



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
Ministry of Energy, Mines  
and Petroleum Resources

# MINING BENEFITS EVERYONE

**Sustaining Rural Communities Through Jobs And Economy**



## **Economy**

- ▶ Mining in B.C. is a \$5 billion industry.
- ▶ Mineral exploration investment hit a 15-year high with over \$220 million for 2005, an increase of 660 per cent since 2001.
- ▶ B.C. has more than 20 advanced mine development projects underway and over 650 exploration projects.
- ▶ There are more than 30 industrial mineral mines and hundreds of sand and gravel quarries providing employment for B.C. workers.
- ▶ B.C. has 10 coal mines and eight metal mines in operation.
- ▶ The Wolverine Coal Mine is scheduled to open this summer in the northeast.
- ▶ Government Incentives:
  - Extended Mining Exploration Tax Credit to 2016.
  - Streamlined regulations reducing duplication by over 30 per cent.
  - Cut corporate income tax to 12 per cent.
  - Eliminated provincial sales tax on machinery and equipment.
  - Federal flow through tax credits extended.

## **Building B.C.**

- ▶ Mining contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue that helps pay for education and health care.
- ▶ Vancouver is an international mining financing centre.
- ▶ Mining is a high tech industry.
- ▶ Many products we use come from raw materials that are mined:
  - toothpaste, light bulbs, roads and cars, televisions and telephones, airplanes, trains and cameras.
- ▶ Mining provides materials for:
  - pacemakers, medicine, biomedical research, medical and dental equipment, computers, firefighter's equipment and robotics.
- ▶ Each British Columbian requires an average of 15 tonnes of aggregate per year for housing, local roads, schools, shopping centers, hospitals and libraries.

## **Environment and Safety**

- ▶ Mining in B.C. impacts only 0.03% of our land base, a very small footprint.
- ▶ B.C.'s mining industry is internationally recognized as a world leader in environmental protection.
- ▶ B.C. was one of the first provinces to enact reclamation legislation.
- ▶ B.C. is a national leader with award-winning reclamation projects.
- ▶ The B.C. mining industry is one of British Columbia's safest heavy industries.



# MINING TODAY

B.C. is one of the world's major mining regions, and mining is one of our most important industries

## First Nations

- ▶ The New Relationship between the provincial government and the First Nations Leadership Council will help bring First Nations, government and the mining industry together constructively as partners.
- ▶ Barrick Gold and Tahltan First Nation partnership at Eskay Creek mine employs about 35 per cent First Nations.
- ▶ The Pavilion Ts'kw'aylaxw Quarry and Lime Plant employs about 28 First Nation people, mainly from the Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation.
- ▶ Orca Sand and Gravel, a partnership between Polaris Minerals and 'Namgis First Nation, plans to produce high quality construction aggregates for major urban markets.

## Coal, Metals and Aggregate

- ▶ B.C. is the world's second largest coal exporter.
- ▶ Sales revenues from coal operations increased to an estimated \$1.9 billion in 2005, up more than 70 per cent from 2004.
- ▶ New northeast B.C. coal mines could generate up to 1,000 new full-time jobs and \$1 billion in investment by 2010.
- ▶ The metals sector provided \$136 million in provincial revenue in 2005, up more than 50 per cent from 2004.

## Communities

- ▶ B.C.'s working mines provide billions of dollars worth of investment to communities throughout B.C.
- ▶ There are more than 25,000 mineral sector jobs in over 50 B.C. communities.
- ▶ Mining jobs pay family supporting wages averaging \$94,000 with benefits.
- ▶ B.C. contributed over \$1 million in funding for mining education and skills training for rural communities and First Nations.
- ▶ Mining towns like Sparwood and Tumbler Ridge have first class recreation facilities resulting from mining.
- ▶ Hundreds of mining supply businesses are sustained by mines.

For more information on mining in B.C., please contact the

**Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources**

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