

# Almaden Minerals Ltd. Announces Calendar for Arbitration Process with Mexico

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[Almaden Minerals Ltd.](#) ("Almaden" or "the Company"; TSXV: AMM; OTCQB: AAUAF) provides an update to the international arbitration proceedings (the "Claim") under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership ("CPTPP") with the United Mexican States ("Mexico").

Almaden is pursuing the Claim together with [Almadex Minerals Ltd.](#) ("Almadex"), on behalf of themselves and their Mexican subsidiaries (the "Claimants"). Prior to the illegal acts of Mexico which resulted in the complete loss of the investment, Almaden held 100% of the Ixtaca precious metals project in Mexico (the "Project"), while Almadex held a 2.0% NSR royalty on the Project.

Further to the Company's press release of July 28, 2025 which reported on the three-person arbitration panel's ("Panel") rejection in full of Mexico's bifurcation request, the Panel has now established the procedural calendar through to the hearing dates.

Mexico is due to file its counter memorial (which responds to the Claimants' March 20, 2025 memorial), by November 24, 2025. The Claimants will file their reply to Mexico's counter memorial by April 27, 2026, and Mexico will file its rejoinder to this reply by August 5, 2026. The hearings are scheduled for December 14 - 18, 2026 (with December 19 held in reserve), and will be held in Washington, D.C.

The Claim is being prosecuted pursuant to the established and enforceable legal framework of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and is financed by up to US\$9.5 million in non-recourse litigation funding provided by a leading legal finance counterparty (see June 27, 2024 press release).

The Claimants' March 20, 2025 Memorial document outlines how Mexico breached its obligations under the CPTPP through actions which blocked the development of the Ixtaca project and ultimately retroactively and arbitrarily terminated the Company's mineral concessions. Specifically, the Memorial demonstrates how Mexico (i) unlawfully expropriated the Claimants' protected investments without any compensation; (ii) failed to accord the Claimants' protected investments fair and equitable treatment; and (iii) unlawfully discriminated against the Claimants and their protected investments.

Based on a valuation by an independent quantum expert, the Claimants are seeking damages of US\$1.06 billion, in the aggregate. This number will be updated as the Claim proceeds, to reflect movements in precious metal prices, exchange rates, interest rates, and other factors.

## Background to the Claim

In April, 2015, an ejido community ("Ejido") filed a lawsuit ("Lawsuit") against Mexico (the President, Congress, Ministry of Economy, Directorate of Mines, Mining Registry Office), claiming that Mexico's mineral title system was unconstitutional because Indigenous consultation was not required before the granting of mineral title. Under Mexican law, an *ejido* refers to a form of communal land tenure where a group of individuals, known as *ejidatarios*, collectively own and manage agricultural land.

The Ejido in question is a small, remote mountain village of approximately 150 residents, located at an altitude of 2,569 meters, a higher elevation than the Project. It is situated entirely outside the Project's "area of influence" as defined in the Company's environmental permit application of February, 2019, approximately 45 minutes to an hour by car from the Project site. The Ejido lands cover an area of approximately 330 hectares, in the southeastern portion of the mineral concessions which were owned by the Company and which underpinned the Project. The Lawsuit was supported by internationally funded non-governmental

organizations.

Upon learning of the Lawsuit, Almaden immediately sought to relinquish approximately 7,000 hectares of its mineral title area including the portion overlapping with the Ejido lands, believing that this would address the Ejido's concerns. The reduced title area was confirmed by the Mexican mining authorities in 2017. However, the Ejido appealed this reduction, and in late 2020 the Mexican courts confirmed that the Company was obligated to continue in its possession of the larger title area.

In 2018, President Lopez-Obrador ("AMLO") came into power in Mexico. The AMLO regime is widely recognized as having been hostile to the mining industry, in particular foreign mining companies that owned or sought to develop mining projects in Mexico.

In 2022, Mexico's Supreme Court ("SCJN") ruled on the Lawsuit. In effect, the SCJN ruling concluded that the Mexican mining law was not unconstitutional, but that the Mexican mining authority ("Economia") had improperly issued the Claimants' mineral titles as it had not incorporated Mexico's Indigenous consultation obligations into the mineral title issuance procedures. The SCJN required that the Company's two mineral titles be suspended, in order that the Company's mineral title applications, originally made in 2002 and 2008 and approved in 2003 and 2009, could be reissued by Economia after it complied with its Indigenous consultation obligations.

The rights endowed by the Company's mineral titles were suspended in June, 2022, and the Company began working cooperatively with Economia to facilitate what it thought would be the first ever Indigenous consultation in Mexico in respect of the granting of mineral titles. In October, 2022 however, the head of Economia was replaced and the Company's access to Economia ceased.

In February, 2023 Economia filed a notice with the courts charged with implementing the SCJN decision, seeking to deny the two mineral title applications retroactively. The notice claimed that the applications contained alleged *de minimis* technical faults, despite Economia's acceptance of the mineral title applications and grant of the mineral titles in 2003 and 2009. By alleging such *de minimis* technical faults in the mineral title applications, Economia breached Mexican domestic law and international law to deny arbitrarily and pre-emptively the grant of the mineral titles and thereby avoid the Indigenous consultation ordered by the SCJN. Such consultation would have been welcomed by both the Company and community members living in the area of influence of the Project.

Despite the legal appeals of the Company and surrounding community members that Indigenous consultation should proceed, the Mexican courts endorsed Economia's position. Therefore, the mineral rights underpinning the Project were definitively cancelled and reverted to the Government of Mexico, and Indigenous consultation never occurred.

The Claimants have suffered substantial harm arising out of Mexico's conduct in breach of its investment protection obligations under the CPTPP, including (without limitation):

- Economia's reassessment of the original applications for the mineral titles, holding them to be deficient and unfeasible, contradicting the position previously adopted by it decades earlier, and violating the Company and its subsidiary's right to amend or supplement the original mineral title applications; and
- the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources' (Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, "SEMARNAT") delay in issuance and ultimate refusal to issue the environmental permit (Manifiesto de Impacto Ambiental) for the Project.

While the Company will continue to vigorously prosecute this Claim, its preference is for a negotiated settlement that would benefit all stakeholders.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

"J. Duane Poliquin"  
J. Duane Poliquin  
Chair  
Almaden Minerals Ltd.

## Safe Harbor Statement

*Certain of the statements and information in this news release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable Canadian provincial securities laws. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements or information. Forward-looking statements or information in this news release relate to, among other things, the timing of any update regarding the arbitration calendar.*

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