Forging the Path Forward

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Community Ownership

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Essential Questions

How can communities meaningfully benefit from mineral development? What does community economic participation look like? Who should decide if and when mineral development occurs? How should external stakeholders, such as investors or governments, approach community engagement and rights-holders in a proper manner? How should external stakeholders ensure community needs aren't over-ruled by external priorities? To what extent should communities be responsible for the risks associated with mineral development?

Key Findings

- Projects should be co-developed and co-managed with and alongside of communities from the outset of the project.
- Companies should train local residents, contribute funds to, and assist in the construction of secondary services—such as hauling, construction, power plants—so communities own and operate less volatile aspects of the mining supply chain.
- Communities should maintain jurisdiction over access to roads and other forms of infrastructure, not only for financial benefit but to protect the environment and subsistence practices.
- Community liability should be limited if projects fail. Though this potentially makes it more difficult for the government to guarantee loans, communities otherwise bear most of the environmental risk without significant financial benefit.

Policy Recommendations

- Federal governments should consider mandating that projects on or near Indigenous lands provide additional forms of financial benefit to communities. Such requirements could include royalty schemes and investment into secondary services related to mining.

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