

January 13, 2026

Premier David Eby  
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VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

Sent via email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier Eby,

**Re: DRIPA and Interpretation Act Amendments**

Following the Gitxaala appeal, AME called on your government to appeal the decision and make substantive amendments to the Interpretation Act and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). We are writing to outline what AME considers to be substantive amendments to this legislation, and we note that anything less than these amendments would represent a failure to deal with the underlying issues impacting the mineral exploration and mining sector, and the province caused by DRIPA. The province not moving forward with these substantive amendments would leave DRIPA and the Interpretation Act in their current form as completely unworkable and detrimental to our sector and the overall economy of British Columbia.

AME initially supported DRIPA in 2019 on the undertakings of your government that it would provide a clear, transparent and timely project review processes to attract the capital needed to develop our natural resources for the benefit of all British Columbians. We continue to be supportive of opportunity for all and increased involvement of Indigenous governments in our industry. However, the lived experience of our members with DRIPA has been the opposite of this and entirely negative.

Under DRIPA, decisions and legislative changes have been developed in secret and once unveiled, provide little to no benefit to mineral exploration. Decision making has been slowed as governments moved away from their Section 35 obligations toward consent seeking decision making on even small permits. The result has been increased delay and confusion. Many of our smallest members are hit the hardest and are seeing their way of life disappear. Reconciliation cannot work when only a few bare the gains.

We have appreciated your statements about the need to amend both pieces of legislation in the media and at the BC Chamber of Commerce lunch on December 10, 2025. Your recent statements about ensuring that changes to the act bring the legislation back to what was reflected in the legislature are a positive step. This is work that should not be handled by the courts. When it is, it is disruptive and reduces investor confidence in our industry and province.

Missing in your comments and in the current legislation is the concept of public interest and engagement with affected rights holders. Despite government having long standing tools to measure the public interest in decision making the balance has not been present in government attempts to develop and implement the action plan. It is vital that this is clearly outlined in the legislation moving forward. We also encourage you to ensure that concurrent engagement with the affected public and consideration of the public interest are given weight in amendments.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our recommendations:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

INTERPRETATION ACT

- **Delete s. 8.1(3).** Every Act and regulation must be construed as being consistent with the Declaration.

DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT (DRIPA)

- **Delete Section 1(4).** - Nothing in this Act is to be construed as delaying the application of the Declaration to the laws of British Columbia.
- **Delete Section 2(a).** - to affirm the application of the Declaration to the laws of British Columbia.
- **Replace Section 3 with** - “In consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples, in concurrent engagement with the affected public, and in accordance with the priorities and process outlined in the action plan described in s.4 of this Act, the government must take all measures necessary to ensure the enactments of British Columbia identified in the action plan are consistent with the general principles outlined in the Declaration, where such measures will include consideration of the public interest and compensation measures for directly affected public.”

Should these substantive amendments not be made, AME will begin consulting with our membership on our position on DRIPA.

We are happy to meet and provide more context to our recommendations and look forward to our continued discussion about this important matter.

Sincerely,



Todd G. Stone  
President & CEO  
Association for Mineral Exploration