

Trust Working to Ensure Effective Agreement Implementation

On 21 July 2020, the Ely Bauxite Mine Beneficiaries Trust signed a Research Agreement with Griffith University. The Ely Trust and Griffith will cooperate to find more effective ways of implementing agreements between Aboriginal peoples and mining companies.

The research will be funded by the Canadian government's Research Council, and in addition to the Ely Trust and Griffith University will include Laval University in Quebec, the Old Mapoon Aboriginal Corporation, the Bendigo-based Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and Conseil de la Nation Innu de Matimekush-Lac John, a First Nation located in northern Quebec.

Ely Trust Chair, Ms Linda McLachlan said that making sure that the Ely Mine Agreement is implemented properly is of great importance to the Ely Trust and to the Ely Aboriginal Community.

"Our elders worked hard and showed a lot of wisdom in negotiating the Ely Mine Agreement, but any agreement can only generate benefits for Aboriginal people if it is actually put into effect. That is why the Ely Trust is keen to be involved in this international research collaboration to find more effective ways to implement agreements," she said.

Griffith University's Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh pointed out that negotiated agreements are more and more important in shaping relations between Indigenous peoples and the mining industry throughout the globe, but the capacity of these agreements to deliver benefits to Indigenous peoples and to minimise negative effects of development depend crucially on their effective implementation, which is by no means guaranteed.

"Griffith University is delighted to be working with the Ely Trust and our other Aboriginal partners to find better ways of implementing agreements", said Professor O'Faircheallaigh.

"Their cooperation is essential so that researchers can get access to current and accurate information, and to make sure that their research findings are used in practical ways to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples affected by mining projects," he said.



Linda McLachlan, Chairperson of the Ely Mine Beneficiaries Trust, and Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh of Griffith University sign the Research Agreement on Effective Implementation of Agreements. Watching on are Ely Directors (from left to right) Delora Nixon, Sandra Woosup, Vicki Kennedy, Gwen Toby, Gina Nona and Ely Trust Chief Executive Officer Bruce Gibson.