



# Improving Canada's Regulatory Processes

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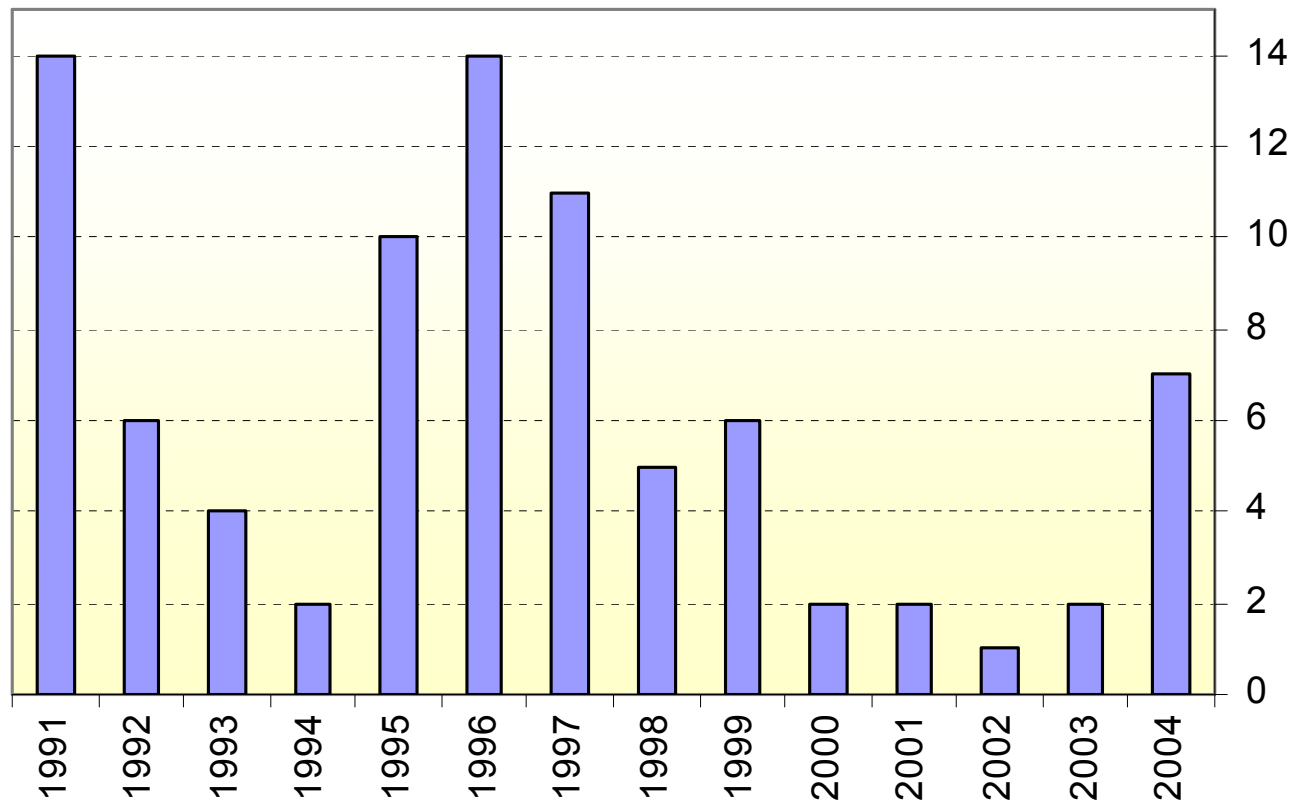
Workshop on  
Opportunities for Partnership  
Mines Ministers Conference 2006  
Presented By: Dave Lefebure

# Window of Opportunity

- High commodity prices
- Rising exploration expenditures
- Available investment capital
- Canadian advantage – arguably the top jurisdiction for mineral industry investment

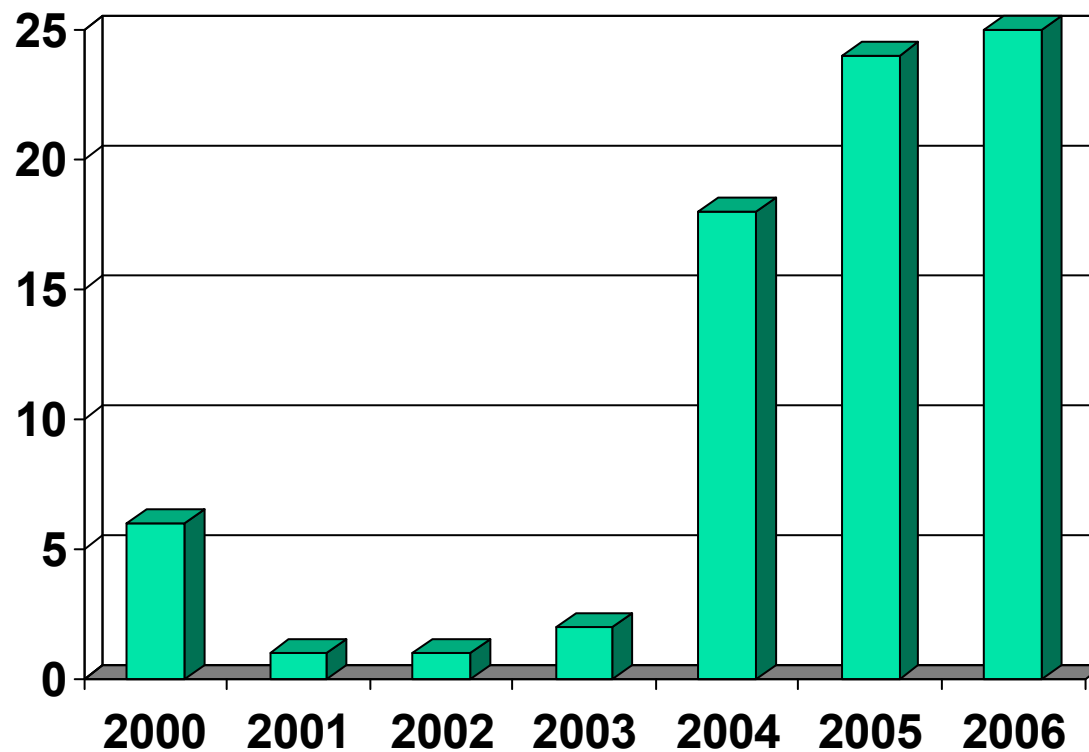


## New Mine Openings in Canada



From Canadian Mines Handbook

# Proposed Mine Developments British Columbia



Submitted applications to government

# Urgent Mineral Industry Request

*from Action Plan Status Report, Sept. 2005*

*Ministers heard an urgent call from the mineral industry for an improved regulatory framework .....*

*....., provincial and territorial ministers called for federal regulatory agencies, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and Transport Canada, to formally engage industry .....*



BC Mining  
Roundtable 2

Vancouver  
June, 2006



## Objectives for Improved Regulatory Framework

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- consistent and predictable
- timely and early staged
- effective in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development
- coordinated federal and provincial/territorial regulatory approval processes



## Examples of Issues

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- Confusion on process
- Metal Mining Effluent Regulation changes
- Incomplete technical information for regulators
- Provincial EAO and CEAA Co-ordination
- Difficulties in locating technical materials



## Examples of Recent Progress – Federal Initiatives

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- The SMART Regulation Process
- DFO implementing “risk management matrix”
- Environment Ministers see efficient regulatory processes as a foundation for their current work on sustainability and competitiveness





## Examples of Recent Progress – Bilateral Initiatives

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- *New Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* is a one-window EA process for federal, Yukon and First Nation governments
- *Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation* including a manual of Operational Procedures
- Delegation from DFO to Yukon staff to manage and inspect for placer mines
- BC pilot to improve coordination of EA and CEAA processes for Galore Creek
- Individual jurisdictions have taken steps to streamline their own regulatory processes (e.g. Saskatchewan, BC)



## Table of Regulatory Challenges

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- To be tabled at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting



## Next Steps

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- Confirm importance
  - Identify top priorities (proceed from table)
- Develop joint solutions
  - Solution often lies in communication, not regulation (for example DFO)
  - Involve multiple Federal ministries
- Start IGWG Sub-Group on Mining Regulatory Issues
  - Host a dedicated workshop in fall 2006



## Proposed IGWG Sub-Group on Mining Regulatory Issues

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- **Goal:** an improved regulatory framework that is consistent, timely, predictable, early staged, effective in protecting the environment, and coordinated between levels of government.
  
- **Approach:** The Sub-Group will serve as a forum for:
  - Information-sharing, discussion of issues, and developing common understandings/positions (where applicable)
  - Providing a “mineral viewpoint” to P/T ministries leading on regulatory reform initiatives, and
  - Developing collaborative F/P/T initiatives to streamline regulation

# Key is to Resolve Regulatory Issues

