

## **New Limits on Mineral Ownership Shares now in effect – March 8, 2012**

Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan (ISC) is pleased to announce that as of March 5, they will no longer allow a mineral title to be split beyond a 1/20th tenant in common share of the title. ISC is the provincial Crown corporation responsible for the administration of land titles, vital statistics, survey, personal property and corporate registries, as well as related geographic information.

The reason ISC is taking this step is to help give oil and gas companies, as well as those in the mining sector, an added incentive to continue developing Saskatchewan's abundant mineral resources.

By limiting fractional ownership shares:

- The resource sector will incur fewer costs when dealing with mineral owners;
- The number of orphaned mineral titles will be reduced;
- The economic development of Saskatchewan will be enhanced; and
- Mineral title owners may see more business interest in their mineral holdings if they are less fragmented.

The introduction of this rule will be applied on a go-forward basis only (i.e. it is not retroactive). Existing fractional ownership shares smaller than 1/20th in size will remain unchanged, but these title owners will no longer be able to further split their interest after March 5. Any title that currently falls outside of the limitations can either be transferred one to one or consolidated with other shares of the same parcel. ISC's title processing system will display an error message at the point of validation if the fractional share entered does not comply with the new limitations and submitting parties will then be required to make the correction and resubmit the packet.

The process to limit fractional ownership shares has been several years in the making. ISC consulted with stakeholders in the resource sector, legal community and partners in government to determine how best to limit fractional ownership of minerals in Saskatchewan to ensure the province remains as competitive as possible with neighbouring jurisdictions in mineral exploration and development.

Alberta and Manitoba both have these types of restrictions on mineral ownership; the restriction in Alberta is set at 1/20th of a share, while the restriction in Manitoba is set at 1/16th of a share.