

FOCUS ON COMMUNITIES AND FIRST NATIONS

Exploration and mining create jobs and economic opportunity in communities throughout British Columbia. Communities, First Nations and industry work together to ensure a thriving mining sector that provides substantial economic and social benefits, while protecting worker safety and the environment.

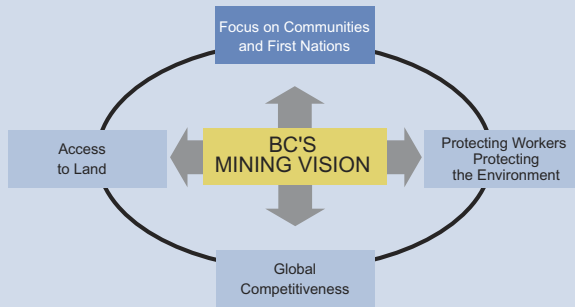
This Plan will support:

- Strong, enduring relationships between the mining industry, communities and First Nations
- The development and implementation of a made-in-British Columbia approach to sustainable exploration, mining and communities

cornerstone 1

Miners have always been part of the Smithers community

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"We are ecstatic to see the Gibraltar mine re-opened and Mt. Polley on the way to production next year. These operations contribute directly to the economy of our community, and they contribute indirectly by boosting investor confidence in the city, the Cariboo and BC."

Mayor Rick Gibson
Williams Lake

"Coal Mining has always played a significant role in the economy of Sparwood and the surrounding Elk Valley and with the new direction taken by the Province, everything points toward a strong and stable future. Along with the strengthening of the coal industry, our community looks forward to the growth that will come from new and expanded secondary industries that supply our mines."

Mayor Cal McDougall
Sparwood

Exploration and mining are community engines

Mining has supported BC communities for well over a century, dating back to the Gold Rush period which spurred the development of railways, roads and other industries, such as agriculture. Today, communities continue to benefit from exploration and mining through:

- Job creation: mining employs about 9,300 people directly and about 8,000 in related sectors
- Economic growth through annual sales, and through payroll: the average annual wage is \$94,500 including benefits

- Business opportunities for local suppliers and service industries
- Economic diversification
- Infrastructure development, and
- Growing opportunities for people to develop and enhance their skills as the industry becomes increasingly sophisticated

MINING FACT:

Elk Valley coal mines contribute 2,360 jobs and \$220 million in salaries to the region's economy



Mining supports the construction of community facilities like this recreation centre in Logan Lake.

Communities and mining working together

The Province has a policy for consultation with First Nations throughout British Columbia. In addition, communities, First Nations and industry around the province have developed solid, constructive relationships and through resource development, provide opportunities for a range of economic, social and environmental benefits – before, during and after mining.

For example:

- In northwestern BC, NovaGold is working with the Tahltan First Nation to responsibly develop the Galore Creek gold-silver-copper project. The company and the First Nation are also working with local, provincial and federal governments to ensure the project will create economic and other opportunities that benefit local communities.

- In Port Alberni, Hupacasath and Ucluelet First Nations and municipal officials jointly venture with Polaris Minerals to develop the Eagle Rock Quarry.
- In Kimberley, Teck Cominco worked closely with the city to help diversify the local economy after mine closure.

MINING FACT:
Butchart Gardens, a reclaimed limestone quarry on Vancouver Island, attracts a million visitors every year

"We wanted to send a signal that the Tahltan people are supportive of mining on their land... We want to make sure that any mining that happens on our traditional lands is a win-win for all parties – the Tahltan people, the mining industry and the government."



Chief Jerry Asp
 Tahltan First Nation

Chief Jerry Asp
 Tahltan First Nation

"We are excited that the Northeast coalfields will contribute once again to our local prosperity in the form of employment and tax dollars. Benefits have already been experienced by our community and the optimistic forecast has spurred a flurry of investment inquiries."

Mayor Clay Iles
 District of Tumbler Ridge

Job opportunities are increasing for all British Columbians in mineral exploration and mining across BC.



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ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Mining Task Force – consultation process with communities and industry to identify challenges and opportunities in mining
- ✓ Conferences – ongoing support for community and industry conferences
- ✓ Newsletter – monthly publication of BC's Mining Update, highlighting for potential investors provincial initiatives that improve BC's global competitiveness
- ✓ Mining Projects – communities, industry and the Province working together on the review of mining projects
- ✓ Negotiated agreements resulting in the resumption of operations at the Gibraltar Mine in the Cariboo, and a new commercial industrial development by the Quatsino First Nation on the site of the Island Copper Mine

Mining and Community Forums

Annual community forums will be held to enable an ongoing discussion about exploration, mining and communities in British Columbia.

The forums will bring together representatives from communities, the mining industry and elected officials to identify challenges and solutions in working towards sustainable resource development.

Strategy 1 Enhance relationships with communities

- *Action 1*
Host four regional mining and community forums each year beginning in 2005
- *Action 2*
Host an annual meeting with the mining industry and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities beginning in 2005
- *Action 3*
Actively support the Mineral Resource Education Program, a partnership among schools, industry and government that gives students access to hands-on resources that demonstrate the role of mining in society
- *Action 4*
Create a mining and minerals video for use in communities, and to promote the industry outside BC



Local conferences and meetings, like Minerals North held in Smithers in 2004, help establish community and First Nations partnerships with industry to encourage sustainable resource development.

Strategy 2 Enhance relationships with First Nations

- *Action 5*
Host annual workshops, beginning in 2005, to share information with First Nations on exploration and mining development opportunities
- *Action 6*
Develop partnerships between industry and government to fund mining-related skill, employment and business development opportunities for First Nations
- *Action 7*
Appoint a provincial coal coordinator to work with First Nations and industry to facilitate the development of new coal projects

ACHIEVEMENTS

Developing Skills And Creating Jobs

- ✓ Yekooche First Nation partnership with the Province supporting training to gain skills to explore mineral potential and pursue joint ventures
- ✓ Tahltan First Nation working relationship with exploration and mining companies for over four decades, resulting in training and jobs for Tahltan members
- ✓ Hupacasath and Ucluelet First Nations partnership with Polaris Minerals in a 710 million tonne aggregate project near Port Alberni, expected to create new jobs for the next 100 years

Building Now for the Future

- ✓ Quatsino First Nation, Electra Gold mining participation and royalty agreement concerning mineral development near Port Hardy
- ✓ BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines development of an aboriginal community engagement guidebook for First Nations and industry
- ✓ Upper Similkameen Indian Band partnership with the Province supporting development of tourism and an industrial park at historic Nickle Plate Mine site in Hedley
- ✓ Yekooche nomination for the Northern BC Prospector of the Year award, recognizing persistence, innovation and initiative
- ✓ A venture by the Quatsino First Nation to purchase the former Island Copper mine site buildings and port to provide employment and revenue generation opportunities for their members

The 2004 Prospecting Field School, sponsored by the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines and the BC Institute of Technology, included three First Nations participants. These students are following in the footsteps of many aboriginal prospectors, both pre-contact and modern.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Supported Tahltan First Nation mining sustainability workshop
- ✓ Supported "Out of Respect," Tahltan First Nation report on sustainable mining
- ✓ Supported Mining Association of BC's Sustainable Mining initiative

Sullivan Mine and Kimberley:

One Mine's Lasting Contribution to a Community

- ✓ In operation for 92 years, employing four generations of Kimberley residents
- ✓ Mine operations have supported the construction of:
 - roads
 - schools
 - recreational facilities
 - other community facilities
- ✓ Supported diversification of Kimberley's economy, including a focus on recreation and tourism
- ✓ Sullivan Mine won the provincial Mine Reclamation Award in 1996 for its comprehensive reclamation program

Sustainable Mining

Sustainable mining has been defined as mining that meets our needs today, without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

A made-in-BC approach will maximize mining's contribution to sustainability for long-term, ongoing economic and social benefits, while protecting worker safety and the natural environment.

Strategy 3 Develop a made-in-BC approach to sustainable mining

- *Action 8*
Develop and implement guidelines to maximize mining's contribution to sustainability with communities, First Nations, labour, industry and environmental groups, beginning in 2005
- *Action 9*
Create an annual Sustainable Mining Award in 2006 to recognize the achievements of communities, industry and organizations



The Tahltan First Nation organized a Mining Symposium with industry and government (participants in photograph) to address sustainability issues in 2003.