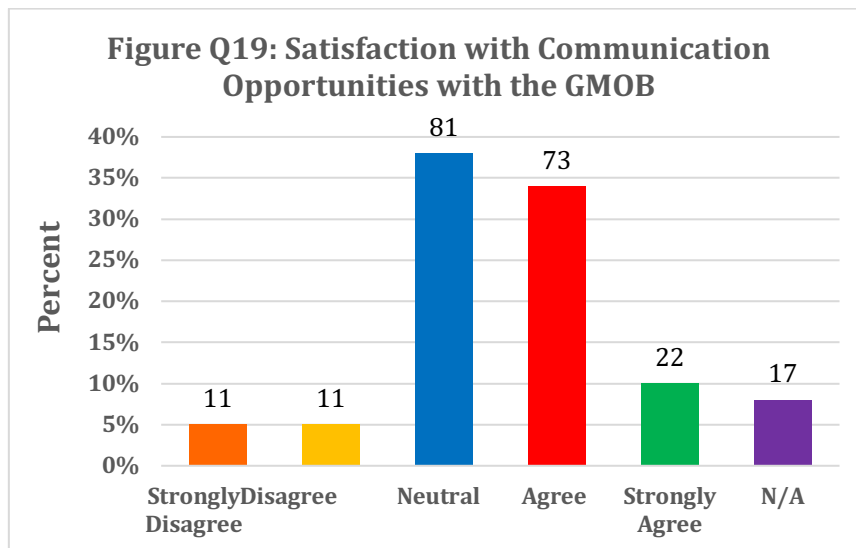


### Level of Satisfaction with Opportunities for Communicating with the GMOB

Q19. Please indicate to what degree you agree with the following: I am satisfied with the opportunities I have to provide feedback and ask questions to the GMOB.

All respondents (n= 215).

- 44% (n=95) indicated they *agree* or *strongly agree* that they are satisfied with the communication opportunities with the GMOB.
- 10% (n=22) indicated they *strongly disagree* or *disagree* with the communication opportunities.
- 38% (n=81) stated they were *neutral* in their assessment.

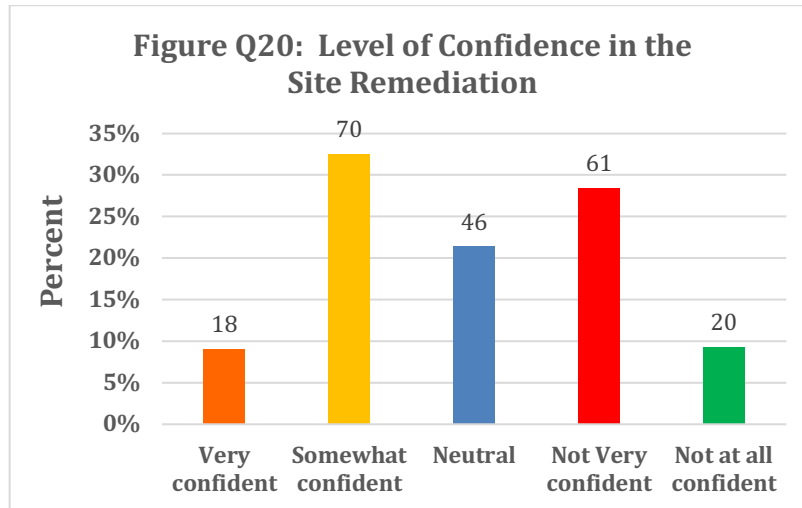


### Confidence Level of Successful Remediation

Q20. What is your current level of confidence in the successful cleanup of the Giant Mine site?

All respondents (n= 215).

- Only 8% (n=18) indicated they *‘very confident’*. An additional 33% (n=70) indicated they were *‘somewhat confident’* in a successful remediation of the Giant Mine site.
- A total of 28% (n=61) of respondents indicated they *‘not very confident’*. An additional 9% (n=20) indicated they were *‘not at all confident’* in a successful remediation of the Giant Mine site.



Confidence Level	Responses (n=)	Percent
Very confident	18	8%
Somewhat confident	70	33%
Neutral	46	21%
Not Very confident	61	28%
Not at all confident	20	9%
Total	215	100%

**Additional Comments**

Q21. Do you have any additional comments on the remediation process or progress at the Giant Minesite?

There were 166 comments provided, of which over 30 responses that were either double, empty or had no legible reply, or a 'no further comments' comment.

**General observations:**

- There was an emotional thread and a range of views in a significant number of comments that in many ways were reflective of the responses and comments provided earlier to selected survey questions (e.g., What does proper remediation mean? What does reconciliation mean? First words or thoughts regarding the GMOB).
- The comments are evocative of public opinion on other important issues and are often characterized in oversimplified ways as binary opinion - supportive or not supportive.
- While there was a wide array of comments – ranging from large issues to very specific ones, including several singular points, there were several themes that are evident in the comments:

- GMOB’s relevance and the need to reposition for more focus on the community.
- Strengthening communication and outreach by the GMOB.
- GMRP public transparency and accountability.
- Permanent solution versus perpetual care of the site.
- Continuing environmental concerns (particularly water and air quality).
- Potential collateral environmental impacts resulting from the remediation.
- Maximizing local benefits and opportunities.
- Impacts on local organizations.

Given the expressed importance of comments, the following is a more extensive cross-section of comments submitted.

- *The process has become top heavy, and this survey is a good indication that the project is perhaps needing to reorient how it engages with the community at large. I don't think what a Board does or doesn't do is of particular interest to the public, not that the work doesn't need to take place, but the main focus of the project should be providing information about what is physically happening at the site not how many board meetings have been held, how many documents are on file etc. I understand there is an approach taken to environmental remediation, but it is a process for experts, not residents and that should be redressed.*
- *Not sure that the GMOB office is necessary or warranted anymore.*
- *For the size of the office, one Exec D as the only staff, and the many actions of the Board members very active Board members] it is very incredible that the 'work' associated with GMOB (input) has been so extensive. YKers and Dene have all felt the impact of the independent, consistent and critical work the Board has completed and has plans for the future.... this Board is like no other, in how it has taken on tasks, and followed through, to ensure the parties and everyone else involved are actually in their right positions and on track for actual remediation work.*



- *The old legacy of Giant Mine is that of one that benefited many generations of miners and contributed greatly to the economy, growth, and success of our great capital city Yellowknife. However, it has also left an enormous geological and ecological scar on the face of this earth and did so with complete disregard for indigenous peoples and their reliance on these lands. Unfortunately, this is the more likely legacy that Giant Mine will be remembered for, along with the death on nine men during a strike in 1992. This project has a great opportunity to create a new legacy for Giant Mine, one about reconciliation, one about righting the wrongs, one about collaboration and teamwork, and one that can show that even one of the most hideous and dangerous contaminated sites on earth can be restored to a beautiful and safe place for all to enjoy for many generations to come. I truly hope this is the legacy we can look forward to.*
- *[GMOB to] Try and raise awareness in other parts of Canada. This issue could be an example on land remediation and reconciliation with local first nations if executed properly.*
- *[Provide] additional communications, so that the public can be more informed about the outcomes of work and research involved in the remediation process.*
- *The progress at the site seems reasonable and timely, however the overarching issue of a permanent solution for the contaminant still seems daunting. Environmental concerns continue.*
- *[Provide] an update on the recent issue of gravel needed and its production along the Vee Lake Road. I believe strongly in local economic development am concerned that too many economic opportunities have gone to out of province businesses.*
- *[Provide] more public access to the site before it is gone, assuming it is safe to do so. The Giant site operates in its own bubble from Yellowknife, and I think a lot of misunderstanding around what is going on there comes from the fact so many people only know of the remediation as something that's going on beyond a fence.*
- *I believe people need to have more patience with the process. There will be no quick fix. The Oversight Board should be defunded.*
- *Very concerned about water quality, air quality and the continuous dangers we r exposed to along with our kids and grandkids*
- *I am hoping that more information and transparency comes from the results of the survey.*
- *[Provide] a 1 year to 5-year timeline on Cabin radio and Facebook to inform Yellowknife what is going on.*
- *It is not a cleanup project. It is a temporary stop-gap project until they figure out how to clean it up. It should not be called a clean-up project until the end goal is to achieve a clean site. This is not properly explained to the public. This is not the end rather it's just the start of in-perpetuity management until a real solution is identified.*

- *The current 100-year plan is a stabilization plan and not remediation. Very little appears to be in progress to come up with technology/processes to actually remediate the site.*
- *My lack of confidence in the successful clean-up of Giant Mine relates to the fact that the site will always be contaminated even once remediation is complete. What will the impact of the site be on the environment in 1000 years? 10 000 years.*
- *I am concerned about the effectiveness of freezing the arsenic in underground chambers due to climate change and the very long-term funding needed to do this work.*
- *My lack of confidence in the successful clean-up of Giant Mine relates to the fact that the site will always be contaminated even once remediation is complete. What will the impact of the site be on the environment in 1000 years? 10 000 years?*
- *I am dismayed that there is a possibility that another landscape may be sacrificed to fill in open pits at Giant (i.e., the proposal to quarry and transfer fill from the Ranney Hill area)*
- *Stop focusing on the negative and provide some positive information and stories about mining in Yellowknife!*
- *I feel that the levels of arsenic from the land surrounding the giant mine were not properly analyzed and that sufficient information was not shared with the public about its levels found in country foods and wild plants and mushrooms. The reports do not differentiate between the two types of arsenic (organic and inorganic). This alone is very concerning to me as I am an avid forager of country foods and wild foods. This information should have been collected and testing done in the correct way and the lab results should be 100% publicly available and not hidden in a report or paper. Also, other groups have conducted this type of testing in the area and I feel that collaboration should be done so that the public has access to the results and nit a user-friendly version of the results.*
- *Glad this outreach is occurring.*

- *At present, the lack of information on presence of inorganic arsenic is of concern. It is strongly recommended that items submitted for analyses for the purpose of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment be reanalyzed for Arsenic species, to determine the levels of Inorganic Arsenic contained therein. Of particular interest are plants, fungi, mammals and fish that one might harvest, consume or sell for consumption, in the immediate vicinity of the Giant Mine. Should the Remediation Project lack sufficient funds to re-analyze all items, it is recommended that in consultation with impacted stakeholders, selected items that are regularly harvested (e.g., medicinal plants, berries, fungi, fish) be re-analyzed. If samples were destroyed, re-sampling is recommended.*
- *I'm dismayed that public money is paying for a corporate disaster. I don't think it's possible to remediate the site given the amount of toxic materials and complexity of the situation. We may be able to mitigate future disaster with continuous monitoring, but it will remain a boondoggle that sucks public funds and threatens the integrity of life in the area. It should be used as a harbinger of corporate malfeasance so as to educate the world how mining should never be done.*
- *Very interested but don't know how to get involved.*
- *More clarity is required on the timelines for remediation as it impacts local organizations that use the GSSC dock and the public access dock.*

## **4.0 COMMUNITY SURVEY PHASE 2: APPROACH**

The GMOB Community Survey will run until December 31, 2022. The survey will be conducted in three phases. The results for each phase will be analyzed and reported. At the end of the third phase the results from the full year will be analyzed, summarized, and made publicly available.

- Phase 1 from the launch of the survey, February 18, 2022, until April 15, 2022.
- Phase 2 from the survey launch from April 16, 2022, through to September 30, 2022.
- Phase 3 will be the final phase and will be conducted between October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

This has been done to ensure that the public has had ample opportunity throughout the entire year to respond to the survey. It also will give the Board valuable information about the public interest, trends, and response times for future applications.

## **APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY SURVEY QUESTIONS**

## Community Survey

The Giant Mine Oversight Board has launched this community survey to learn more about the public's understanding of the Giant Mine Oversight Board, its communications and outreach activities, and general knowledge about the remediation project at the Giant Mine site.

The survey is geared toward residents who live in and around the Giant Mine site area. Survey results will be kept anonymous (unless respondents indicate otherwise) and will be used to guide public engagement and communications as well as provide baseline data to assist in future evaluation and outreach efforts.

### 1. Which community do you live in?

- Dettah
- Ndilo
- Yellowknife
- Other (please identify)

### 2. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 24-32
- 33-40
- 40 – 50
- 50 - 60
- 60 and older

### 3. Have you heard of the Giant Mine Remediation Project?

- Yes
- No

### 4. Who do you think is responsible for the cleanup (remediation) of the Giant Mine site? You may select more than one answer.

- Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd
- Miramar Mining Corporation
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Royal Oak Mines
- Government of Canada
- Giant Mine Oversight Board
- Other (please identify)

**5. Remediation of Giant Mine includes the clean-up of the entire mine site, both surface and underground areas. How informed are you about the Giant Mine Remediation Project?**

- Very informed
- Informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not informed
- Not applicable

**6. Are you interested in or concerned about the remediation (clean up) activities at the Giant Mine site?**

Yes/No

If yes – select the remediation elements you are interested in.

You may select more than one answer.

- Budget
- Schedule
- Freezing of the arsenic chambers
- Freezing of hazardous materials
- Arsenic trioxide contamination
- Air quality control
- Underground engineering
- Remediation of Baker Creek
- Water treatment
- Community Boat launch
- Traffic management
- Dust control
- Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment
- Future Land Use
- Extent of the contamination
- Tailings remediation or tailings breach
- Open pit remediation
- Town site demolition
- Economic benefits
- Social benefits/impacts
- Contracting opportunities
- Soil remediation
- Health Effects Monitoring program
- Communications/information
- Reconciliation with the local Indigenous groups
- Other (please identify)

**7. What does a proper remediation mean or look like to you?**

Comment box

**8. What does reconciliation mean to you, with regard to the Giant Mine Remediation?**

Comment box

**9. Have you ever heard of the Giant Mine Oversight Board? (Also referred to as GMOB)?**

Yes/No

**10. What are the first words or thoughts that come to mind when you think about the Giant Mine Oversight Board?**

Comment box

**11. Did you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board operates independently from government?**

Yes/No

**12. In your view, what is the mandate of the Giant Mine Oversight Board, and what are its main responsibilities?**

Comment box

**13. How do you access information about the Giant Mine Oversight Board?**

You may select more than one answer.

- GMOB website ([www.gmob.ca](http://www.gmob.ca))
- Facebook
- Radio
- Word of Mouth
- Newspaper
- Magazine
- Television
- Poster
- GMOB YouTube channel
- GMOB Annual Report
- GMOB public meeting
- GMOB office
- Media reports
- Other (please identify)
- I haven't accessed any information about GMOB



**14. Have you visited the Giant Mine Oversight Board website ([www.gmob.ca](http://www.gmob.ca))?**

**Yes**

**No**

If Yes

**What information on the website is of interest to you?**

**If no – Direct to next question**

You may select more than one option.

- Board members and/or staff
- Vision, Mission, Mandate
- Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Agreement
- Signatories to the Agreement
- Remediation Updates
- The History of Giant Mine
- Drone Footage of Giant Mine
- Information about Giant Mine Remediation Project Team
- Arsenic Trioxide Research Program
- Annual Report and GMOB recommendations
- Correspondence
- Regulatory Documents
- GMOB Meeting Minutes
- GMOB Financial Statements
- Digital Document Library
- Photo Gallery
- Event Calendar
- Other (please identify)

**15. Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board produces an Annual Report?**

Yes/No

**16. Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board hosts an Annual Public meeting each spring?**

- Yes, and I have attended a meeting
- Yes, but I have not attended a meeting
- No, I did not know
- I'm not sure
- Other (please identify)

**17. Do you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board has an office in Yellowknife?**

Yes/No

**18. Please indicate how you would prefer to receive communication from or about GMOB. You may select more than one answer:**

- GMOB website
- Electronic newsletter
- Paper newsletter
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Newspaper ads
- Local magazines
- Posters
- Ads on local news websites
- In person at GMOB office
- Annual Public meeting
- Other (please identify)
- Not interested

**19. Please indicate to what degree you agree with the following: I am satisfied with the opportunities I have to provide feedback and ask questions to the Giant Mine Oversight Board.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Not applicable

**20. What is your current level of confidence in the successful cleanup of the Giant Mine site?**

- Very confident
- Somewhat Confident
- Neutral
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

**21. Do you have any additional comments on the remediation process or progress at the Giant Mine site?**

(Comment box)

**Thank you for participating in the survey.**

**Contact Information**

If you would like to receive updates from the Giant Mine Oversight Board, please enter your contact information.

Name:

Community:

Phone Number:

E-mail address: