



Giant Mine Oversight Board

GMOB Community Survey - 2022: Final Results Report

March 2023

Gaea Consulting Ltd.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Report

The Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) *Community Survey – 2022: Final Results Report* presents the results from 396 surveys completed between February 18, 2022 and December 31, 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 the GMOB's approach to future communication and public outreach initiatives.

1.2 Structure of the Report

The *GMOB Community Survey – 2022 Final Results 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 |
|--------------------|---|
| Section 1.0 | Section 1 contains the report purpose and structure. |
| Section 2.0 | Section 2 summarizes the GMOB Community Survey purpose, methodology and limitations. |
| Section 3.0 | <p>Section 3 presents the final survey results. This includes discussion of the reporting structure and themes developed to provide a framework for the individual survey questions. There are four themes presented, and contain the applicable survey questions associated with each theme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme A: Awareness of the GMRP and Responsibilities • Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB Mandate and Role • Theme C: Areas of Interest in the GMRP • Theme D: Sources of Information and Communication <p>Each theme is introduced by way of key observations and subsequently discussed in more detail in terms of the overall results and observations, supported by the results from the corresponding specific questions, including selected open-ended comments in text and graphic format.</p> |
| APPENDICES | |
| Appendix 1 | Community Survey Questions |

2.0 GMOB COMMUNITY SURVEY - 2022

2.1 Survey Purpose

The purpose of the GMOB Community Survey - 2022 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, will inform the GMOB's approach to future communication and public outreach initiatives.

The GMOB anticipates that the survey results will also be beneficial to the GMRP Project Team and the participating organizations and interest groups as it continues its multi-faceted work.

2.2 Survey Approach and Methodology

The GMOB's decision to conduct the GMOB Community Survey - 2022 on-line had the intent and the advantage of giving 'anyone in the community' who was 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 respondents. 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.

It must be noted that a small number of supplementary in-person survey interviews (23) were conducted for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) members. This was done to address representation gaps in Phase 1 of the survey.

The GMOB Community Survey was conducted between February 18, 2022 and December 31, 2022. The survey was conducted in two phases. At the end of Phase 2, the results from the full year were 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 December 31, 2022.

This was done to ensure that the public had ample opportunity to respond to the survey.

The survey consisted of 21 questions, which are provided in Appendix 1. Some of the questions include set response categories while other questions include both set response categories and open-ended response opportunities.

Graphic Presentation of Open-Ended Comments

In support of the report's analysis of text and/or bar charts of open-ended comments for selected questions in the survey, the analysis are supplemented by the use of a method referred to as a '*word cloud*', which is a visual representation of the number of times a given word (or string of words in the case of this survey) is reflected in the responses submitted. More specifically, a word cloud is "an image

composed of words used in a particular text or subject, in which the size of each word indicates its frequency or importance.”

In identifying the ‘words’ used in the open comments sections of selected survey questions, the actual words submitted by respondents are used.

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 the + total may not add up to 100%.

Community Survey Phase 1: The survey was announced and advertised through the following methods: 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 releases garnered interviews from *L’Aquila* 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.

Community Survey Phase 2: Based on the outcomes from Phase 1, GMOB undertook the following activities for Phase 2 of the GMOB Community Survey: 2022. The interim results of the survey were compiled and reported in a GMOB Community Survey Phase 1 Results Report and a *GMOB Community Survey Phase 1 Results* presentation prepared by Gaea Consulting and presented at the GMOB Annual Public Meeting on May 26, 2022. These were posted at that time to the GMOB website for public access. The Meta ad campaign for a targeted regional Facebook campaign was carried forward until December 31, 2022. The community advertising campaign linking web banners on Cabin Radio and the Community Television Station continued until the end date. As well, a door-to-door outreach campaign was carried out in Ndilo and Dettah to add their community’s input into the overall survey results.

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 respondents.

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 – 2022: Final Results Report* 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 are presented below.

3.1.1 Specific Questions Results

Community of Residence

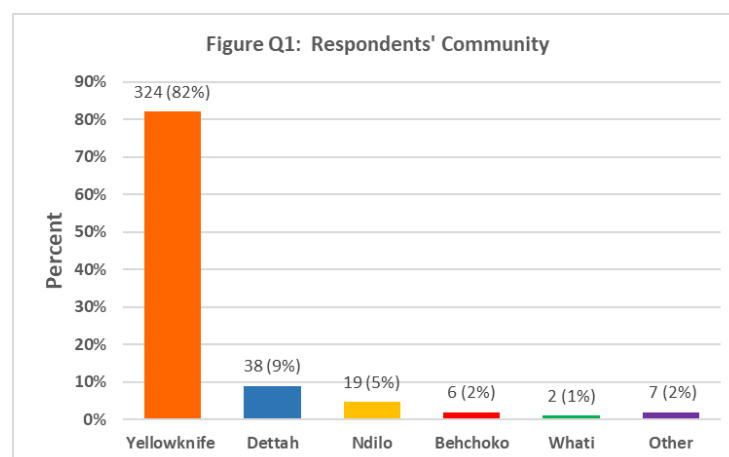
Q1. Which community do you live in?

Base: (n= 396, this is the total number of respondents to the question)

- Yellowknife was the largest community of residence for 82% (n=324) of respondents.
- Dettah and Ndilo represented 9% (n=38) and 5% (n=19) of respondents, respectively.
- Behchoko comprised 2% (n=6) of respondents.
- Whati contributed 1% (n=2) of respondents.
- The remainder were grouped into 'other', representing some 2% (n=7).

Observations:

- During Phase 1 of the survey, there were a low number of respondents from Ndilo and Dettah. This was a concern given that these two communities are a key component of the historical impacts and impacts resulting from the GMRP.
- During Phase 2, the GMOB conducted in-person interviews, including providing interpretation services to support broader participation from YKDFN members (including Elders).



Age Group

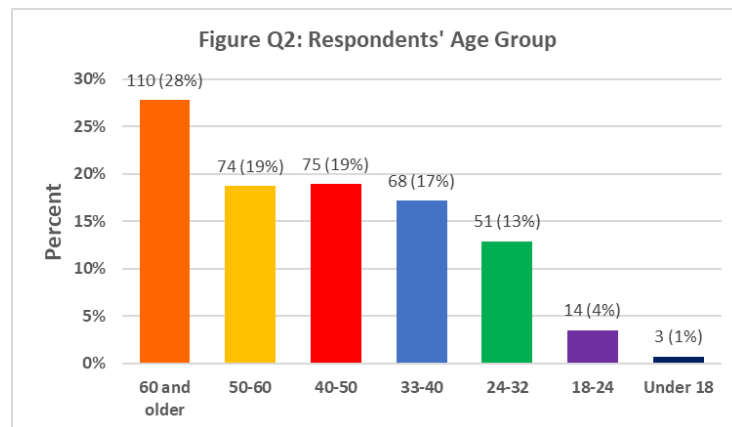
Q2. What is your age?

Base: All respondents (n= 396)

- The 60 years and older cohort represented the largest number of respondents at 28% (n=110).
- The 50 to 60 years cohort represented the second largest number of respondents at 19% (n=74).
- Taken together the 50 and older cohort represented 47% (n=129)
- The 32 years and younger cohort in total represented 18% (n=68) 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.
- Notwithstanding the limitations of on-line surveys, there is an indication that knowledge of and/or interest in the GMRP is correlated with age group.



3.1.2 Survey Results Themes and Corresponding Survey Questions

The 21 survey questions (Appendix 1) have been grouped into four themes to focus the drawing of findings into areas that correspond to the stated purpose of the GMOB Community Survey, principally to gauge community awareness of, interest in the GMRP as well as understanding of the GMOB's mandate and role.

The four themes and the corresponding survey questions are presented in the table below. The individual 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. |

3.1.3 Survey Results Themes Observations in Brief

Theme A: Awareness of the GMRP and Responsibilities

- The GMOB, the Parties to the EA and GMRP need to work on their communications to clarify their respective roles and responsibilities.
- A clear explanation must be provided of how the Giant Mine site became a taxpayer liability.
- The GMRP must continue to work to communicate more openly to the public that it working to make the site safe for the environment and surrounding population.

Theme B: Awareness of the GMOB Mandate and Role

- Responses to first words or thoughts regarding the GMOB (Q10) garnered a significant number (n=364) and a wide range of comments and perspectives both supportive and otherwise. GMOB must continue to communicate it's role to the public as an independent entity.

Theme C: Areas of Interest in the GMRP

- There was significant interest in or concern about remediation activities. The question provided for multiple selection, resulting in a total of 4,341 individual areas of interest and/or concern.
- 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.

Theme D: Sources of Information and Communications

- 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.

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 92% (n=365) of survey respondents. It is likely that most respondents were motivated to participate in the survey due to their prior awareness of

the GMRP. Of the total respondents, only 8% (n=31) were not aware of the GMRP. The respondents that are aware are generally more informed at a detailed question level.

- In terms of responsibility for site remediation (Q4), 69% (n=273) identified the Government of Canada, while 36% (n=142) identified the GNWT as responsible. It is noteworthy from a community communication perspective that 22% (n=87) selected the GMOB as being responsible for site remediation. The GMOB was established as an independent oversight entity and has no responsibility for the actual site remediation. GMOB needs to communicate this.

It is noteworthy that the three listed previous corporate owners of the Giant Mine were identified as being responsible for remediation by a number of respondents: Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd. was identified by 28% (n=113), Royal Oak Mines was selected by 24% (n=96) and Miramar Mining Corporation was identified by 15% (n=59) of respondents.

- Based on the results, the public's understanding of the respective responsibilities and legal obligations for site remediation is generally limited. In consideration of the response profile, it reflects (in part) the public policy debate regarding responsibilities in situations where negative environmental impacts result. Additionally, the principle of 'polluter pays' is not well communicated by regulators and complicated further by the impacts of corporate bankruptcy. This provides an important perspective into the GMOB's consideration for future communication and outreach initiatives.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* informed to *somewhat* informed regarding the GMRP (Q5), comprised 80% (n=330) of all respondents. This could be expected given the responses to (Q3) – where 92% stated they were aware of the GMRP.
- As a responding category in (Q20), those who stated they were *very* confident to *somewhat* confident in successful remediation comprised 37% (n=145) of all respondents.
- An additional 10% (n=40) 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 26% (n=101) of all respondents.

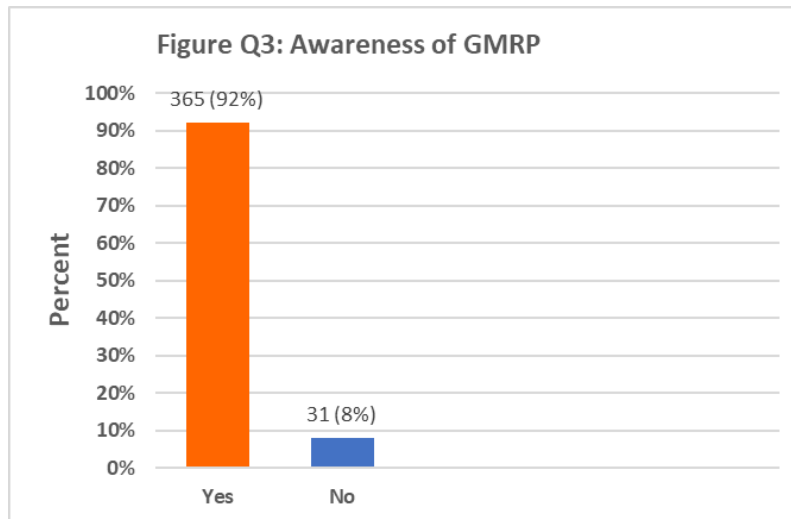
3.2.2 Specific Questions Results

Awareness of the GMRP

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

Base: All respondents (n=396)

- 92% (n=365) of respondents had heard of the GMRP.
- 8% (n=31) of respondent were not aware of the GMRP.



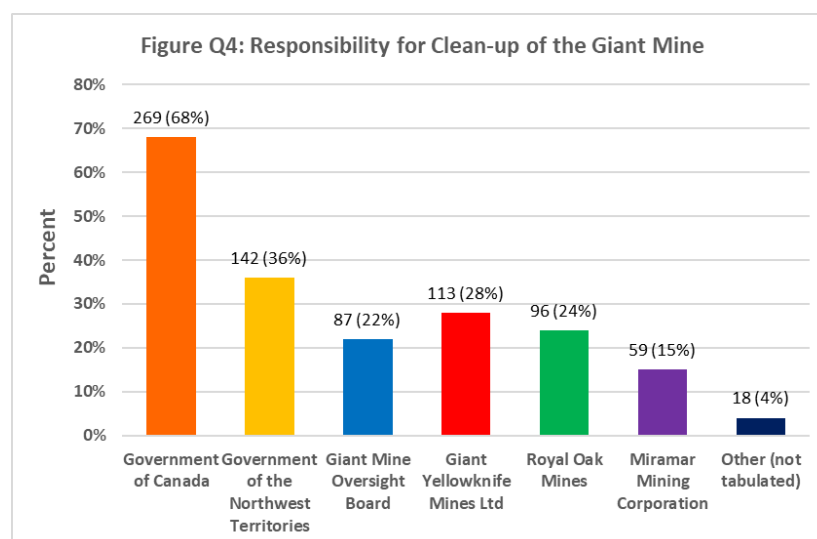
Responsibility for Remediation

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=396). Multiple answers resulted in a total response count of 798.

- 68% (n=269) identified the Government of Canada as being responsible for site remediation.
- 36% (n=142) identified the GNWT as being responsible for site remediation.
- It is noteworthy that 22% (n=87) selected the GMOB 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 28% (n=113), Royal Oak Mines was selected by 24% (n=96) and Miramar Mining Corporation was identified by 15% (n=58) of respondents.

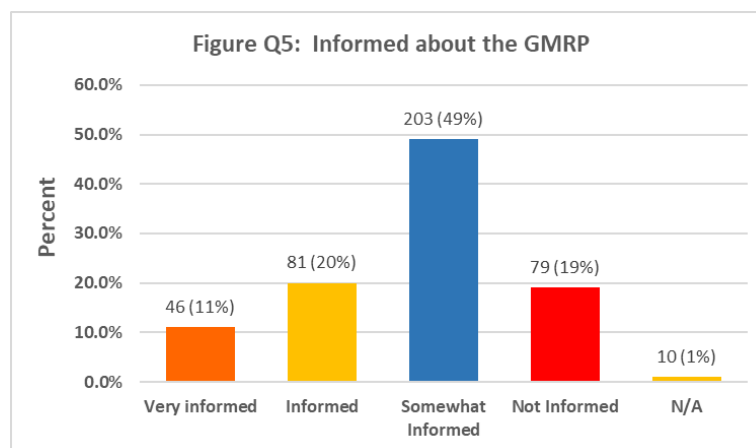


Extent of Knowledge about the GMRP

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=396).

- 11% (n=46) stated they were *very* informed.
- 20% (n=81) stated they were informed.
- A further 49% (n=203) stated they were *somewhat* informed.
- As a responding category, those who stated they were *very* informed to *somewhat* informed, comprised 80% (n=330) of all respondents.
- 19% (n=79) stated they were *not* informed.

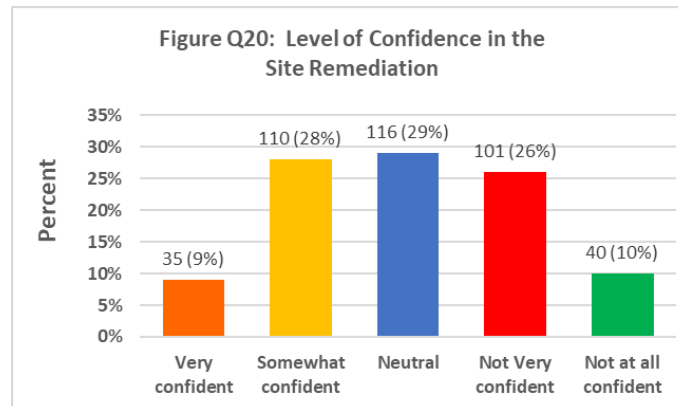


Confidence Level in the Successful Remediation

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

Base: All respondents (n=395).

- 9% (n=35) stated that they were *very* confident in successful remediation.
- 28% (n=110) 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 37% (n=145) of all respondents.
- 29% (n=116) indicated they were *neutral* regarding their confidence level in successful remediation.
- 26% (n=101) indicated they were *not very* confident in successful remediation.
- An additional 10% (n=40) 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 36% (n=141) 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 of respondents 82% (n=323) had heard/were aware of the GMOB (Q9).
- Responses to first words or thoughts regarding the GMOB (Q10) garnered a significant number (n=364) and a wide range of comments and perspectives both supportive and otherwise. The comments are characterized as part of the response presented for Q10.

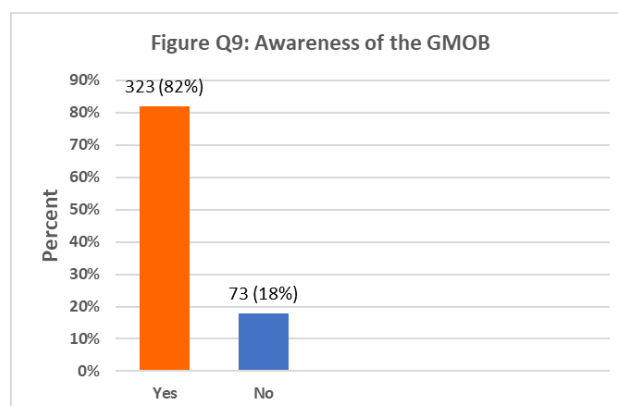
3.3.2 Specific Questions Results

Awareness of the GMOB

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

All respondents (n=396).

- 82% (n=323) stated they *had heard* of the GMOB.
- 18% (n=73) 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=364).

There were 364 comments provided, including 32 responses that 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 characterization of the main themes is presented below.

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.*
- *... the distrust of the Federal Government is palpable; therefore, an independent review/oversight 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.*
- *Well-meaning but government funded and therefore dependent.*
- *Slow...underfunded.*
- *Redundant.*
- *Limited Indigenous representation (on the Board).*
- *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.*
- *Anti-mining messaging. Poor understanding of the mining industry. Focused on negative aspects of Giant mine and little to no consideration of benefits.*

General Observations on the Response Themes:

- There was an emotional thread, whether positive or negative, and a range of views (and largely well expressed) in a significant number of comments that in many ways were reflective of the responses and comments provided in other survey questions, such as: What does proper remediation mean? What does reconciliation mean?

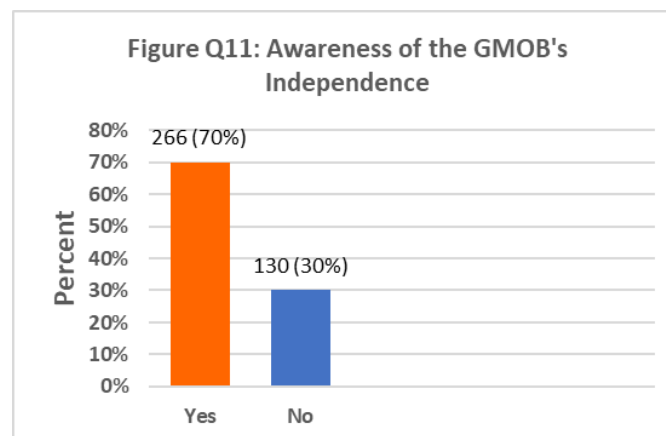
- The comments illustrate significant divergence and gaps in understanding of the mandate, degree of independence and functions of the GMOB. The question appears to have been challenging for some respondents, especially for those with little knowledge/awareness of the GMOB or the GMRP.
- The comments 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'. There were some comments regarding the lack of Indigenous representatives on the Board.

Knowledge of the GMOB's Independence

Q11. Did you know that the Giant Mine Oversight Board operates independently from government?

All respondents (n=396).

- 70% (n=266) indicated that they were *yes aware* of the GMOB's independence from government.
- 30% (n=130) 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 343 comments provided, of which 50 responses were either double responses, empty, had no legible reply, or stated that they had no further comments.

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 principles* statement. (access through <https://gmob.ca/>).
- The question also appears to have been challenging for some respondents, especially for those with little knowledge/awareness of the GMOB. Consequently, there were a notable number of 'I do not know' comments regarding the GMOB mandate.

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

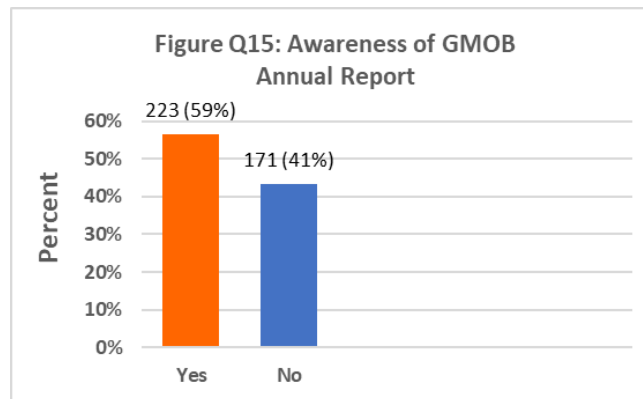
- *To oversee the rehabilitation and remediation phase of the Giant mine clean-up and to monitor and provide directive commentary on future remediation and management activities; to organize research into possible technologies and processes for neutralizing the threat of arsenic trioxide waste in the future; and, to communicate the nature and status of remediation to future generations.*
- *Monitor 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 of archive records about the establishment, operation and remediation of the Giant Mine site.*
- *To ensure the safety of the community. But more generally, to educate the population.*
- *To ensure that the remediation of Giant Mine is conducted properly, in accordance with legislative and ethical obligations, and to identify any issues/discrepancies (environmental, socio-economic) that may be important for the MVLWB and 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 contracting sector through training, sole sourced contracts, and mentoring opportunities.*
- *Mandate appears to be anti-mining messaging, with 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.*

Knowledge of the GMOB's Annual Report

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

All respondents (n=394).

- 59% (n=223) stated they were *aware* of the GMOB's Annual Report.
- 41% (n=171) stated they were *not aware* of the GMOB's Annual Report.

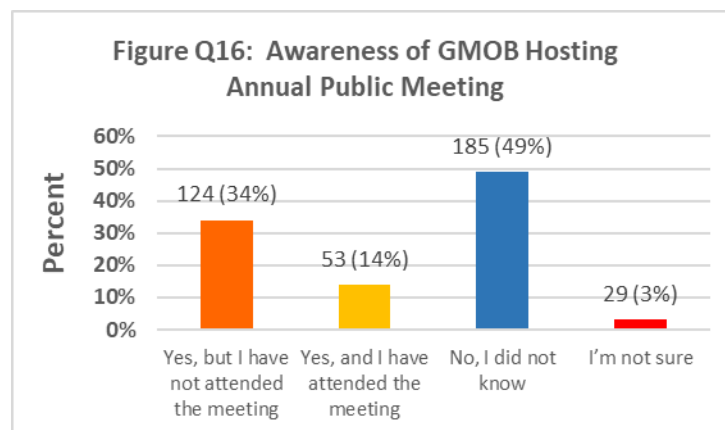


Knowledge of the GMOB's Annual Public Meeting

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

All respondents (n=396).

- A total of 48% (n=177) were *aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting.
- 49% (n=185) stated they were *not aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting.
- 34% (n=124) stated they were *aware* of the GMOB's annual public meeting but had not attended one. An additional 14% (n=53) stated that they were *aware* and *had attended* the annual meeting.

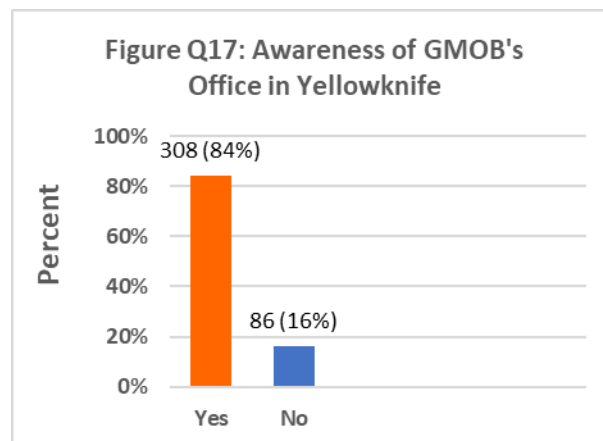


Knowledge of the GMOB's Office in Yellowknife

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

All respondents (n=396).

- 84% (n=308) stated that they *were* yes aware of the GMOB's office in Yellowknife.
- 16% (n=86) 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. The question provided for multiple selection, resulting in a total of 4,341 individual areas of interest and/or concern. 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 Perpetual Care Plan, future funding; impacts on the boating and sailing community.*

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=396).

- 89% (n=351) indicated they *were* interested in or concerned about the GMRP remediation activities.

- 11% (n=45) indicated they *were not* interested in or concerned about the GMRP remediation activities.

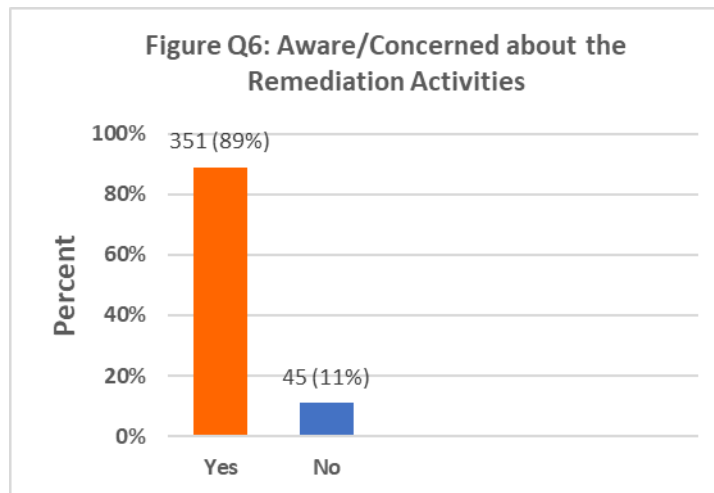
The primary and secondary responses are presented below.

Primary Responses



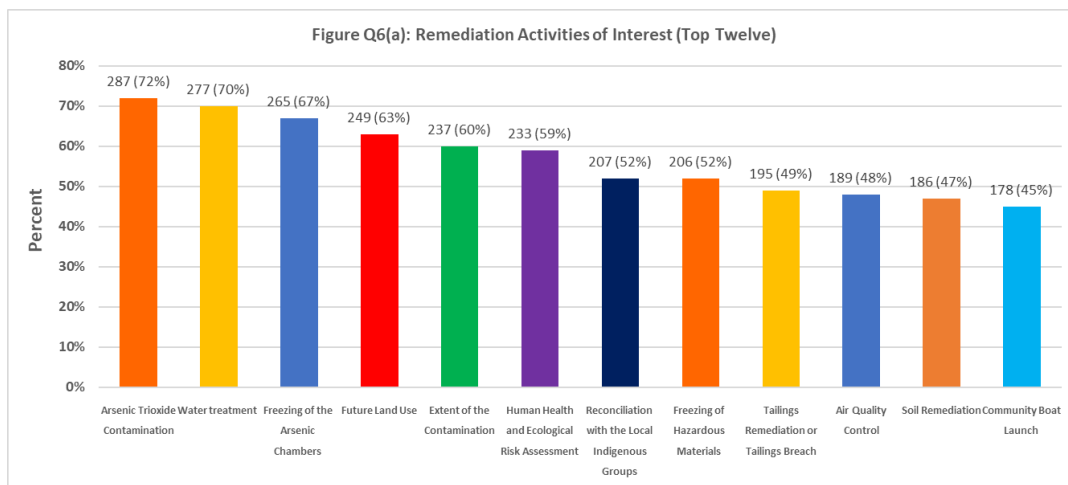
Secondary Responses





Primary Remediation Activities of Interest:

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



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 twelve identified. The additional comments, all singularly stated, included the following:

- *Effects of climate change on ability to keep the site stable.*
- *Heritage site considerations.*
- *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 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 365 comments provided, of which 38 responses were either double entered, 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 a number of themes, which are augmented by selected text or quotes from the submissions.

As a way to alternatively represent the dominant responses, the following illustrates the primary and secondary responses.

Primary Responses

comprehensive-monitoring reconciliation-bridge

research-permanent-solution
human/environment-health

government-accountability-transparency
ethical-obligation-met

Secondary Responses

traditional-knowledge/used
socio-economic-opportunities
acknowledge/preserve-legacy/history
cost-effective/on-schedule
indigenous-compensation
corporate-accountability
repurposed-site

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 to 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, regarding 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).

- "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 not only fixing and making the land usable again but fixing the years of contamination to the people of Yellowknife, 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. The GMOB Research Program is understood to be key to finding a permanent solution.

- *“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 and re-purposed for beneficial community (Northern and Indigenous business, economic opportunities, tourism, education, traditional Indigenous harvesting , and recreation opportunities) 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, project budget and time expended to achieve the established 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 theme was evident as an overarching component in a number of comments that encompassed the preceding themes. However, given the emphasis by respondents it has been listed separately to ensure that the intent of the largely shared messaging is acknowledged and reflected.

The messaging included a focus on the obligations to follow through on commitments and responsibilities of mandated authorities (e.g., regulators) and government with respect to fulfilling the requirements of the Environmental Agreement, the approved remediation plan, monitoring, reporting and the ongoing research for a permanent solution to manage the arsenic trioxide in the underground chambers on site through the GMOB Research Program. Additionally, taking steps to maximize local socio-economic benefits resulting from the remediation and on-going monitoring work through appropriate procurement and contracting practices were highlighted.

- *“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 337, of which 57 responses were either double, empty or had no legible reply.

General observations:

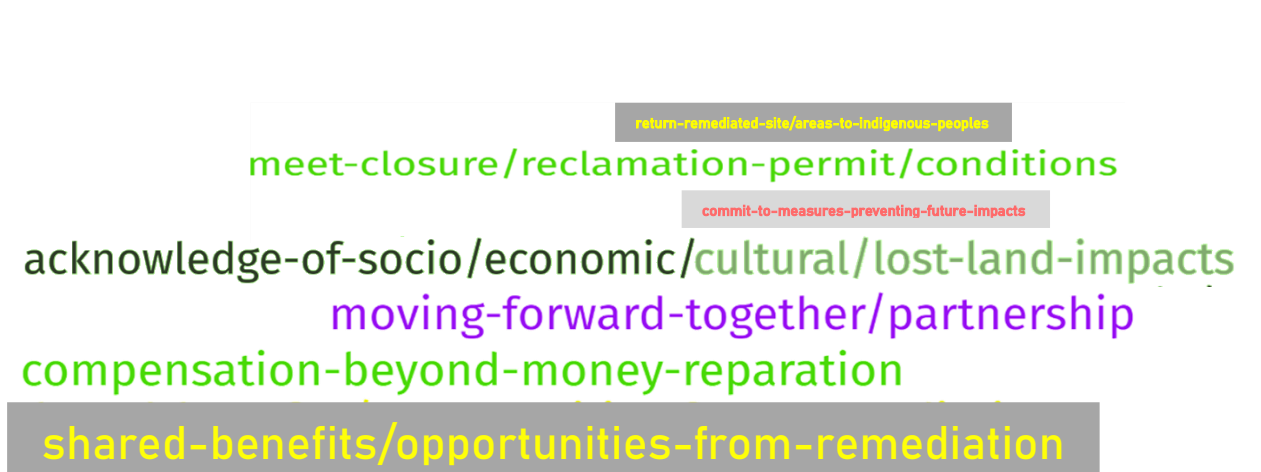
- The term ‘reconciliation’ was generally interpreted as reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the Yellowknife area, where the environment is just one component. This question was interpreted quite broadly by many respondents.
- The comments reflect a range of emotional perspective, largely understanding, 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. A formal apology from the Government of Canada was identified as a component of reconciliation.

The primary and secondary responses that emerged are illustrated below.

Primary Responses



Secondary Responses



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

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Reconciliation is an important staple that our society has to embrace for us all to move forward.*
- *Accepting what has happened and moving forward*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *A process that follows free prior and informed consent [FPIC] and First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession [OCAP].*
- *[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.*
- *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).*
- *Reparations may include direct payments, consultations with indigenous peoples on how to address the remediation process, employment, and training opportunities, and hiring indigenous companies for contract work.*

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 of information 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?

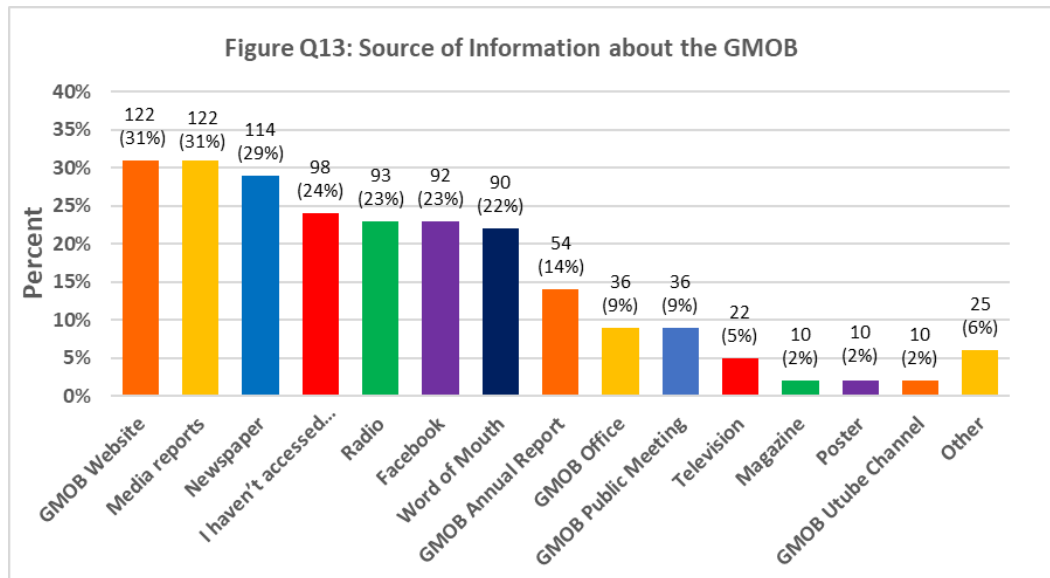
(You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n=396).

The option to select more than one response resulted in a total of 934 selections. The most utilized options for accessing information are illustrated below.



- The largest number of respondents 31% (n=122) indicated they had accessed information via the GMOB website.
- Media reports and newspaper were the next two largest sources, 31% (n=122) and 29% (n=114), respectively.
- Radio, Facebook and word of mouth were identified as important sources of information by 23% (n=93), 23% (n=92) and 22% (n=90), respectively.
- The GMOB Annual Report (14%, n=54), GMOB Office (9%, n=36), and, the annual public meeting (9%, n=36), were other notable sources of information.
- 24% (n=98) of respondents had not accessed information about the GMOB.



The respondents also identified 'other' sources of information about the GMOB. The sources identified were:

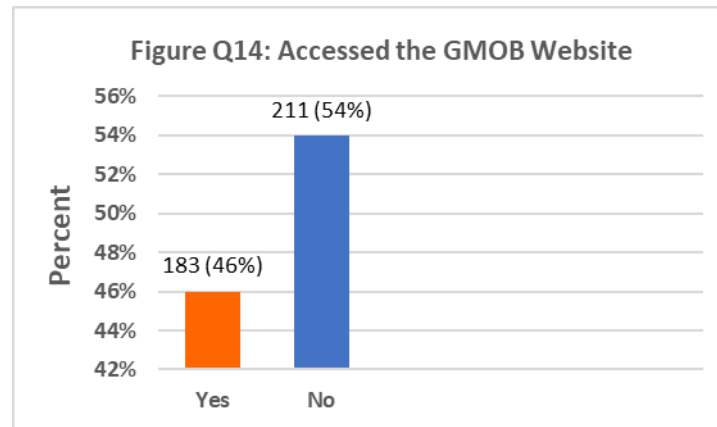
- Podcasts (e.g., *Canada true crime*, *Commons by Canadaland*).
- Tiktok.
- Web searches (e.g., Google).
- Environmental organizations' reports (e.g., Alternatives North, EcoCanada Beahr Environmental Course).
- GMOB information videos.
- GMOB email.
- Past and current workers at the GMRP.
- YKDFN Environment Department.
- Attending workshops.
- Elders (regarding the Giant Mine history).

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).

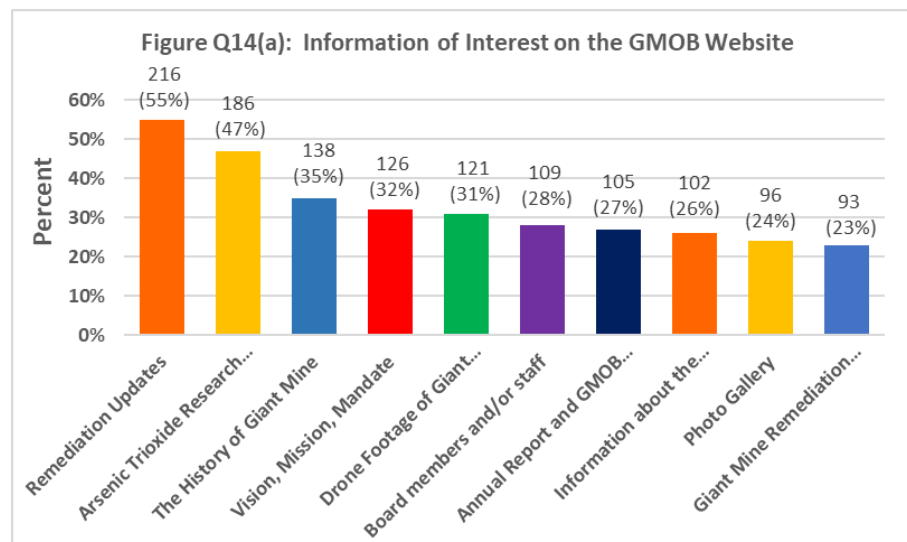
All respondents (n=396).

- 46% (n=183) indicated they *had* visited the GMOB website. This is somewhat inconsistent with the results from Q13 regarding sources of information where 31% (n=122) indicated they had accessed information on the GMOB website.
- 54% (n=211) 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’; (55%, n=216) and the GMOB ‘arsenic trioxide research program’ (47%, n=186).
- 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 YKDFN members, treatment of the first people of *Chief Drygeese Territory*, reconciliation relationship with

Indigenous people, social indicators, and the boat launch (status and plans for), corporations being held responsible.

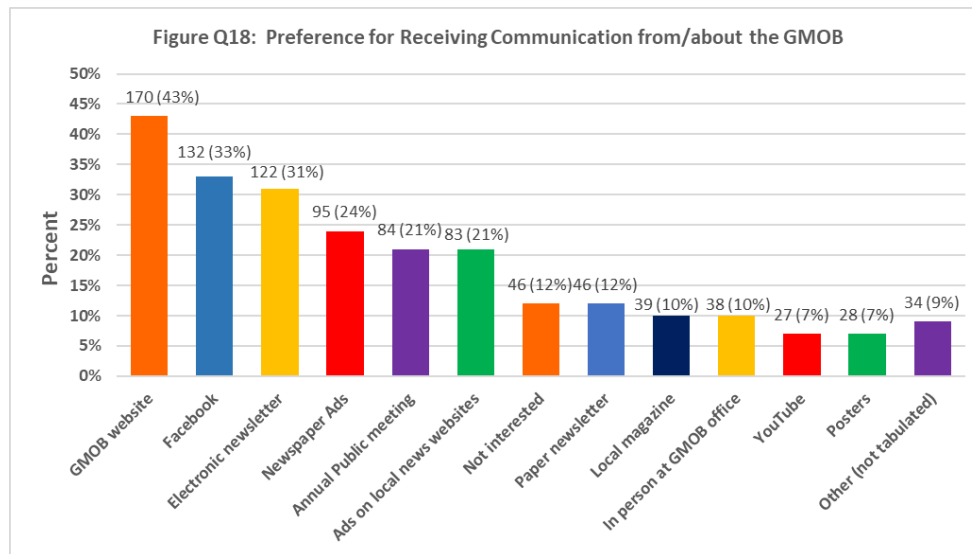
Preference for Receiving Information from or about the GMOB

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

(You may select more than one answer).

All respondents (n=396).

- The option to select more than one response resulted in a total of 942 selections.
- There is a stated preference for digital access options for receiving communications from or about the GMOB.



Other preferred methods for receiving communications regarding the GMRP and/or GMOB include:

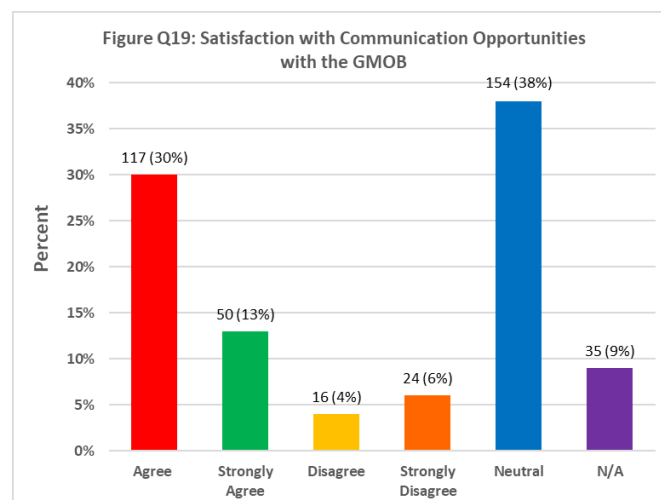
- Periodic presentations (on major research program results; significant project changes to remediation plans)
- Special meetings (beyond the annual public meeting)
- GMOB email
- Cabin Radio
- Instagram
- CBC News
- Videos (Tiktok)
- Local Indigenous newsletter/press release
- Public notices on street billboards
- Directly from the Government of Canada
- Aurora College presentation to the Environment and Natural Resources Program (ENTRP)
- School (elementary and high) presentations
- Work with the Mine Training Society

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=396).

- 43% (n=167) indicated they *agree* or *strongly agree* that they are satisfied with the communication opportunities with the GMOB.
- 38% (n=154) indicated they *strongly disagree* or *disagree* with the communication opportunities.
- 38% (n=154) stated they were *neutral* in their assessment.

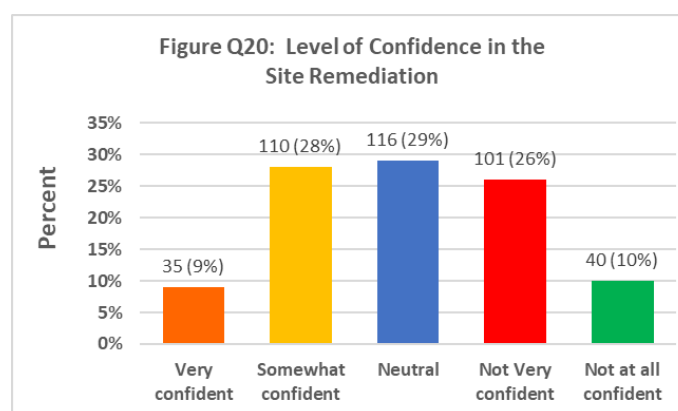


Confidence Level of Successful Remediation

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

All respondents (n=395).

- 9% (n=35) indicated they *very confident*. An additional 28% (n=110) indicated they were *somewhat confident* in a successful remediation of the Giant Mine site.
- A total of 26% (n=101) of respondents indicated they *not very confident*. An additional 10% (n=40) indicated they were *not at all confident* in a successful remediation of the Giant Mine site.
- 29% (n=116) stated they were *neutral*.



Additional Comments

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

There were 140 comments provided that spanned a wide range of interest by the survey respondents.

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.

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)
- 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)?

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: