

## Question and Answers:

### Claim Acquisition and Forfeiture:

1. What is the process for obtaining mineral rights given the indefinite suspension of new mineral and placer claim registrations in the Ehattesaht Hay-na and Lax K'naga Sts'ool Designated Areas?
  - The registration of new mineral and placer claims within these Designated Areas is suspended indefinitely.
2. What is the process for relinquishing claims?
  - To relinquish your claims, abandon your claims through Mineral Titles Online or do not annually renew. Once relinquished, those claims will not be eligible for re-registration while the order is in effect.

### Transfer or Purchase of Claims:

Can tenures be transferred between entities while the restrictions take effect?

- The restrictions do not prevent the transfer of tenures between entities; however, activity restrictions are in effect for five years, meaning no work, including handwork, is permitted on tenures for 5-years, unless exempted by the order.

### Claim Maintenance:

What steps are required to keep tenures in good standing?

- The Act's requirements to undertake exploration and development work to maintain claims are suspended while mining activity restrictions are in effect. To extend the expiry date of a claim, submit a renewal notice to the Chief Gold Commissioner at least 7 days and no more than 30 days before its expiry date. Claims must be renewed annually. At the last day of the deferral period, if the expiry date of a claim falls after the deferral period then the claim's expiry date will be extended to one year after the end of the deferral period. Be aware that if a cell claim within the deferral area expires, it cannot be re-registered.

### Mining Activities:

3. What types of activities are permitted on tenures within Gitxaala or Ehattesaht territories?
  - Within the designated deferral area, all mining activities, including handwork, are now prohibited for 5 years. [Information Update 38](#) does not apply to the deferral area. Exceptions are permitted for activities related to the reclamation, monitoring, protection, management, or treatment of previously mined sites. These restrictions apply broadly to the entire area. Specific tenures or permits may be exempted by the Province if they receive the consent of Ehattesaht or Gitxaala.
4. Do the orders apply to sand and gravel operations?
  - The mining activity restrictions do not apply to sand and gravel operations.
5. How can specific tenures or permits be exempted from the orders?
  - There is an opportunity for specific tenures or permits to be exempted provided that explicit consent is received from Gitxaala Nation or Ehattesaht First Nation. Tenure holders and permit holders should undertake consent-seeking activities with Gitxaala Nation or Ehattesaht First Nation as appropriate.

For additional information please contact [MTA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MTA@gov.bc.ca).