Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive

Information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive (TMEI), originally introduced in 2018, supports the diversification of Saskatchewan's mineral sector by promoting early-stage hard-rock mineral exploration projects. From 2018 to 2026, 131 applications have collectively received over $8.7 million in funding supporting $245.6 million in project expenditures, including $85 million for 1,215 drillholes and $3.2 million from newly allowed geophysical work.

With the 2023 release of *Securing the Future: Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Strategy*, which bolstered the province's leadership in the critical minerals sector, the TMEI expanded to provide rebates for all hard-rock mineral exploration projects across Saskatchewan.

The 2026-27 TMEI has expanded again to include **borehole geophysical surveys** and **ground geophysical surveys**, and to increase eligible drilling expenditures to cover most **pre-sampling geological and geotechnical tasks**.

Available Funding

- The overall program funding is $3,550,000 annually and is reviewed on an annual basis.
- Eligible companies can receive a grant of 25% of drilling, borehole geophysical surveying, or ground geophysical surveying costs:
    - Up to a maximum of $50,000 per year for uranium projects ($200,000 worth of eligible expenditures to reach the maximum), or
    - Up to a maximum of $150,000 per year for all other hard-rock mineral projects ($600,000 worth of eligible expenditures to reach the maximum).
- Funding is subject to proration if uptake exceeds the over funding level for that fiscal year.

Eligible Applicants

- A Holder of a Saskatchewan mineral claim that is registered in accordance with section 12 of *The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations*, which is in good standing.
- A Person or company that has been authorized to act as a designate by an eligible holder as per *The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive Regulations*.

Eligible Expenses

- Eligible expenditures are those associated with drilling, borehole geophysical surveying, or ground geophysical surveying costs. Please refer to section 13(1) of *The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive Regulations*.
- Eligible expenditures must be incurred by the applicant on or after April 1 and before the March 31 of the fiscal year in which the application is made.

Eligible Projects

- For all minerals regulated under *The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations* at any location in the province.
- Work is located on one or more mineral dispositions, not including mineral leases.
- Work is related to drilling, borehole geophysical surveying, or ground geophysical surveying.
- Work is completed within the eligible work period.
- All activities are in compliance with all Acts and Regulations that govern mineral exploration in Saskatchewan.

Verification of Work

The Verification of Work Form must be received by April 30, 2026, and include the applicable supplemental data including:

- Invoices and receipt indicating payment by the applicant of any invoice included in your submission.
- Complete drill logs with pertinent header information (including collar location, surveys, dates of work, core-storage location), labelled core photos, and any other drilling information required.
- All other logging data, including down-hole imagery, core measurements, mineralogical, spectral, and rock property analysis and radiometric logging.
- Geophysical contractor logistical report containing survey and equipment specifications, work dates, quality control and assurance, interpretation of collected data, and personnel.
- Geospatial geophysical dataset and digital maps or mapping files from the survey area submitted from the contractor to the applicant that verifies work has been undertaken.

Deadlines

- The work period is tied to the Government of Saskatchewan's fiscal year (begins on April 1). The 2026-27 TMEI work period begins on April 1, 2026, and ends on March 31, 2027.
- The deadline for a TMEI application is on December 31. Applications must be received by this date. Applications will be accepted for the 2026-27 TMEI until December 31, 2026. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.
- Verification of work must be submitted on or before thirty days after the end of the work period. Verification of work form and supporting data must be received by April 30, 2027, for the 2026-27 TMEI.
- A notification of work is to be sent in February of the current TMEI program to update forecasting.
- Payments are sent out after all applicant work has been verified and submitted and approved by the Ministry of Finance.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can I submit multiple applications?**

   No, only one application can be submitted per applicant per fiscal year, and each disposition can be the subject of only one application per fiscal year. The application can include work completed on multiple projects.

2. Can I update or amend an application?

Yes. Please submit a revised application as soon as possible for review. Please do not assume that the approval of a TMEI application means a guarantee of funding if your application information changes.

3. If I have a joint venture but do not have ownership on that claim, can I submit an application form?

Yes, if you have or will incur eligible expenditures on that claim. You are required to get written authorization from the claim holder(s) as per the Schedule of Dispositions section found in the application form.

Two companies cannot apply for the incentive on the same claim or two different claims within the same project.

4. What expenditures are applicable?

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Drilling, including casing, cementing, testing, reaming, wedging, and orientation;
- Labour, including site preparation, skid work, cat work, sump maintenance, core-logging, supervision, compiling and validating geophysical data, compiling and writing contractor logistical reporting;
- Accommodations, travel, transportation costs of personnel, equipment, and supplies up to a maximum of 40% of the total cost of the approved application;
- Equipment and consumables, including but not limited to rentals, drill steel, muds, lubricants, fuel, survey wire, helicopters, snowmobiles and utility terrain vehicles;
- Other items, such as moves between geophysical survey locations and drill sites and standby;
- Collecting, processing, and validating quality control and assurance on ground and borehole geophysical surveys and geophysical surveys; and
- Any other approved expenditure approved by the Minister.

5. What expenditures are <u>not</u> considered applicable for the 2025-26 TMEI program?

Ineligible expenditures for the 2026-27 TMEI program include but are not limited to:

- Sampling, sample preparation, or shipment of samples;
- Analytical work (e.g. mineral assays, PIMA);
- Administrative costs; and
- Work conducted off claim boundaries (portions of geophysical surveys that extend onto ineligible claims and may result in proration).

6. Why are there two forms?

The Application Form is a letter of intent to do the work that allows Ministry staff to verify regulatory requirements and to develop a preliminary budget. The deadline for the application form is December 31 of the current TMEI work period.

The Verification of Work Form is your declaration that work was completed. It is submitted with proof of work. The verification of work form and supporting data are due April 30 after the current TMEI work period.

7. **How do we submit the Application Form, Verification of Work Form, and accompanying data?**

Please submit all documents in electronic format by the April 30 deadline. You can send by email (tmei@gov.sk.ca), request a file transfer, or send via your own transfer service (Dropbox® is not accepted).

TMEI Program
Ministry of Energy and Resources
Saskatchewan Geological Survey
610-1945 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 2C7

8. **How is proration administered?**

Proration occurs if the sum of eligible payouts exceeds the amount of funding available for a given fiscal year. In the illustrative example below, the total available funding is set to $2,000,000 and the sum of the eligible payouts is equal to $2,286,750.

The total available funding for the 2025-26 TMEI is $3,550,000.

Company	Commodity	Expenditures	Expenditures × 25%	Eligible Payout	Prorated Payout
ABC Ltd.	**Uranium**	**$625,000.00**	**$156,250.00**	**$50,000.00**	**$43,730.18**
BCD Ltd.	Uranium	$1,250,000.00	$312,500.00	$50,000.00	$43,730.18
CDE Corp.	Gold	$900,000.00	$225,000.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
DEF Inc.	REE	$3,100,000.00	$775,000.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
EFG Corp.	Base Metals	$552,000.00	$138,000.00	$138,000.00	$120,695.31
FGH Ltd.	Gold	$1,750,000.00	$437,500.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
GHI Inc.	REE	$770,000.00	$192,500.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
HIJ Corp.	Uranium	$525,000.00	$131,250.00	$50,000.00	$43,730.18
JIK Ltd.	Gold	$625,000.00	$156,250.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
IKL Inc.	Gold	$975,500.00	$243,875.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
KLM Inc.	REE	$1,750,000.00	$437,500.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
LMN Corp.	Base Metals	$1,560,000.00	$390,000.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
MNO Ltd.	Gold	$595,000.00	$148,750.00	$148,750.00	$130,097.30
NOP Ltd.	Base Metals	$2,450,000.00	$612,500.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
OPQ Corp.	REE	$825,000.00	$206,250.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
PQR Inc.	REE	$615,000.00	$153,750.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55
QRS Ltd.	Uranium	$450,000.00	$112,500.00	$50,000.00	$43,730.18
RST Corp.	Gold	$825,000.00	$206,250.00	$150,000.00	$131,190.55

The eligible payout is equal to:

$$\text{Eligible Payout} \times \frac{\text{Total Available Funding}}{\text{Sum of Eligible Payouts}} = \text{Prorated Payout}$$

$$\$50{,}000.00 \times \frac{\$2{,}000{,}000.00}{\$2{,}286{,}750.00} = \$43{,}730.18$$

9. **When will TMEI funding be paid out to approved applicants?**

   TMEI payments for a given fiscal year will not be made until after the April 30 deadline for verification of work to be reviewed for all applicants, if necessary, calculation of proration, and after it has been submitted for approval by the Ministry of Finance.

10. **Can the expenditures for this work still be submitted for mineral assessment requirements under *The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations*?**

    Yes, application for the TMEI does not affect your ability to submit for assessment work. However, please ensure you follow the requirements set out in *The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations*.

Steps to Take for the 2025-26 TMEI

- ❑ Read and understand information contained in this document as well as *The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive Regulations*.
- ❑ Apply for the incentive by completing and submitting the Application Form on or before the deadline on December 31, 2026.
- ❑ Conduct drilling, borehole geophysical, or ground geophysical surveying work within the fiscal year (April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027).
- ❑ Provide notification of program status (February 2027).
- ❑ Complete the Verification of Work Form along with required documents as set out in the TMEI regulations and as noted above.
- ❑ Submit Verification of Work Form and supporting documents on or before the April 30, 2027:

TMEI Program
Ministry of Energy and Resources
Saskatchewan Geological Survey
610-1945 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 2C7

or

Request a secure file transfer link by contacting tmei@gov.sk.ca

Helpful Links

- All questions regarding any steps of the process can be directed to tmei@gov.sk.ca.
- **Website:** https://saskatchewan.ca/mineral-exploration-incentive
- **Legislation:**
  - *The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive Regulations*
  - *The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations*
- **Downloadable forms:**
  - TMEI Application Form
  - TMEI Verification of Work Form