



BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING PLAN



COVER PHOTOS:

Pursuing a career in mine planning and development, this University of British Columbia doctoral student has worked in the mining industry and is interested in sustainability and mining

Bighorn sheep utilizing the habitat provided by mine reclamation at Line Creek coal mine

Trucks hauling ore at Kemess Mine in northern British Columbia

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Message from the Premier

British Columbia was built on its wealth of natural resources – including a strong mining industry that has been a part of our economy for more than a century. The Province’s mineral exploration and mining industries provide thousands of long-term, family-supporting jobs, revenue to support provincial and local government services, and are important parts of regional economies throughout British Columbia.

British Columbians have the experience, energy and enthusiasm to build a prosperous future for our communities and the mining industry. Importantly, this prosperity includes BC First Nations, who are participating in our mining industry as never before.

Mining is playing a major role in government’s work to revitalize the economy across our province. Critical to these efforts is the BC Mining Plan, which will contribute to the enormous potential for job and wealth creation resulting from mining. The Mining Plan builds on the initial consultation undertaken by the MLA Mining Task Force. I appreciate the work of the committee and wish to thank all MLAs who contributed to that valuable endeavor. I also want to thank all those who shared their ideas and vision with the Task Force.

Working together, I know we can build a strong, vibrant mining sector that provides new jobs for communities throughout British Columbia for generations to come.



Honourable Gordon Campbell

Message from the Minister of Energy and Mines



Honourable Richard Neufeld

The Government of British Columbia is committed to revitalizing the mining industry in this province, and we are doing just that.

Important government initiatives have spurred British Columbia's mining industry to new growth. These initiatives include revisions to the tax regime, the streamlining of regulatory and approval processes, extension of flow-through tax credits which are among the best in Canada, and development of land management plans that provide security for the land base.

The BC Mining Plan will build on this success by enhancing partnerships with communities, First Nations and industry to further stimulate exploration investment, eliminate duplicate regulations and rationalize other provincial and federal regulations that pertain to resource extraction. Mining is returning to its deserved role as an exciting, vital player in British Columbia's economy.

Message from the Minister of State for Mining



Honourable Pat Bell

The Government of British Columbia has worked actively with the mining industry to once again make the Province of British Columbia a globally competitive jurisdiction. A vibrant mining industry is built on exploration, and exploration is built on investor confidence. As a result, mining exploration activity in British Columbia has more than tripled since 2001. New mines are once again opening in the province and old ones are finding new life.

By lowering taxes, reducing regulations and continuing to be on the leading edge of technological and service delivery innovation, we are setting the stage to more fully develop the tremendous mineral wealth of our province. This plan will continue to build on the recent measures government has already undertaken to ensure that BC remains globally competitive and that we continue to generate new opportunities for young British Columbians.

I would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations that contributed to the BC Mining Plan. The Mining Plan will help focus our resources to ensure we remain globally competitive and further increase the benefits to British Columbia of this vital economic sector.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BC is one of the world's most important mining regions, and mining is one of the province's most important industries. It generates thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in annual sales while providing raw materials for many of the products we rely on every day – from light bulbs to airplanes, all the way down to the very foundations of our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

Mining has fuelled economic development in BC communities for over 150 years, and it has incredible potential for the future. World demand for coal, metals and minerals is rising, led by industrial growth in places like China and India. Demand is also growing for aggregate materials, such as sand and gravel, to support the booming BC economy and exports to the US.

BC is ideally positioned to meet these demands.

Our mineral potential is among the best anywhere; we have vast, untapped reserves of metals and other resources; our taxes are competitive; our regulatory requirements have been streamlined; our electricity rates are among the lowest in North America; our workforce is highly skilled; and our infrastructure is well developed.

We also have tremendous strength in our communities, where First Nations and local governments are partnering with mining firms, environmental organizations and other groups to help ensure that the industry is not only profitable but socially and environmentally responsible and, ultimately, sustainable for the long-term future.

The government is committed to building on these strengths to realize the industry's full potential, province-wide.

The BC Mining Plan is built on the following four Cornerstones as guiding principles for a strong, healthy industry:

- **Focus on Communities and First Nations**
- **Protecting Workers, Protecting the Environment**
- **Global Competitiveness**
- **Access to Land**

The Plan, which will guide mining policy in BC for the next decade, is based on the above Cornerstones and supports British Columbia's vision for exploration and mining:

Thriving, globally competitive, safe and
environmentally responsible exploration and mining
sectors, significantly benefiting all British Columbians

MINING HAPPENED HERE



Crops are raised and cattle graze on a portion of the Afton copper-gold mine, currently being reclaimed