

## ACCESS TO LAND

Mining affects only a tiny proportion of our land base but, even with the guidance of geoscience surveys, prospectors and mining firms need to explore large tracts of land to find commercial ore bodies. They also need to know where they can explore, and under what conditions, before they make investments that lead to mine development.

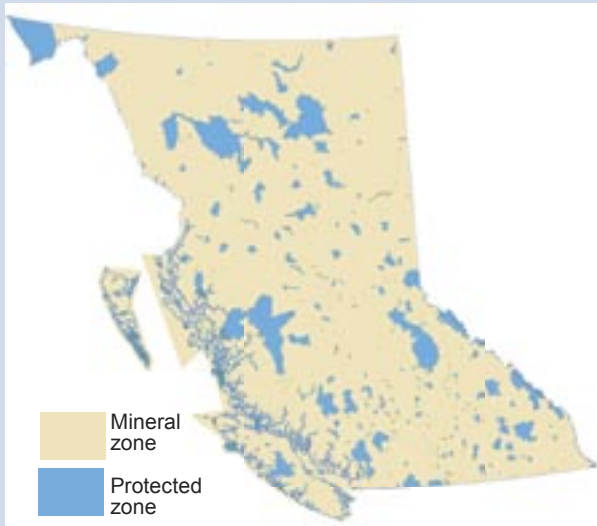
This Plan advocates:

- The consistent application of integrated land use models that appropriately accommodate exploration and mining in British Columbia

# cornerstone 4

*Exploration site in the Coast Mountains south of Stewart*

## ACCESS TO LAND



British Columbia's land use plans establish the land base available to exploration.

Modern technology has simplified the process, but mineral exploration is still very much like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Companies and prospectors need access to land to find the valuable deposits that can become commercially viable mines. They also need certainty about where they can and cannot search for and develop mineral resources. British Columbia is working to ensure they have that certainty.

The Province has legislated a land use system that opens the way for exploration throughout much of the land base.

Under this two-zone land-use system, land is clearly defined as either open or closed to exploration:

- Parks, ecological reserves and other sensitive areas are protected. Mining is prohibited in these areas.
- The rest of the land base is designated as “mineral zone.” Over 85 percent of the province is open to exploration as part of an integrated land use approach.

### MINING FACT:

**BC is the first jurisdiction in Canada to have a mining and tourism Memorandum of Understanding to support growth in both sectors**



Exploration surveys for sub-surface mineral resources, such as this geochemical sampling in northwest BC, take place over vast areas but with little long-term disturbance of the land base.



## Strategy 13 Define land available for exploration and mining

- *Action 40*  
Ensure all new and updated land use plans clearly define areas open to mineral exploration and mining
- *Action 41*  
Simplify access to land use data to improve exploration effectiveness and balance land use interests
- *Action 42*  
Ensure the provincial Integrated Land and Resource Registry accommodates key databases required by the mineral industry by 2007

**MINING FACT:**  
Over 85 percent of the province is open to mineral exploration

Industry and government representatives met in five communities in 2004 to work towards joint solutions to protect the environment and community interests, while encouraging responsible economic development.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Land Use Planning and Mining

- ✓ A two-zone land use system, confirmed in legislation, clearly defines land as either open or closed to exploration – more than 85% of BC is available for mineral exploration
- ✓ Completed regional land use plans provide greater certainty for all land users in the province
- ✓ New land use plans recognize the compatibility of exploration and future mining activities with sensitive ecosystems, tourism and recreation values
- ✓ The newly established Integrated Land and Resource Registry will centralize the registration of all tenures and other legal encumbrances on Crown land and resources
- ✓ Significant land use decisions are made by elected officials, accountable to the people of British Columbia

## ACCESS TO LAND

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Integrated Land Use Management

- ✓ Significant progress towards completion of land use plans across British Columbia
- ✓ Government/industry regional workshops to ease mineral exploration permitting while maintaining environmental standards
- ✓ Formal agreement among the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines, the Mining Association of British Columbia and the Council of Tourism Associations of British Columbia to advance sustainable growth opportunities and improved access to land and land use certainty for both mining and tourism
- ✓ Mineral potential mapping completed for the entire province
- ✓ MLA Task Force created to enable more effective completion and implementation of land use plans

#### Strategy 14 Work with other land users

- *Action 43*  
Develop and implement user-friendly guidelines for integrating mineral exploration and development with other land uses
- *Action 44*  
Support increased partnerships between the mineral industry and other land users, like the Memorandum of Understanding between the mining and tourism industries, to further sustainable growth opportunities
- *Action 45*  
Support regional workshops to continually improve the integration of mineral exploration and development with other land uses
- *Action 46*  
Ensure that land use planning and plan implementation continue to be informed by relevant and peer-reviewed science



Mineral exploration and mine development characteristically share land and infrastructure with other land-based users such as forestry, guide outfitters and recreational users.



# THE MINING SECTORS

The BC Mining Plan supports the growth and development of the mining industry province-wide. It also targets specific actions to each of the vital sectors that make up the industry:

- Aggregate
- Coal
- Industrial Minerals
- Metals
- Placer

*Geologists inspecting drill core for molybdenum*

## AGGREGATE

### Economic Benefits

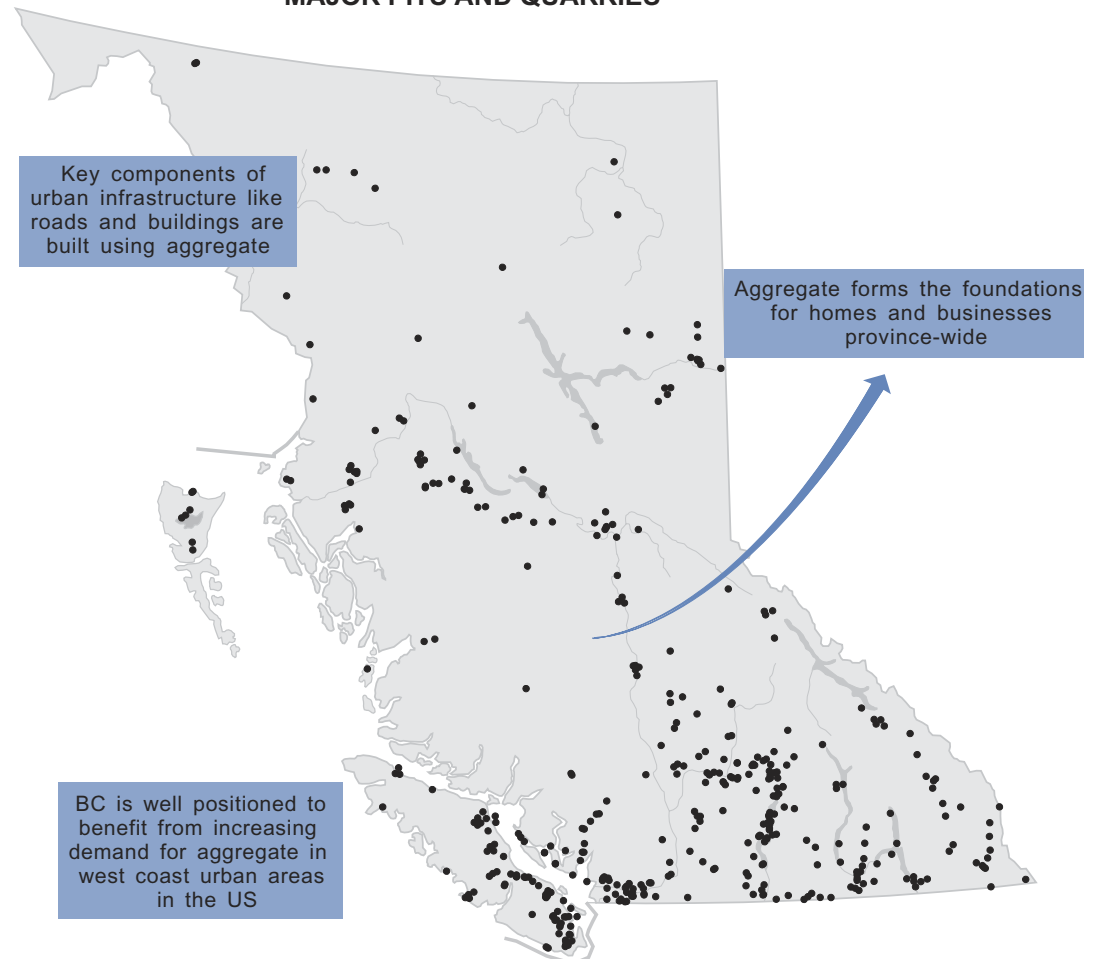
- More than \$2 million annually in Crown royalties
- Employs more than 2,000 people directly
- \$238 million worth of sales by producers
- 38 million tonnes produced annually
- 5% or 1.9 million tonnes exported

### ACTION

- *Action 47*  
Develop and test a model for ensuring a long-term, affordable supply of provincial aggregate by completing an Aggregate Pilot Project
- *Action 48*  
Expand a successful Aggregate Pilot Project model and implementation guidelines province-wide
- *Action 49*  
Continue to promote export markets for coastal aggregate resources
- *Action 50*  
Investigate options to increase benefits to local governments from local aggregate operations



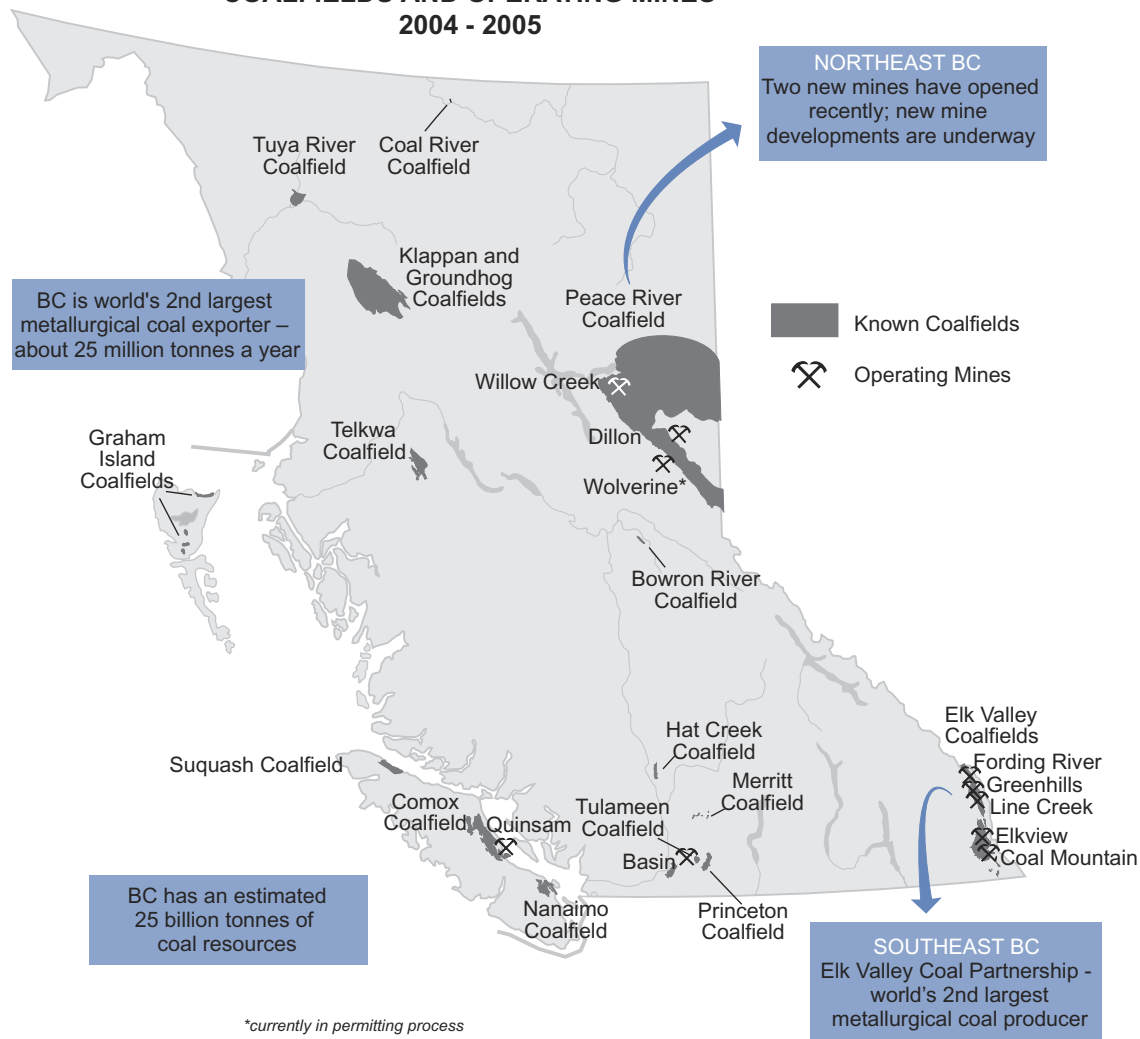
### MAJOR PITS AND QUARRIES



# COAL



## COALFIELDS AND OPERATING MINES 2004 - 2005



### Economic Benefits

- Provides secure, long term, well-paying jobs in rural communities
- Makes a significant contribution to the economy through transportation and port handling, and through the acquisition of goods and services in local areas
- Coal production accounts for approximately 35% of BC's total mineral production value
- The industry provides over 2,400 direct jobs

### ACTION

- **Action 51**  
Continue to work with proponents to facilitate new coal projects entering the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* review process
- **Action 52**  
Promote the continued use of Ridley Terminal as a coal handling facility
- **Action 53**  
Work with the federal government to open up the Dominion coal block in the Elk Valley to exploration
- **Action 7\***  
Appoint a provincial coal coordinator to work with First Nations and industry to facilitate the development of new coal projects
- **Action 37\***  
Facilitate affordable industry access to ports and railways through collaboration with the federal government, and railway and port authorities to ensure BC remains the Pacific Gateway for mineral exports

\* denotes actions repeated from earlier in the Plan



# INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

## Economic Benefits

- In recent years British Columbia's annual mineral production has been valued at about \$3 billion, with industrial minerals and structural materials such as aggregate contributing about 20% of this total
- Industrial mineral mines, processing plants and value added manufacturing employ 2,400 people directly
- There are about 40 processing plants located in numerous communities across the province

MINERALS (examples)	TYPICAL USES
clays & shales	pottery, medical clays, aggregate, refractory bricks, castable products
dimension stone	kitchen counters, facing stone on buildings, floor tiles, flagstone, landscaping, monuments
garnet	abrasives, roofing tiles
gypsum	wallboard, plaster of paris, flux in pottery, fertilizer
limestone	landscaping, cement, chemicals, agriculture, aggregate
pumice, tephra, & lava rock	landscaping, sporting facilities, growing and filtration media, lightweight aggregate, cement
sulphur	acid, rubber, dyes, explosives, insecticides, fungicides, matches
talc	baby powder, climbing, gymnastics

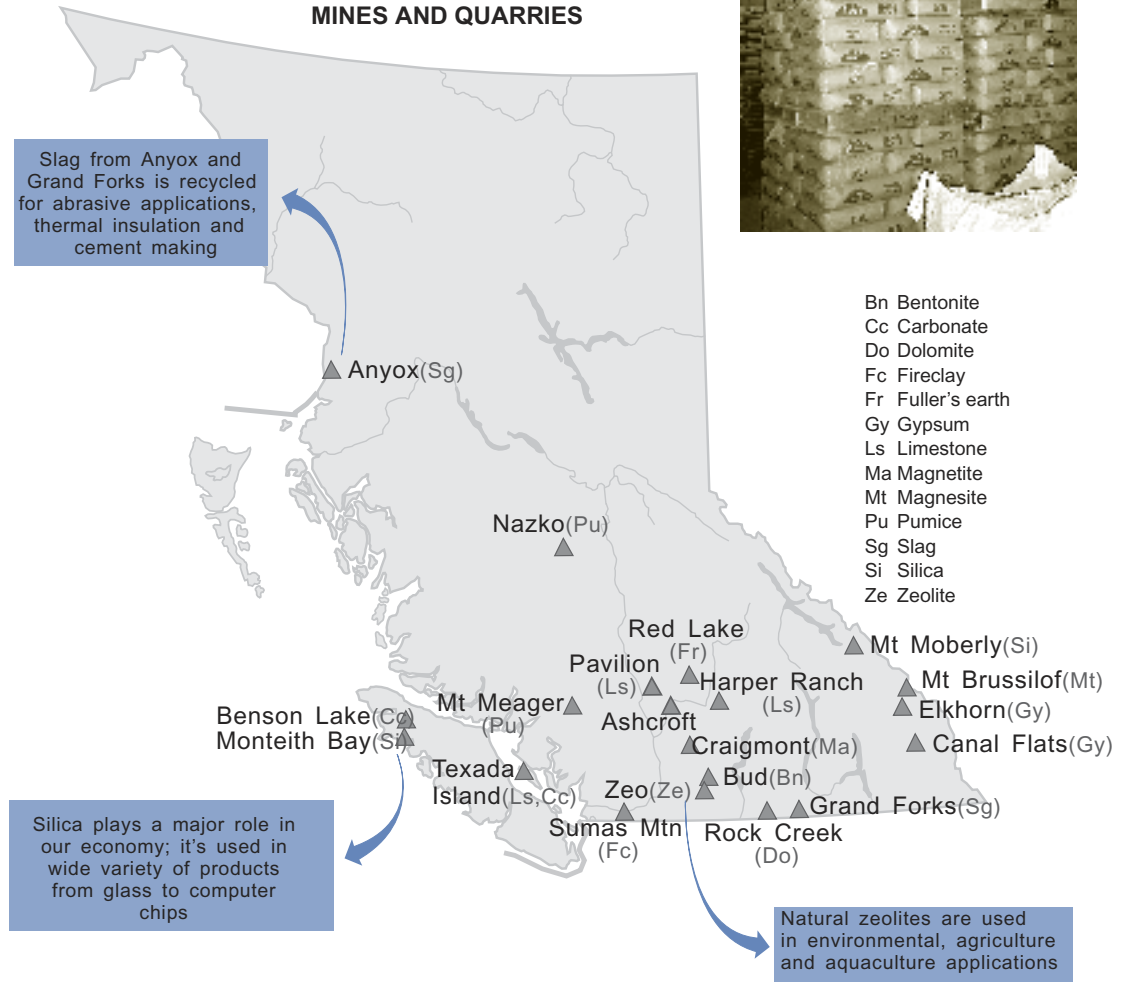
## ACTION

- **Action 54**  
Encourage industry participation in sector associations to help build the industrial minerals production and processing industry
- **Action 22\***  
Review with other levels of government (municipal and federal) taxation and fee issues related to mines and quarries to ensure an equitable tax structure
- **Action 39\***  
Establish a BC Mining Education Network in 2005 to meet the industry's skill requirements

\* denotes actions repeated from earlier in the Plan



### OPERATING INDUSTRIAL MINERAL MINES AND QUARRIES

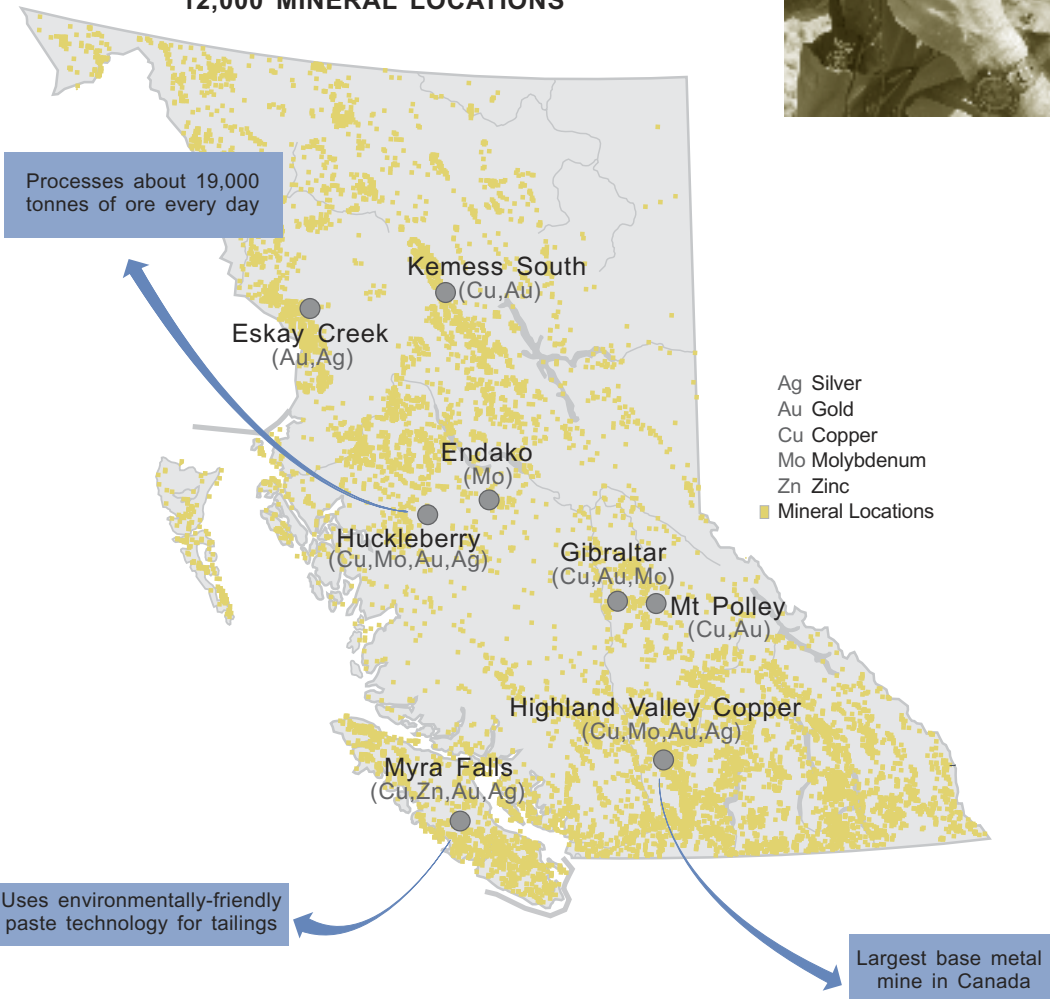




# METALS



## EIGHT OPERATING MINES AND 12,000 MINERAL LOCATIONS



### Economic Benefits

- The metal mining sector currently provides approximately 2,500 direct jobs and pays among the highest average industrial wages in the province – the sector also supports numerous indirect jobs and industries throughout British Columbia
- Over the past 20 years British Columbia’s mining industry has produced annually about \$1.4 billion worth of copper, gold, molybdenum, lead, zinc and other metals
- The mineral exploration and mining industries provide important economic and geographic diversification by supporting regional economies, small communities and infrastructure within British Columbia
- In the last five years the metals sector contributed in the range of \$25–\$50 million in direct taxes to the provincial government and approximately \$30 million to municipal governments annually

### ACTION

- *Action 21\**  
Support the further extension of the federal Super Flow Through Share Tax Credit program
- *Action 24\**  
Develop and implement a faster and simplified approach to multi-agency exploration and mining approvals with the Ministry of Energy and Mines as the single coordinating agency, beginning in 2005
- *Action 27\**  
Invest in frontier geoscience surveys in BC to increase mineral exploration
- *Action 29\**  
Enhance global investors’ access to the digital geoscience database on MapPlace.ca by publishing more data layers and providing cutting-edge tools, including a new digital geology map of BC

\* denotes actions repeated from earlier in the Plan

## PLACER

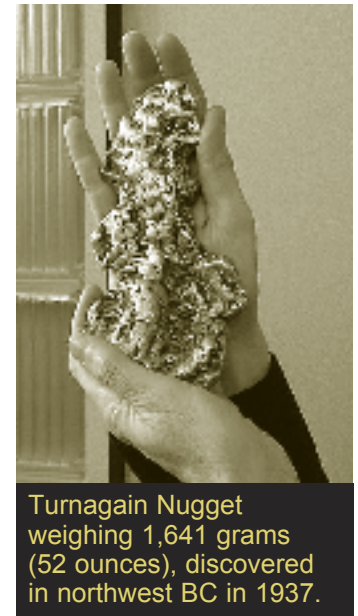
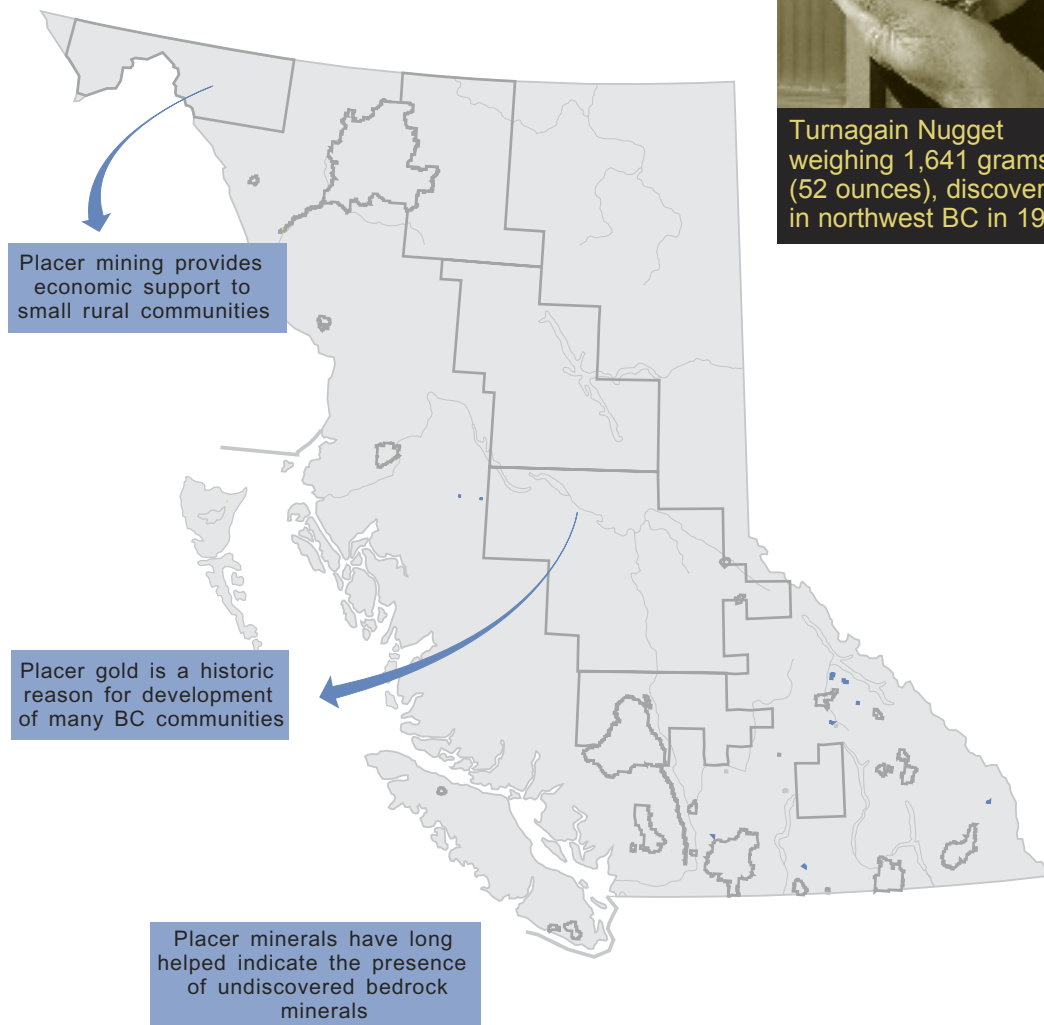
### Economic Benefits

- Mineral titles revenue, mineral tax and water rentals: \$0.6 M
- Estimated gross revenues range from \$3.9 M to \$12.3 M in 1999 to 2002
- Placer miners support local economies with their purchase of services and supplies, and contribute in the order of \$0.4 to \$1.2 million to provincial revenue annually through the payment of taxes on consumables and income tax

### ACTION

- *Action 55*  
Review permitting and bonding requirements for small volume, mechanized placer activities with a goal of identifying means to reduce bonding levels and permitting complexity
- *Action 56*  
Reduce substantially the timelines for conversion of a placer claim to a lease by 2006
- *Action 57*  
In conjunction with the BC Placer Miners Association, review all legislation pertaining to placer leases to ensure security of tenure, beginning no later than summer 2005

### DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PLACER ACTIVITY



Turnagain Nugget weighing 1,641 grams (52 ounces), discovered in northwest BC in 1937.

## CONCLUSION: THE WAY FORWARD

British Columbia has excellent geology, an abundance of low-cost power, excellent transportation systems, and modern ports with a strategic location to Asian markets. The BC Mining Plan is a comprehensive strategy to help our province recognize the potential of one of its most important industries. The Plan addresses a range of factors which sets the stage for a healthy mining industry that delivers community benefits and is sustainable for years to come.

The Plan commits the government to:

- continue working closely with communities and First Nations to ensure mineral exploration and mining provide long-term, sustainable benefits
- continuously improve our world-class standards and practices to protect worker safety and the natural environment
- maintain and build on our highly competitive regulatory and tax regime to ensure global competitiveness, and
- continue working province-wide to bring real certainty to land use planning for all British Columbians.

Some of the actions in this Plan will be implemented immediately. Others will continue to guide mining policy for the next 10 years and beyond.

The actions in the Plan reflect the ideas and comments of people in our province, including First Nations, municipal leaders, individuals, industry, environmental organizations and countless other groups who took the time to share their views with government over the last few years. Their participation has been very much appreciated.

As we work together to implement the Plan, we will report on our progress year by year and, over time, achieve our vision of:

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



