

**Mining Benefits** - Globe & Mail, A12 - August 12, 2005

**By Bill Bennett**

Given the criticism from federal NDP fisheries critic Peter Stoffer of the Tulsequah Chief mine (Ottawa's Approval Of Mine Puts Fish At Risk, NDP Says -Aug. 6), I would like to provide a few facts about the benefits to people of mining.

Last year, B.C. miners earned an average of \$94,500, including benefits. That's money they are spending in their communities. At the Tulsequah Chief mine, there will be 190 jobs and another 60 hauling the ore. And that's for the projected 10-year lifespan of the mine. There will be further jobs building the mine: In 1997 estimates, the mine plan foresaw \$150-million in capital costs for construction. That's before any ore is out of the ground.

In B.C., mining companies spent \$130-million in exploration alone. They are forecasted to spend a further \$150-million to \$200-million in 2005. While Mr. Stoffer may not believe that mining has any economic benefits, the industry is putting money into areas hit hardest during the economic downturn of the 1990s.

Bill Bennett BC Minister of State for Mining  
Victoria