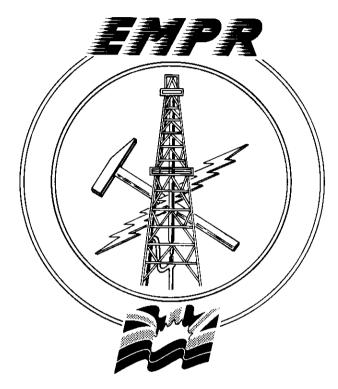
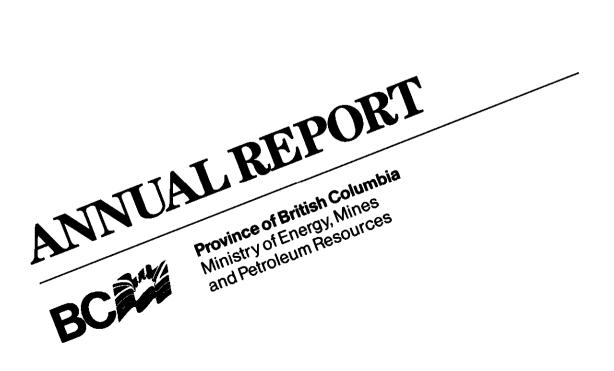
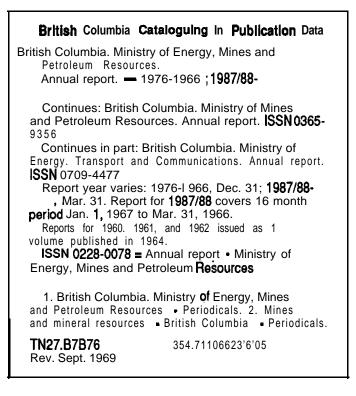
1988/89







To the Honourable JACK DAVIS Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings Victoria, British Columbia

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for the time period of April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

Yours truly,

D.H. Horswill *Deputy* Minister

The Honourable David C. Lam Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

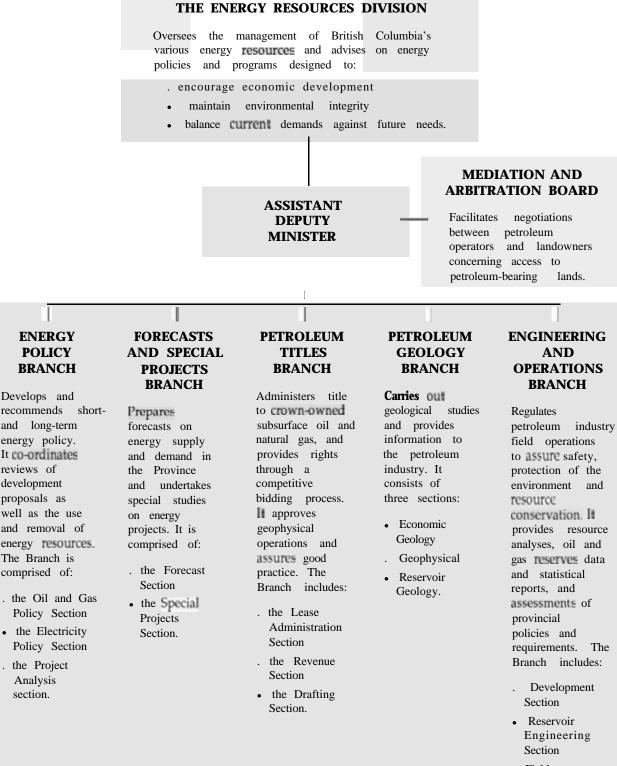
May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for the time period of April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

Jack Davis Minister







• Field Operations.

The Oil and Gas Industry in 1988/89

A Statement of Principles between the federal government and the provincial government for the funding of the Vancouver Island gas pipeline was signed on September **22**, **1988**. The Victoria Gas Division of B.C. **Hydro** was sold to Vancouver Island Gas Co. Ltd. **(VIGAS)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Inter-City Gas Corporation, on February **28**, **1989** for \$16.7 million **(\$6.7** million if the Vancouver Island pipeline does not proceed).

VIGAS was also awarded the local distribution rights for the remainder of the pipeline service area excluding **Squamish** which is currently served by Inland Natural Gas Co. Ltd. Pacific Coast Energy Corporation's application for an Energy Project Certificate to build the Vancouver Island pipeline was sent to over 30 federal and provincial agencies, then referred to the British Columbia Utilities Commission **(BCUC)** for further review. The **BCUC's** three-phase public hearing concluded at the end of March.

British Columbia's natural gas **core** market policy was released on July 5, **1988**. The main objective of the policy is to ensure a long-term secure supply of natural gas at reasonable prices for a defined core market. This core market is defined as all natural gas consumers in the residential, institutional, commercial and industrial sector not currently purchasing natural gas directly and not exempted from the core market by **the** BCUC. The Ministry worked on a Petroleum Royalty Management System (PRMS), designed to complement the new, simplified royalty system which came into effect June 1, 1988. Under the new royalty system a 15 per cent floor rate is levied on nonassociated gas selling up to \$50 per 10³m³. For conservation gas, the floor rate is eight per cent. The royalty rate increases as the price escalates **above** the \$50 level. The PRMS is based on industry reporting procedures common to all three producing provinces and will become operational April, 1989.

Total revenues from petroleum tenure administration of oil and gas rights amounted to \$145 million in **1988/89**. In response to private **industry** interest, 316,000 hectares of oil and gas rights were offered for tender in the Peace River area in July 1988, resulting in bonus revenues of \$41 million and the awarding of 59 new petroleum and natural gas tenures. This unusually large disposition will result in an increase in exploration activity in the coming years.

The size of the disposition was partly attributable to the oil and gas industry's focus on natural gas, as a result of the predicted gas deficit in the United States and the availability of new markets through deregulation. **There** is a keen perception of large undiscovered reserves of natural gas in British Columbia awaiting development to meet this need.

The Lower Mainland experienced growing industry interest in exploration for conventional hydrocarbon prospects and for potential natural gas underground storage reservoirs. Although no additional drilling **activity occurred**, several new geophysical surveys were conducted. In the largest program, some 250 kilometres of **Vibroseis** data was acquired. In addition, a smaller survey was conducted in the Delta municipality.

In conjunction with renewed exploration interest in the Fraser Valley, the Ministry prepared a Lower Mainland exploration information package. This was presented to municipal governments and other interested parties in preparation for an anticipated sale of petroleum and natural gas rights in the fourth quarter of 1989. Ministry technical personnel visited and toured the underground storage facilities at Jackson Prairie near **Chehalis**, Washington.

The oil and gas royalty holiday programs both continued through the year with a resulting increase in industry activity The number of wells drilled and the number of **metres** drilled both increased from the previous year. In particular, drilling activity increased in the Stoddart West, Eagle, Eagle West and **Brassey** Fields.

The **Brassey** oil **field** was partly delineated and **some** indication of its importance was made public during the latter part of 1988. By year-end, an agreement was being negotiated between the operator and the Ministry on the optimal plan of development. Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. (Canhunter) continued its aggressive exploratory program in the Deep Basin by completing the Noel gas gathering system in early 1988. The system, which has a capacity of 1,410 10³m³ per day, is used to compress and transport raw, dehydrated gas from the Noel gas field to a pipeline terminal located at the British Columbia/ Alberta border. The gas is transported via a federally-regulated pipeline to Canhunter's Elmworth gas plant in Alberta for processing.

Placer CEGO Petroleum constructed a sweet gas processing plant, and operation was scheduled to begin in April of 1989. The plant, located 35 kilometres northeast of Fort St. John, has a capacity of 556.6 10³m³ per day of **Kiskatinaw** gas. Approximately 53 m³ per day of stabilized liquids are also recovered.

By late 1988 and early 1989 exploration activity became increasingly more focused upon gas exploration — particularly in previously unexplored or sparsely explored regions of the northeast sector. This activity, in turn, led to significant new gas discoveries in the Boulder, Ring/Border, Blueberry West, and **Hossitl** areas. In addition, significant new gas reserve additions were **made** in or near existing fields at Boundary Lake, Noel and **Monias**.

In the northern foothills area of northeast British Columbia, interest was revived in restoring **production** from the Nahanni Formation in the Beaver River Field. Also in this area, a potentially significant wildcat well — Colgas Crow (c-16-A/94-N-15) — was licenced to test the gas potential of the Nahanni and Permo-Pennsylvanian horizons.

In marked contrast to the northeast, exploration **activity** decreased in the southeast sector. The Chevron Shell Mansfield (c-72-D/82-G-15) exploratory well was abandoned in October after encountering only minor gas shows and extensive water-bearing porosity in the objective horizons. No significant additional exploration activity occurred in this region for the remainder of the reporting period.

Because of a small potential for sour gas, the Emergency Response Plan for the well was tested before the well was spudded. During the drilling of the well, guided tours of the rig facilities were conducted for local residents to mitigate community concern.

In total, 192 wells finished drilling during fiscal **1988/89.** Of this number, 142 wells (74 per cent) were completed for oil and gas production. These statistics compare favorably to the **1987/88** drilling level of **188** wells. In addition to this increased level of drilling activity, a total of 327 geophysical crew-weeks were recorded. This represents a 33 per cent increase from the 246 crew-weeks recorded in fiscal year **1987/88** and points towards even higher levels of exploration activity in the near **future.**

On the **westcoast** offshore, the Geological Survey of Canada, in consultation with Ministry staff, continued **extensive** onshore and offshore **geoscientific** studies in the vicinity of the Queen Charlotte Islands. These were conducted as part of a three-year study under the auspices of the Frontier Geoscience Program.

The Electricity Industry in 1988/89

In the electricity sector, there have been several policy initiatives in response to the exhaustion of B.C. **Hydro's firm hydro**electric surplus due to higher than expected load growth.

The end of the Industrial **Electricity** Discount Rate Program, which marketed surplus electricity at reduced rates for the purpose of assisting provincial **industry**, was announced in August as B.C. **Hydro's** firm **hydro-electric** surplus was fully committed. As an alternative to this program the Province established the Economic Development Electricity Rate Program, which will provide a limited amount of low-cost power, at reduced rates, until the mid **1990s.**

The **Province** has developed an Electricity Strategy to guide the development and use of British Columbia's electricity resources to meet load growth **over** the next several years. A key element of this strategy is the new elechidty pricing policy developed to provide incentives for conservation and forestall the need for new higher **cost** energy projects.

As a blueprint for electricity development, the Electricity Strategy emphasizes increased competition. **Provincial** initiatives in this area include:

- . Legislation which allows private access to the provincial transmission system.
- . The introduction of a policy whereby B.C. **Hydro** may purchase power from independent power producers.
- . The establishment of B.C. Power Export Corporation (**POWEREX**), the Province's electricity export agency responsible for the acquisition and sale of private and public firm surplus **electricity** for export.

Other elements to the Elechiclty Strategy which will unfold as we move into the **1990s** include the development of power supplies which are environmentally benign or beneficial, initiatives to increase **opportunities** for **industries** to obtain power at the lowest possible mst consistent with maintaining environmental quality, and the mle of electricity in promoting increased inter-provincial and international co-operation. These will be implemented as specific programs **are** introduced.

Energy Projects in Review

Energy project review activity increased during the year. Applications for Energy Project Certificates **(EPCs)** for Amoco's Cypress gas processing plant and Placer **Cego's Boundary** plant were reviewed and approved by the Ministers of Energy and Environment. West **Kootenay** Power's application for a gas **turbine** plant in Oliver was referred to the B.C. Utilities Commission after an inter-agency review; the application was subsequently refused by the Province because of siting, gas supply, and air emission concerns. The Vancouver Island Pipeline Project, as noted, was also the subject of a BCUC hearing.

Several independent power producers proposing to develop generation projects in response **to B.C.Hydro/POWEREX** calls submitted preapplication information. Fording Coal Ltd.'s Energy Project Application was submitted in March, 1989 for review by several provincial, federal, and local government agencies. Westcoast Energy Inc. submitted a Prospectus for a major ethane-based petrochemical plant at Taylor. A draft EPC Application for a thermal electric generation project to service the proposed Cinola gold mine was also reviewed.

Interest in geothermal energy development was rekindled in 1988 due, in large part, **to** B.C. **Hydro's** POWEREX proposals **to** purchase **electrical** power in 50 megawatt blocks from independent power suppliers. Canadian Crew Energy Corporation, the geothermal rights holder at Meager Creek, has expressed interest in submitting an **electricity** generating proposal of this type.

Highlights

Energy Policy Branch

Energy Policy Branch efforts in **1988/89 focussed** on the development of a **natural** gas pipeline to Vancouver Island, a new core market policy, a strategy for securing new **electricity** sources required to meet increased load growth and the continuing process of deregulation.

Sixty-two Energy Removal Certificates (ERCs) were active during the 1988/89 fiscal year. One long-term firm, 14 shortterm firm and 33 short-term interruptible ERCs delivered 90.2 petajoules (PJ) (2302.5 10⁶m³) of natural gas to the United States. The majority of this gas was destined for consumption in the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon). The remaining 14 ERCs, which were all short-term interruptible, removed 9.6 PJ (249.1 10⁶m³) of natural gas from British Columbia for delivery to Canadian markets, mainly in Ontario.

In response to a barge **spill** off **Greys Harbour**, Washington, and the subsequent tanker spill at **Valdez**, Alaska, staff participated on the U.S./British Columbia **Oilspill Taskforce**. The **Taskforce**, lead by the Ministry of Environment, is expected to report to British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Alaska by December 1989. Staff participated in the provincial Oceans Committee, **formed** in response to federal initiatives related to **oceans** policy in Canada. Ministry **concerns** relate to potential management of offshore oil and gas activity, international boundaries and jurisdictional issues.

Planning commenced for Ministry participation in the World Energy Congress to be held in Montreal in September, 1989. This most prestigious energy conference is being held in Canada for the first time in its history. A separate British Columbia package has **been** added to the program, following the conference, for delegates with an interest in visiting energy projects in the Province.

The Ministry committed its support and participation in Globe '90, to be held in Vancouver, March 19-23, 1990. The first of its kind in North America, the conference will focus on environmentally sustainable economic development.

Forecasts and Special Projects Branch

Branch activities during **1988/89 focussed** primarily on the development of the Vancouver **Island natural** gas pipeline and on **special** energy **studies**.

Pipeline-related activities included the development of economic and financial analyses of pipeline costs and benefits. The results of these analyses **were** used **to** develop the government financing package for the project. Branch staff **also** worked closely with the Policy Branch in the sale of B.C. **Hydro's** Victoria Gas Division, and in the allocation of natural gas distribution rights for the North Island and Mainland Coast regions.

The Branch is responsible for the development and implementation of the conversion assistance programs for residential, commercial and industrial customers of the pipeline. In **1988/89** the Branch began a review of conversion potential and costs as the first stage of program development.

Special studies conducted in **1988/89** included a study of market opportunities for British Columbia **natural** gas exports to the United States, a report on the status of the petroleum refining industry, and a review of the development of **ethane-based** petrochemical industry in Western Canada. Other special projects included the preparation of the "British Columbia Energy Overview", a full-color document illustrating the Province's energy facts and trends.

Ongoing Branch activities in **1988/89** included the preparation of the "Energy Sector Update" **(a** quarterly review of provincial energy trends), co-ordination of quarterly resource revenue forecasts, and extensive upgrading of the **Ministry's** energy demand forecasting model.

Petroleum Titles Branch

Branch initiatives implemented during the year include the modification of **stratigraphic zone** designations within petroleum and natural gas titles. The zone designations were modified **to** conform to a **more** efficient method of describing available petroleum and natural gas rights developed in conjunction with the Geological Branch. Treasury Board approval was obtained to upgrade the Petroleum Titles Administrative Computer System which will result in a potential revenue increase from the identification of additional petroleum and natural gas rights for disposition; increased compliance and analysis capability; and a more effective response **to** the needs of industry. Crown petroleum and natural gas sale bonuses increased dramatically, partly due to the anomalous sale held in July 1988 and also **to** an increase in sale revenues throughout the year as a result of the interest generated by significant discoveries in the Boulder, Ring/Border, Boundary Lake and **Brassey** areas. A small increase was attributable to the number of deep rights parcels sold as a result of the stratigraphic reversion program.

The industry continued to consolidate land holdings by surrendering land that they had no immediate plans to explore.

Petroleum Geology Branch

Largely in response to growing industry interest in exploration for conventional hydrocarbon prospects and for potential natural gas underground storage reservoirs, and in anticipation of future activity, the Regional Geology Section developed a **five**year project plan. The regional **project** components of the plan will be published upon completion and supplied to industry and other interested parties.

The Reservoir Geology Section moved towards increased automation of well log analysis functions in 1988. It is anticipated that the purchase of a geological workstation in the near future will further enhance geological data processing and report-generation capability.

The Zone Designation System was almost fully implemented in the **1988/89** fiscal year. To date, about 100 zones have been designated. Implementation has standardized and optimized the lease reversion **process**. Considerable time was spent in providing geological advice and input into the design and development of the Petroleum Royalty Management System (PRMS). Due to the focus on timely PRMS development and implementation, upgrading of the Petroleum and Natural Gas System (PANG) was largely suspended in 1988/89.

The **"Rocks**, Rigs and Roughnecks" exhibit on the history of British Columbia's oil and gas exploration and development, opened at the Royal British Columbia Museum in November 1988. This exhibit, which received technical and financial support from the Energy Resources Division, is proving to be an extremely popular and effective means of informing visitors about **the** vital importance of these energy **resources**.

Planning **also** commenced on a Petroleum Geology Branch/Ministry exhibit for the upcoming Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists "Exploration Update" conference to be held in Calgary in June, 1989.

Engineering and Operations Branch

The Branch continued its program of **database** improvements and enhanced, in particular, its ability to report **reserves** of natural gas by-products and typical pool raw gas analysis.

A Gas Vigilance Study was the second of two in a project to develop and test a detailed inspection program that verified the accuracy of **reported** oil and gas production and sales volumes **used** as the basis for calculating crown royalty. The objectives were **to**:

- . Develop a detailed inspection program for gas facilities.
- Complete detailed inspections on a representative number of operating gas field facilities.
- . Prepare and complete a computerized analysis of reported production and related data.

The project started in September, 1988, and was completed in March, 1989.

During the year, the Procedural Handbook was revised and distributed for general industry use. The Handbook explains the function of **the** Division within the Ministry and the responsibilities, organization, and **procedures** used by the various branches within the Division. The Handbook provides information and assistance to oil companies engaged in petroleum exploration and production in British Columbia.

Significant additions to the Handbook are Appendices 6 and 7 which deal with the drilling of **sour** gas wells in the Province. These two appendices outline the requirements for **sour** wells and **the** guidelines for operator emergency response plans and public consultation programs for special **sour** wells proposed to be drilled in British Columbia.

	19	87/88	1988/89		
Activity — Titles Administered	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	
Permits	175	2.5 million	112	1.3 million	
Leases	6,668	3.7 million	6,587	3.5 million	
Drilling Licences	255	0.7 million	318	0.9 million	
Totals	7,098	6.9 million	7,017	5.7 million	

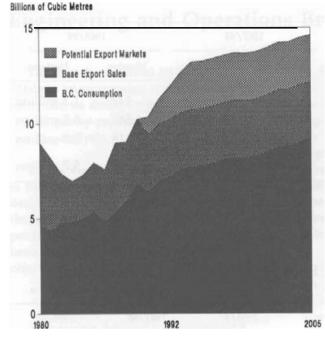
Petroleum Titles Activities

Provincial Revenue from the Petroleum Industry (\$ Millions)

	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
Rentals and Fees	34	34	33
Crown Reserve Dispositions	25	59	112
Oil	4 5	52	38
Natural Gas and Natural Gas By-Products	57	54	56
Permits and Fees.	68	93	146
Totals	229	292	385

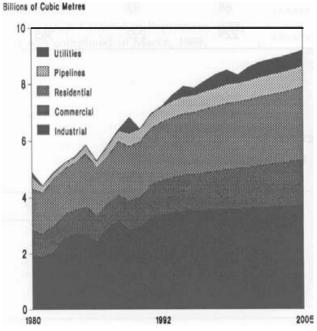
Value of Hydrocarbon Production (\$ Millions) — value to the producers at the wellhead

	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
Crude Oil	246	291	211
Natural Gas	289	379	371
Natural Gas By-Products	13	22	16
Totals	548	692	598



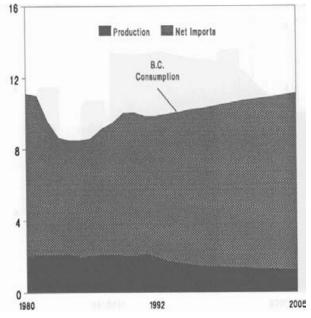
Natural Gas Production and Exports

- Sufficient reserves (218 billion cubic **metres**, are available to support the development of new export and domestic markets well into the **21st** century.
- Deregulation and declining productive capacity in the U.S. have opened new market opportunities for B.C. gas producers
- B.C.'s base export sales are all to the Pacific Northwest our traditional market.
- . Potential sales to California could boost production to 12.8 billion cubic metres in the mid-1990s.



Natural Gas Consumption Trends

- Domestic natural gas consumption increased five per cent per year between 198C and 1989.
- Demand is **projected** to increase by two per cent per year to the year 2005, including sales to the Vancouver Island natural gas pipeline.
- Total natural gas requirements include end-use consumption, pipeline fuel and gas burned in thermal plants to generate electricity.



Oil Supply and Demand

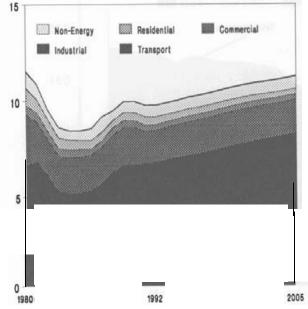
B.C. depends on Alberta for approximately/y755peccenttof its oil supply.

- Declining provincial reserves will result in future increases in imports from Alberta or offshore.
- A large oil discovery in 198E at Brassey will help to slow the decline in production.
- . Total B.C. refining capacity stands at about 61 million barrels per year.

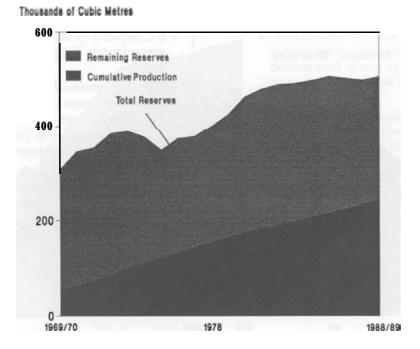
Petroleum Product Consumption Trends



Millions of Cubic Metres

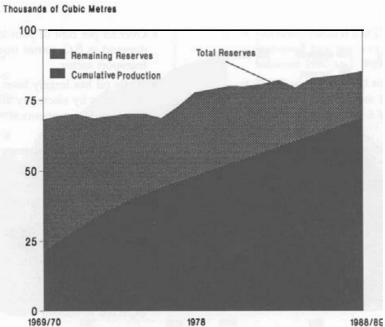


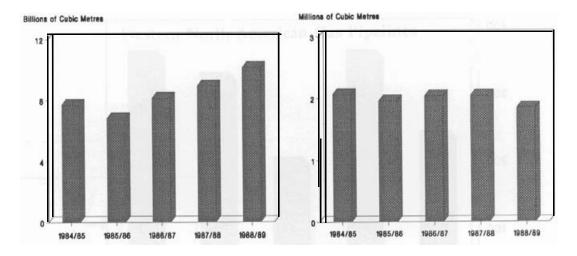
- . Over 65 per cent of petroleum product demand in B.C. comes from the transport sector.
- While oil has largely been replaced in other uses by electricity and natural gas, there **are** few economical substitutes for gasoline.
- Transportation requirements are projected to increase by 1.3 per cent per year to the year 2005.
- The Vancouver Island pipeline will displace heavy fuel oil in seven pulp mills and light heating oil in the residential/commercial sector. Approximately two-thirds of a million cubic **metres** will be displaced.
- Total petroleum product consumption is expected to remain stable



Growth in Raw Gas Reserves

Growth in Oil Reserves

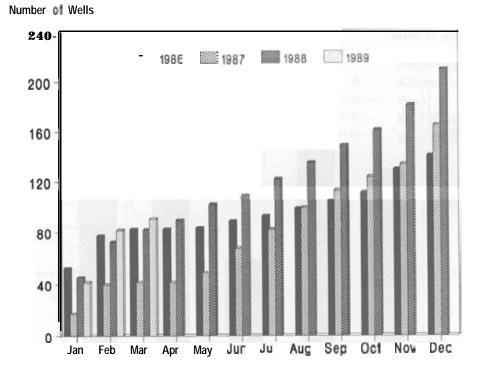




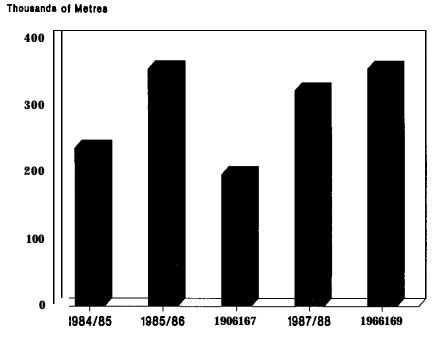
Marketable Gas Production

Oil Production

Number of Wells Drilled



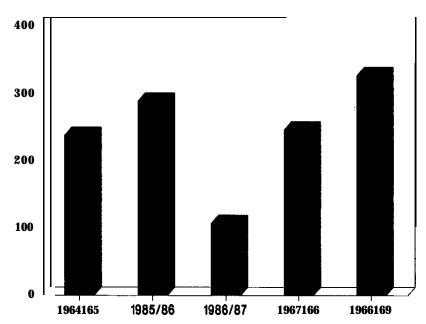
15



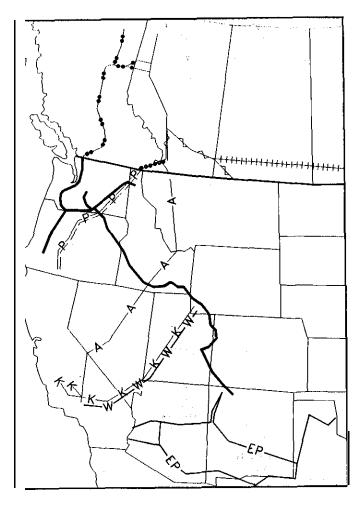
B.C. Petroleum Industry — Metres Drilled

B.C. Petroleum Industry — Geophysical Crew Weeks

Number of Weeks



Western North American Gas Pipelines



	Existing Pipelines
•	WestcoastEnergy
^ ,	Foothills Pipe Lines
,	Nova Corporation
	Alberta Natural Gas
┝╶┝╶┝╶┝	Transcanada Pipelines
	Northwest Pipeline
	Pacific Gas Transmission
—ЕР—	El Paso
	Proposed Pipelines

			1 1
-	Α	-	Altamount
-	W	-	Wycal
-	Ρ.,	-	P.G.T. Expansion
-	- K	-	Kern River

THE MINERAL RESOURCES DMSION

Oversees the operation of the British Columbia mining industry and facilitates the orderly development of mineral, coal and aggregate **resources** in the Province.

> ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER

MINERAL POLICY BRANCH

The Branch develops policy initiatives. It provides economic, financial and statistical analyses related to the **mineral sector** and maintains statistical data.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BRANCH

Carries out geological studies and maintains an inventory of the mineral deposits of the Province. Both studies and inventory data are used by government in making appropriate land use decisions. In addition, this information assists both industry and government in stimulating exploration and mining. The Branch also provides the mineral industry with geological data. There are four sections in the Branch:

- . Mineral Deposits and Regional Mapping
- District Geology and Coal Resources
- Resource Data and Analysis
- . Applied Geochemistry and Surficial Geology

ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION BRANCH

As mandated in the Mines Act. this Branch ensures worker health and safety, public safety, mine reclamation, and the maximum economic extraction of mineral and coal resources based on sound engineering practices. The Branch also facilitates an orderly review and approval process for new mining proposals in B.C. To accomplish these goals, the Branch maintains a network of district offices and specialists. The Branch has nine sections

- General Mining
- Geotechnical
- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Reclamation
- Industrial Hygiene
- Mining and Petroleum Roads
- Mine Development Review Process
- Mine Rescue/ Emergency Preparedness.

MINERAL TITLES BRANCH

Administers laws and regulations pertaining to the acquisition and maintenance of mineral tenures. Provides the best possible level of service to other agencies of government the mining industry, and the general public. This is achieved by supporting the promotion of exploration and development of the Province's mineral resources through the efficient unbiased administration of secure title to Crown mineral and coal lands.

The Mining Industry in 1988/89

Canada's mineral industry continued to benefit from the sustained **price** boom for many commodities in **1988/89**. profitability of most companies in the mining sector improved significantly. Rising base metal prices reflected a tighter global supply of minerals. The higher mineral prices, combined with increased sales volumes, resulted in net mining revenues reaching a **record** high in 1988.

The total value of minerals produced in British Columbia increased more than 14 per cent over 1987 to **\$3.2** billion. This increase reflected higher values of production in both the coal and metals sectors. Production volumes of most minerals also increased, reflecting the Province's producers' ability to respond to positive market conditions.

The coal industry gained more strength due in large part to record Japanese steel production. Coal production increased 12 per cent in 1988, and by early 1989 most suppliers had all available volumes fully committed to contracts. Southeast coal producers won increases in contract prices at the end of the fiscal year. However, coal prices are negotiated in U.S. dollars, and the appreciating Canadian dollar offset much of the gain. Coal companies sought and won new sales opportunities in both traditional and new markets.

Sales from the **Quinsam** mine on Vancouver Island have been increasing steadily, and are now primarily **to** cement and chemical plants in Japan. Test shipments are also scheduled for an electric utility in Japan. Other sales are to the domestic pulp and paper and cement plant industries in British Columbia and Washington State,

Copper producers benefited from record high copper prices throughout 1988/89. The high prices have sparked renewed interest in exploration projects involving copper in the Province, and several properties show good potential. Highland Valley Copper continued with its plans to centralize milling facilities and to implement mine plan revisions. When the rationalization is complete, the daily milling rate will be raised to 131,000 tonnes. Improved market conditions and productivity increases allowed two expansions of the Bell Mine's open pit, adding three years to the life of the mine. **Newmont** Mining Corporation sold its Similkameen mine to Cassiar Mining Corporation. The operation was renamed Similco Mines Limited, and **Cassiar** revised the mine plan and operations to extend the mine life by five years. In the northern Quesnel Trough interest generated by developments at the Mt. Milligan deposits triggered an exploration and claim staking rush.

Molybdenum prices remained stable in **1988/89.** Demand has exceeded supply for the past two years, and inventories are estimated to have been drawn down by about 40 per cent. Placer Dome increased molybdenum output at its Endako mine to **80** per cent of capacity.

Lead and zinc volumes **returned** to normal levels following last year's labor dispute at **Cominco's Trail** smelter. Demand for zinc was particularly strong over the period, and the market responded with dramatic **price** increases. Lead **prices** also increased steadily. Modernization of **Cominco's** lead smelter, and **construction** of an air separation plant to supply it with oxygen, continued in **1988/89. Cominco** also continued on a **project** to upgrade its zinc solution purification capability.

The world asbestos market **improved** considerably due to growing acceptance of the **controlled use** of certain asbestos **fibres**. Increased market demand is particularly apparent in some developing countries. Cassiar Mining Corporation, assisted by a provincial government loan of \$25 million, commenced development of the **McDame** underground deposit. Mining of the **McDame** deposit is expected in **1990**. Cassiar has also developed a **wet** milling operation **which** has reached the pilot plant stage.

Exploration for precious metals reached an all time record of \$211 million in spite of declining gold and silver prices. Exploration was particularly active in the **Stewart-Sulphurets, Iskut River** Golden Triangle and Galore Creek mining camps. **The** vigorous exploration pace of the past several years resulted in an unprecedented level of development.

The Johnny Mountain gold mine was officially opened in August 1988, and the Lawyers gold/silver mine poured its first doré bar in January 1989. In late 1988, heap leaching began at the Candorado Mines Ltd. operation at Hedley. The Premier, Samatosum and Golden Bear projects were under active construction, and several other precious metal projects are nearing production decisions.

Highlights

Mineral Policy Branch

The Mineral Policy Branch pursued initiatives in **1988/89** related to mineral tax reform, the impact of mine closures in the Province, reclamation fund mechanisms and **access** roads to areas rich in mineral **resources**.

The **Honourable** Jack Davis and senior government officials met with representatives of British Columbia's mining industry on November **4**, **1988**, to review progress made on recommendations given to Premier **Vander** Zalm and Minister Davis by the Mineral **Industry** Task Force in 1987.

The focus of the meeting was mineral taxation. Ministry officials presented proposed goals and objectives of mineral tax reform developed during the year-long review of mineral taxation initiated by the **1988** Speech from the Throne. Proposed goals included encouraging new investment, keeping existing mines open, and ensuring mineral taxes are levied in an equitable manner. Other topics covered at the meeting included land use, public understanding of mining issues, government/industry discussion and improvements in Ministry geological programs and tenure systems.

On December 6, 1988, senior government officials met again with industry representatives and outlined a mineral **tax reform** proposal, based on the goals and objectives discussed earlier with industry. The proposal was received by industry and is the subject of ongoing industry/ government discussions.

The Mine Closure Task Force was established in August. The Task Force is charged with developing a broad shategy of provincial government action to maintain employment and incomes in the face of anticipated closures or reduced operations at mines in British Columbia. By early 1989, a study was underway to review the possible impacts on affected workers and communities, and to examine existing community labor adjustment programs and initiatives. The study is jointly funded by the Mineral Policy Branch and the Mineral Development Agreement. The Task Force will be recommending changes to existing programs, as well as suggesting new initiatives which would minimize the impacts of mine **closures** and stimulate alternative mining and non-mining economic development opportunities.

The Iskut Road Study was announced in February. The project is intended to define a corridor from the Stewart-Cassiar highway to the developing mining camps in the Iskut-Unuk Rivers area. The project is jointly funded by the federal and provincial governments, under the Mineral Development Agreement, and by 19 mining companies.

Geological Survey Branch

The **1988/89** Financial Assistance for Mineral Exploration (FAME) Program offered only cash grants under the **Prospectors** Assistance **Program**. Grants were awarded to 128 **prospectors, totalling** \$377,000. Other grants under FAME previously available were not **offered** as the Province's producing mines returned to profitability and mineral exploration reached record levels.

The Geological Survey Branch's field program of geological and **geochemical** mapping was expanded, with 32 projects supported by the Province and **10** by the Canada/British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement. **The** Agreement, covering four field **seasons**, expires in the spring of 1990.

The expanded program concentrated on 150,000 scale **geological** mapping in **poorly**known and **underexplored** parts of the Province. Maps of this scale have been identified as the fundamental underpinning for industry **exploration** work. Two new projects were **started** in the Stikine River area and one in the **Atlin** district.

The Regional **Geochemical** Survey of northern Vancouver Island was completed in the summer. Research by Branch geochemists has shown that mosses, which **are** prolific in British Columbia rain forests, act as a golden fleece for capturing gold in streams. Accordingly, the 1988 survey included extensive **moss** mat sampling. The 1987 survey covering the northwest part of the Province was released in July 1988 and sparked a staking rush.

Field work in the Province's coalfields included a new mapping project on **Vancouver** Island coals. Of particular note was a pilot study of small-diameter drilling to obtain fresh, unoxidized **coal** samples in **underexplored** areas to determine coal rank.

The Branch continued a major program to inventory the industrial mineral resources of the Province. Field inventories of gypsum, **wollastonite**, and **fluorspar** were completed. A new provincial map of industrial mineral **occurrences** was released.

The mineral deposits program continued to focus on precious metals. Studies were undertaken on the **Bralorne, Quesnel,** Iskut, Rossland, and **Hedley** mining camps.

The Branch's **District** Geologist offices in the northeast and southeast **coalfields** were closed after 10 years of service, due **to** Ministry staffing priorities and low demand for services. A full-time geological editor was appointed **to** handle the record number of publications from the expanded field program.

Engineering and Inspection Branch

Over **2,800** inspections of mineral and coal exploration sites, placer mines and sand and gravel operations were performed during **1988/89**. New initiatives included the introduction of comprehensive safety audits at producing and developing mines and a contract inspection program to improve coverage at placer mines, sand and gravel and exploration sites to monitor safety, health, reclamation and environmental protection.

The industry, labor, government and university participants in the Mines Act and Regulation review were completing their work at year end and preparing to introduce a new Mines Act in the 1989 Spring Legislative Session. The mandate of the Act and accompanying safety, health and reclamation **code** is to provide for protection of health and safety of mine workers, safety of the public, protection and reclamation of the land and watercourses, and optimum resources utilization.

The British Columbia Acid Mine Drainage Task Force, chaired by the Branch, **co-ordinated** three research projects during 1988 and generated industry cost-sharing of 12 additional projects slated for 1989. A major research project, funded by the Ministry, to demonstrate and test various prediction, prevention, treatment, control and monitoring techniques, was the first stage of the abandoned Mt. Washington acid mine drainage abatement program. The strong commitment to this work places British Columbia on the leading edge of developing viable solutions to this worldwide problem.

The Branch sponsored the Mechanical/ Electrical Symposium as well as the Reclamation Symposium. The Regional and Provincial Mine Rescue Competitions were organized in conjunction with industry **participants.**

The Branch has been recognized worldwide for the development of testing standards for braking systems on the large haulage trucks used at mines. Branch engineers have now begun to develop standards for testing new non-asbestos brake linings. A major **study** of electrical grounding systems of high voltage mobile surface substations was carried out. The standards that were developed will be adopted by mines across Canada.

Progress was made during the year in efforts to improve service to the industry and to the public by computerization of information systems. Several major systems are under development which will assist in tracking and monitoring health and environmental concerns and safety trends relative to the industry. A "Mine Accident Reporting System" will provide a detailed analysis to the mines of their own accidents. Also, the system will provide the Branch with overall acddent causes, frequency, and trends. This same system will be compatible with, and may well provide the basis for, nationwide systems, allowing British Columbia to draw on national experience in its accident prevention program.

The administration of the Mine Development Review Process, the Province's procedure for reviewing mining proposals, was transferred to the Engineering and **Inspection** Branch **from** the Mineral Policy Branch in May, 1988. In this way, the Ministry's entire regulatory mechanism for mining, from exploration through mine development to **production** and abandonment, is now handled by one Branch. This has made greater regulatory continuity and efficiency possible, and improved service to clients. In the same month, the Branch embarked on an initiative to formalize its regional committee system. The intent is to regionalize many mine review **functions** as part of overall government trends to **more** decentralized decision-making.

During **1988/89**, several projects moved closer to production **decisions** under the **Mine** Development Review Process. Eight metal and **industrial** mineral development proposals were approved in principle and consigned **to** Stage III of the **review** process (the **licencing** stage).

Prominent in the review process were:

• The Golden Bear/Silver Project, for which road access **construction** began immediately following **approval-in**principle in March, 1988.

- The South Wall **Pushback** at the Island Copper Project, which began **construction** in **1988**, having entered Stage III in January, 1988.
- The McDame Extension at the Cassiar Asbestos Project, which began construction following approval-inprinciple in July, 1988.
- The **Samatosum** Silver Project, which began **construction** following **approval**in-principle in November, 1988.
- . The Ajax Pit at the **Afton** Gold/ Copper Project, which was approved in principle by Cabinet in February, 1989.

The review process handled a record workload in 1988, consisting primarily of precious metal projects. Over the calendar year, **40** submissions were filed for review, a **40** per cent increase over the previous **record** year. The rate of filing submissions declined slightly in early 1989, and **over** the **1988/89** fiscal year, **35** submissions were filed.

Mineral Titles Branch

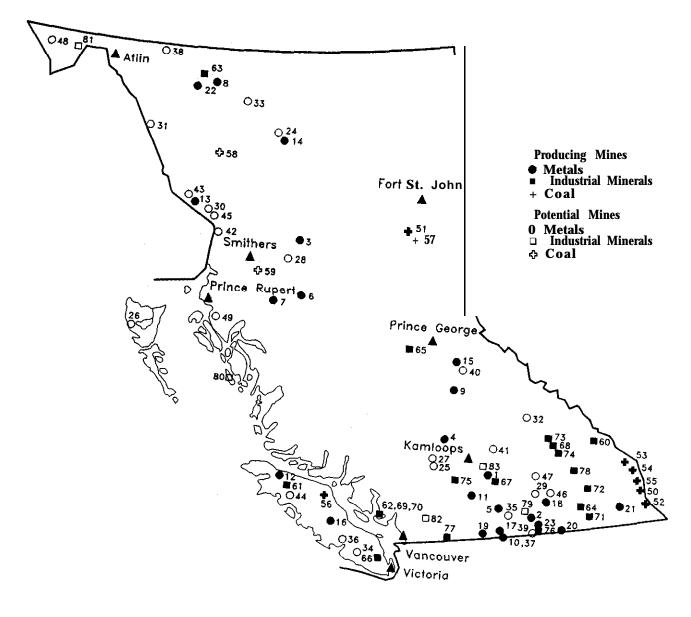
The Mineral Tenure Act was introduced in the Spring 1988 Session of the **Legislature** and was enacted on August **15**, **1988**. The Act provides a modern statute whereby mineral and placer titles may be acquired and maintained, and establishes **the** duties and responsibilities for the administration of the mineral title system. Work began on a replacement of the Mining Right of Way Act, **and** the Bill received third reading in the Spring 1989 Session. Amendments **were** also introduced to the Coal Act to make provision for the submittal of geological reports.

Development of a computerized system of recording title acquisition and maintenance continued with the successful implementation of a software package which will provide for province-wide access to the titles data base by the divisional offices. The Victoria and Vancouver Mining Divisions were fully automated and **the** manual paper system has been reduced. A redraw of higher-use map sheets began and 54 were completed by fiscal **year** end. These included placer maps of the **Barkerville area** with **over 600** titles per map sheet and congested mineral map **sheets** in the Highland Valley and **Rossland** areas.

Preparation of maps and regulations and the creation of a new mining division preceded the implementation of mineral tenure acquisition in Section 19 Recreation Areas. Drafting staff responsible for **the** update of mineral title maps visited selected mining division offices to install the revised map copies. A total of 376 map sheets were delivered to five mining divisions and preparatory work was ongoing on a further **427** maps.

The Branch recorded 10,807 claims in 1988. This level of activity was a repeat of last year's record levels.





Producing Metal Mines

1. Afton (Cu, Au, Ag) 2. Beaverdell (Ag, Pb, Zn) 3. Bell (Cu, Au, Ag) 4. Blackdome (Au, **Ag**) 5. Brenda (Cu, Au, Ag, Mo) 6. Endako (Mo) 7. Equity (Ag, Au, Cu) 8. Erickson (Au, Ag) 9. Gibraltar (Cu, Au, Ag, Mo) 10. Hedley Tailings (Au) 11. Highland Valley Copper (Cu, Au, Ag, Mo) 12. Island Copper (Cu, Au, Ag, Mo) 13. Johnny Mountain (Au, Ag) 14. Lawyers (Au Ag) 15 Mosquito Creek (Au) 16. Myra Falls (Cu, Zn, Au, Ag) 17. Nickel Plate (Au) 18. Silvana (Pb, Zn, Ag) 19. Similco (Cu, Au, Ag) 20. Skylark (Au) 21. Sullivan (Pb, Zn, Ag) 22. Taurus (Au) 23. Union (Au) Potential Metal Mines 24. Al (Au) 25. Bralorne (Au) 26. Cinola (Au, Ag) 27. Congress (Au, Ag) 28. Dome Mountain (Au, Ag) 29. Esperanza (Au) 30. Gold Wedge (Au, Ag) 31. Golden Bear (Au, Ag) 32. JL/Equinox (Au, Ag, Pb, Zn) 33. Kutcho Creek (Cu, Zn, Ag) 34. Lara (Au, Zn, Cu) 35. Lumby (Au, Ag) 36. Macktush Creek (Au, Ag, Cu) 37. Mascot Tailings (Au) 38. Midway (Ag, Pb, Zn) 39. Oliver **(Au)** 40. Quesnel River (Au) 41. Samatosum (Ag, Au) 42. Silbak Premier/Big Missouri (Au, Ag) 43. Snip **(Au, Ag)** 44. Spud (Au) 45. Sulphurets (Au, Ag)

- 46. Willa (Au, Cu)
- 47. Windflower (Au)
- 48. Windy Craggy (Cu, Co, Au, Ag, Zn)
- 49. Yellow Giant (Au, Ag)

Producing Coal Mines

- 50. Balmer
- 51. Bullmoose
- 52. Byron Creek
- 53. Fording
- 54. Greenhills
- 55. Line Creek
- 56. Quinsam
- 57. Quintette

Potential Coal Mines

- 58. Mount Klappan
- 59. Telkwa

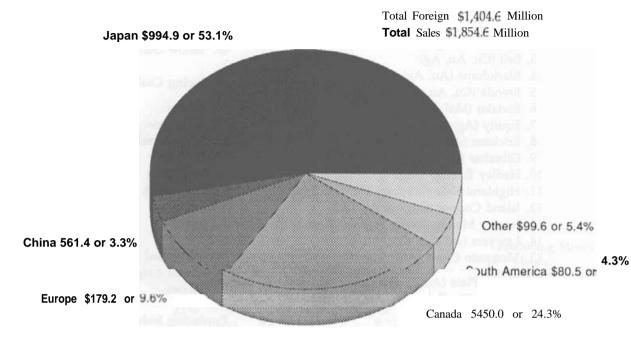
Producing Industrial Mineral Mines

- 60. Baymag (Magnesite)61. Benson Lake (Limestone)
- 62. Blubber Bay (Limestone)
- 63. **Cassiar** (Asbestos)
- 64. Crawford Bay (Dolomite)
- 65. Dahl Lake (Limestone)
- 66. Dunsmuir (Clay)
- 67. Harper Ranch (Limestone)
- 68. Hunt (Silica)
- 69. Ideal Cement (Limestone)
- 70. Imperial Limestone (Limestone)
- 71. Lost Creek (Limestone)
- 72. Lussier River (Gypsum)
- 73. Moberly (Silica)
- 74. Parson (Barite)
- 75. Pavilion Lake (Limestone)
- 76. Rock Creek (Dolomite)
- 77. Sumas Mountain (Clay)
- 78. Westroc (Gypsum)

Potential Industrial Mineral Mines

- 79. Bearcub (Feldspar, Quartz, Mica)
- 80. Laredo (Limestone)
- 81. O'Connor River (Gypsum)
- 82. Pacific Talc (Talc)
- 83. Red Lake (Fuller's Earth)

Destination of Metals Shipped from B.C. Mines in 1988* (\$ Millions)



Note: Metals are shipped in ores/concentrates

Destination of Coal Shipped from B.C. in 1988* (Million Tonnes)

Japan 14.1 tonnes or 55.1% Total Sales 25.5 Million Tonnes

Other 1.8 tonnes or 7.3%

Taiwan 1.2 tonnes Of 4.8%

U.S.A. 1 .O tonnes or 3.9%

Canada 1 .O tonnes or 4.0%

Total Foreign 24.5 Million Tonnes

Europe 2.2 tonnes or 9.6%

- Korea 4.2 tonnes @ 16.3%
- All figures are preliminary.

	1987	Actual	1988	Actual
	Quantity	\$ Value	Quantity	\$ Value
Metals				
Copper kg	355,897,693	842,341,196	353,481,625	1,117,031,341
Gold g	12,101,160	239,101,394	12,772,640	229,238,857
Iron concentrates t	58,070	2220,950	59,458	2,203,210
Lead kg	69,911,213	49,828,244	105,296,208	74,349,472
Molybdenum kg	14,138,543	121 <i>,</i> 687,917	15924,198	116,005,450
Silver g	371,599,737	122,562,405	423,440,789	115539,299
Zinckg	100,718,749	109368,709	139,377,351	212,299,874
Others		3274,214		12,106,241
Total Metals	_	1,490,385,029	-	1,875,773,744
Industrial Minerals				
Asbestos t	97,848	46,938,025	109,139	54,240,546
Sulphurt	505,831	64,885,085	510,307	43,134,889
Others	<u></u>	13405,688	<u> </u>	14,086,830
Total Industrial Minerals	—	125,228,798		111,462,265
Structural Materials				
Cement t	1,312,074	88,181,547	1,519,634	106,494,497
Sand and Gravel t	49,259,996	131,316,297	· ·	124241,876
Others		39,048,533	-,- ,	31,420,330
Total Structural Materials	—	258,546,377		258,156,703
Coal t	22,586,852	892,521,959	25,520,000	1,040,099,000
Totals	_	2,766,682,163		3,218,328,000

Mineral Production in British Columbia, 1987 and 1988

Mining			_	_		_	_						_
Division	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dee	Jan	Feb	Mar	Totals
Alberni	15	22	19	16	41	12	29	8	14	6	22	20	224
Atlin	99	49	45	36	157	29	21	48	37	7	38	3	569
Cariboo	74	60	84	124	111	234	274	137	183	142	103	132	1,658
Clinton	14	26	13	25	41	22	92	16	40	31	27	30	377
Fort Steele	9	28	26	38	25	24	36	35	16	14	31	61	343
Golden	2	5	29	16	17	19	17	4	0	4	1	3	117
Greenwood	21	14	25	41	11	29	26	10	31	5	21	29	263
Kamloops	63	68	111	127	89	76	32	43	101	55	45	59	869
Liard	21	57	152	171	212	116	94	24	25	188	54	148	1,262
Lillooet	9	7	69	20	28	50	43	11	14	16	15	24	306
Nanaimo	23	23	42	54	38	45	16	36	25	10	33	52	397
Nelson	41	56	20	35	147	89	70	19	12	11	10	83	593
New W&minister	13	22	13	16	43	24	26	36	63	24	16	36	332
Nicola	5	16	66	36	30	22	16	19	13	6	27	21	277
Omineca	48	77	61	125	142	122	148	55	93	44	106	114	1,135
Osoyoos	36	12	34	29	59	10	19	14	29	10	23	22	297
Revelstoke	7	14	10	12	37	23	28	18	12	2	3	15	181
Similkameen	25	16	20	18	27	55	58	26	18	2	15	18	298
Skeena	18	37	34	100	56	45	27	71	69	87	128	194	866
Slocan	25	15	36	47	39	25	28	28	7	17	32	4	303
Trail Creek	5	15	20	10	28	48	62	2	0	0	0	0	190
Vancouver	14	21	19	7	11	13	30	20	7	9	16	44	211
Vernon	7	10	317	176	18	37	63	37	30	23	11	18	747
Victoria	18	15	32	21	21	19	10	24	12	20	6	44	242
Totals	612	685	1,297	1,300	1,428	1,188	1,265	741	851	733	783	1,174	12,057

Mineral Claims Staked By Mining Division — April 1988 — March 1989

Provincial Revenue from the Mining Industry (\$ Thousands)

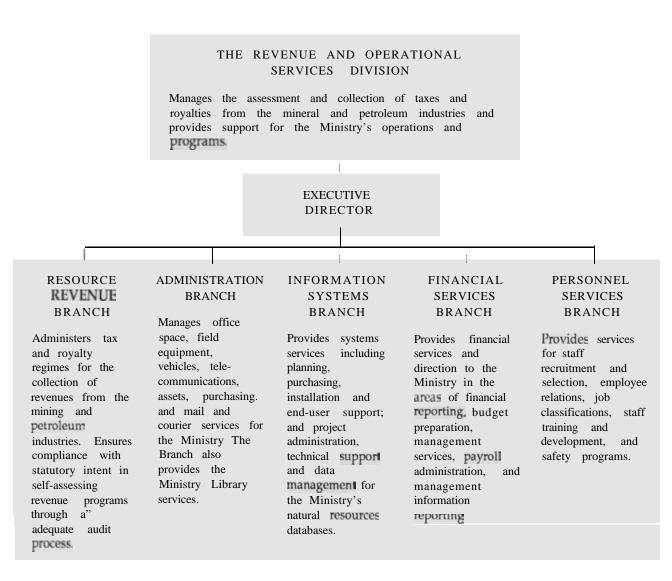
	1984/85	1985/86 19	986/87 1 9	8718	8 1988/89
Claims, Coal Licences and Rentals	7,092	4,649	6,530	7.366	7,120
Coal, Minerals and Metals Royalties	23,203	23,821	24,087	22,795	24,724
Mineral Land Tax	17,409	18,622	16,507	12,215	12,656
Mineral Resource Tax	5,850	4,968	8,016	10,418	26,431
Mining Tax	2,183	4,113	445	792	3,719
Total	55,737	56,173	55,585	53,586	74,650

Employment in the Mineral Industry in British Columbia to 1988

	Metal Mines and Smelters	Coal	Structural Materials	Industrial Minerals	Other	Total
1984	9,208	5,7 8 1	492	437	4,789	20,707
1985	8,102	5,821	907	410	4,262	19,502
1986	7,712	5,210	983	419	3,650	17,974
1987	8,380	5,144	1,069	411	6,320	21,324
1988*	9,100	5,250	1,100	400	5,500	21,350

*Estimate

Revenue and Operational Services Division



Highlights

Resource Revenue Branch

The business goal of the Resource Revenue Branch is to ensure that the Crown receives its fair share of resource revenues.

During the year, the Branch reorganized into three branches: Petroleum Revenues, Mineral Revenues and Energy Revenues Audit.

Work began on a project to design, develop and implement a computerized resource management system. The **20-month** project will provide the **Ministry** with the resources to manage the collection, verification and reporting of the production and royalties on petroleum and natural gas.

As a result of recommendations of the **Mining Industry** Task Force, drafting commenced on a new Mineral Tax Act which will consolidate four existing **statutes**, and establish a common, profit-based taxation system for all mines in the Province.

Administration Branch

The Administration Branch developed the Treasury Board submission for consolidation of operations of the **Ministry's Victoria** headquarters in November, **1988.** Treasury Board and Cabinet subsequently approved the consolidation proposal in March, 1989.

Privatization plans for the sale of Mineral, Petroleum and Energy publications were concluded in May, 1988, with **Crown** Publications Incorporated, for distribution of all publications produced by the Ministry. The Branch finalized consolidation of its warehouse function under the umbrella of the Purchasing Commission Warehouse. Completion of the automated Asset **Management System occurred** by mid-year, **1988**, to account for all new goods, transfers, disposals, and write-offs.

The **Branch** concluded development and publication of the **Risk** Management Policy and will subsequently follow-up with implementation procedures Ministry-wide.

Revenue and Operational Services Division

Information Systems Branch

In **1988**, the Ministry **focussed** its systems efforts on the design and **construction** of a new Petroleum Royalty system. **This** two-year project included the implementation of a new simplified royalty regime, the reorganization of the Petroleum Revenue Branch, and a \$2 million systems project. **The** Branch installed over 200 computer workstations for professional and clerical staff, and extended electronic mail services **to** all areas of the Ministry during the year.

Financial Services Branch

Implemented the GMACS-BES Budget Estimates System to replace **Treasury** Board's IES system which was **no** longer **supported**.

Enhanced the **GMACS** Financial System with supplier inquiry. Supplier coding information is now **also** available on-line.

Developed in-house programs **to** produce custom management reports and quick turn-around on federal/provincial cost-sharing claims.

Installed new **GMACS-LM** Leave Management system **to** replace manual system and the **CLMS** system which was abandoned by Government Personnel Services Division.

Personnel Services Branch

The Branch provides services in all areas of human resources management within the Ministry including staffing programs, organization analysis, **classification** analysis, employment policy, labor relations, training, development, and workplace health and safety.

Revenue and Operational Services Division

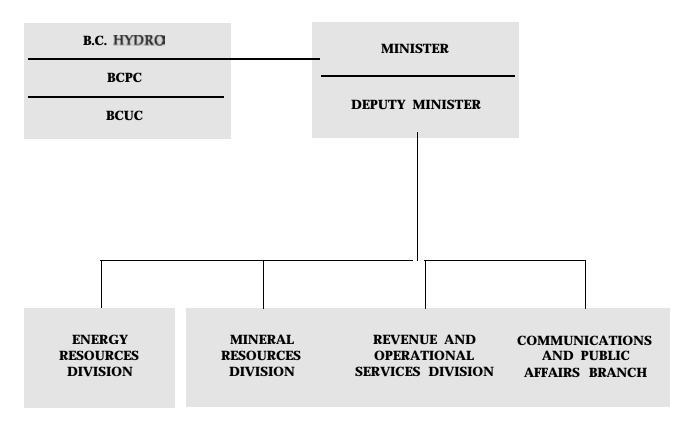
Ministry Expenditures - Standard Expenditure Classifications

	Fiscal Year 1987/88	Fiscal Year 1988/89
Salaries	12,179,761	12,017,758
Supplies and Services.	10,922,817	9,801,941
Capital	1,382,018	3,069,586
Other Expenditure (Write Offs)	_	_
Grant (Includes Fort Nelson Revenue Sharing Agreement)	5,150,187	1,137,080
Recoveries (Mineral Development Agreement)	(1,052,141)	(895,610)
Totals	28.582.642	28.130.755

Details of Expenditures by Appropriations and Activities, and by Standard Expenditure Classification

of Expenditures Fiscal Year Fiscal Year 1987/88 1988/89
s Office
Management Program (Net of Recoveries) cutive Management 1,008,492 600,950 enue and Operational Services Division 3,626,897 4,865,603 rgy Resources Division 1,924,622 6,152,527 eral Resources Division 11,574,914 14,380,166 oleum Resources Division 3,866,046 (See Energy)
son Indian Band Revenue Sharing Agreement utory
s Act Sec. 15 (2) — Mine Improvement
Exploration Incentives Program 4,714,323 Totals 28,582,642

Ministry Overview



Legislation

Legislation administered by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources includes the following:

Coal Act Fort Nelson Indian Reserve Minerals Revenue Sharing Act Gas Utility Act Geothermal Resources Act Hydro and Power Authority Act Hydro and Power Authority Privatization Act Hydro Power Measures Act Indian Reserve Mineral Resource Act Industrial **Electricity** Rate Discount Act Mineral Land Tax Act Mineral Prospectors Act Mineral Resource Tax Act Mineral Tenure Act Mines Act Mining Right of Way Act Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Act Natural Gas **Price** Act Petroleum and Natural Gas Act Petroleum and Natural Gas/Vancouver Island Railway Lands Act Petroleum Corporation Act Pipeline Act Power Act Sechelt Indian Government District Enabling Act Utilities Commission Act

Ministry Overview

Ministry Telephone Directory

Minister's Office	
Honourable Jack Davis, Minister	
vlaoria	387-5295
Vancouver	660-3426
Deputy Minister's Office	
Douglas H. Horswill, Deputy Minister	387-5137
Executive Co-ordinator	387-5137
Communications Branch	387-5178
Energy Resources Division	
John Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister	387-1916
File Room	356-2743
Energy Policy Branch	387-5231
Forecasts & Special Pmjects Branch.	387-3048
Engineering 6 Operations Branch	387-5993
Petroleum Geology Branch	387-5993
Petroleum Titles Branch	387-1908
Drafting	387-1908
Mineral Resources Division	
Bruce McRae, Assistant Deputy Minister	387-6242
Mineral Policy Branch	387-3787
Mineral Titles Branch	387-4417
Engineering & Inspection Branch	387-3781
Geological Survey Branch	356-2818
Chief Geologist.	387-0688
Resource Data & Analysis	387-3236
Mineral Deposits & Regional Mapping	356-2844
District Geology & Coal Resources	356-2834
Lapidary.	387-6758
Analytical Sciences .	387-5249
Sdentific Review	356-1693

Ministry Overview

Revenue and Operational Services Division Bob Cook, Executive Director 387-5135 Petroleum Revenues Branch 387-6991 Mineral Revenues Branch. 387-6999 Energy Revenues Audit 387-6991 Administration Branch 387-1368 Mail Room 387-6248 Library 387-6407 Information Systems Branch 387-1267 Financial Services Branch. 387-5185 Personnel Services Branch 387-3775 **District** Offices Fernie 423.6884 Fort St. John (Charlie Lake). 787-3450 Mediation & Arbitration Board 787-3403 Kamloops. 8284566 Nanaimo 755-2486 Nelson..... 354-6125 Prince George 565-6125 Quesnel 992-4222 Smithers 847-7383 Vancouver Mineral Titles 660-2672 Engineering & Inspection Branch 660-9372 Geological Survey Branch GO-2812