

Several hobby mineral collectors from populated areas in southern Ontario travel to central Ontario and northern Ontario for hobby mineral collecting. The expenditure to visit these localities and the benefit of the income generated for these communities outweigh the minimal income generated from sale of hobby mineral specimens. The sentence “the collector has no intention of selling, and does not sell, the minerals collected” should be re-visited. This includes consultation with affected communities.

The comments provided in the .pdf file many relate to the sale of mineral specimen from hobby collecting and expand upon the main comment above.

- There is no lack of mineral specimens in Ontario. Though some collecting localities might now be localized in central Ontario, expectation would be that mineral collecting could expand further in northern Ontario. Some communities in central Ontario have geared their tourism around mineral collection. Prohibiting sale of mineral specimens from the collecting hobby might do more harm than intended and should be re-considered.
- Regarding the statement “the collector has no intention of selling, and does not sell, the minerals collected”. It needs to be clarified whether this statement applies to minerals that have been significantly modified before sale. For instance, a piece of jewellery that contains a mineral specimen. It takes significant effort for the lapidarist to prepare the cabochon and then for the jewelry artist to set the stone in a setting. The labour cost for the piece of jewelry can be significantly greater than the value of the mineral specimen. Also, many mineral specimens cannot be sold in the form they are collected and require extensive preparation before sale; again the value of the mineral can be small relative to the labour to prepare the specimen. Consider addition of a statement such as “the collector has no intention of selling, and does not sell, the minerals **in the as-collected condition.**”
- It is not clear if mineralized fossils are part of this guide. This should be clarified. The hobby collector may not be able to differentiate between carbonized fossils and mineralized fossils. I am not aware of any petrified wood collecting sites in Ontario; but a similar comment is applicable as with fossils.
- Clarify whether the statement “the acquisition of minerals for use in scientific research” indicates whether the minerals can be sold. It is not clear from the statement “the collector has no intention of selling, and does not sell, the minerals collected” whether minerals can be sold to museums and institutions for scientific research.
- It is stated “This means that while the Act specifies that only those who hold a prospector’s licence may explore for minerals”. Additional details should be given for a prospector’s license; perhaps a link. For instance, define the term ‘explore’. Will a prospector’s license allow one to sell mineral specimens?
- It is stated “Examples of hand tools can include crowbars, picks, axes, shovels, sledge and small hammers.” Clearly the use of metal detectors is increasing world-wide in the collection of metallic mineral specimens. A separate statement should be considered for metal detecting of mineral specimens. It would be expected that metallic minerals at old workings detected by metal detectors will soon be exhausted, whereas there is no shortage of minerals in Ontario which will be available to hobby collectors for several generations to come.

- Rockhounding, fossil collecting, and metal detecting could all be considered forms of hobby mineral collecting. However, clarity is needed in this guide to distinguish between these various aspects of the hobby. Otherwise, conflicts could arise in the hobby community.
- Part of the hobby of mineral collecting is searching for old mine dumps. Mine dumps are on the surface, but the material came from the ground. It may not be clear to the hobbyist as to who owns the rights for old mine dumps, even if permission of the surface rights owner is sought for collecting. Are mining vs. surface rights applicable for old mine dumps ?
- It is stated “The ministry, generally, will not enforce ...”. Perception will be the guide will be enforced for selling a mineral worth \$3 or \$3000. Clarity is required. There should be no ambiguities in this guide. See comment about ‘income vs. expenses”.
- Has this guide been compared to that of other provinces and states ? Do other regions prevent sale of mineral specimens collected from hobby collecting? If not, it is not clear why Ontario would adopt this approach. Almost all hobbies allow the potential for small income generation. It is recommended to use language geared towards those that will use hobby collecting to provide significant, not minimal, income relative to their primary income.
- It is reasonable to prohibit the sale of minerals from hobby collecting when the income equals or exceeds expenses. Also, if the time spent on the hobby approaches that of a business. However, it is not clear why sale would be prohibited when income is far below expenses. Income tax terminology such as ‘pursuit of hobby with no intention of profit’ is relevant and should be considered for the guide.