



Honourable Richard Neufeld



Honourable Pat Bell

BC's MINING UPDATE

Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector

APRIL 2004



Message from the Premier

Mining is a great industry, with a great future.

Over the last decade, we watched as tax and regulatory policies forced the closure of mines, exploration activity dropped by 90% and half of all miners lost their jobs.

We're changing that. New incentives to encourage mining are working. Mineral exploration has doubled in the past two years, mineral production is up, mines that were closed are reopening and new mines are in the approval process.

Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell will play a lead role in implementing our action agenda for mining over the next year. Mining's best days are still ahead. Working together, I know we can build a strong, vibrant mining sector that provides new jobs for workers and communities throughout B.C.

Gordon Campbell

Premier of British Columbia

CONTINUED TAX CREDIT TO BOOST B.C. MINING EXPLORATION

The Province of B.C. will extend its 20 percent flow through share tax credit for mining exploration for an additional year. When combined with the federal government's 15 percent mining tax credit, it creates a super flow through share tax credit, one of the best exploration tax credit programs in Canada.



Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell speaks with Stuart Nelson, owner of Silverton Transport Ltd. in front of the Adit at Orphan Boy Resources Inc. Goldstream Willa Gold Project near Silverton, B.C.

"By matching the extension of the federal tax credit for another year B.C. will continue to provide investors with tax savings of up to 63 per cent of their share investments – a clear investment advantage". "The net cost of a \$1000 investment in mining flow-through shares can be as low as \$366. Super flow through shares have been a major contributor to the dramatic increase in mining exploration around the province."

BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines President Michael Gray said the extension will give more junior mining companies the momentum to raise money for quality projects.

New Geophysical Survey Data Promotes Mining Investment

On March 26, the Ministry of Energy and Mines released new geophysical information for two significant areas of the province and will be promoting new investment in mineral exploration and mine development. The geophysical surveys cover the Horsefly and

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Message from the Minister of State for Mining

I am pleased to introduce you to "BC's Mining Update". This monthly e-newsletter is intended to keep you informed on the changes we are making in BC to improve our global competitiveness in the mining sector.

BC has a rich mining tradition and although some poor policy decisions in the 1990's created an outflow of mining from BC, our geology did not change. BC's geological potential is amongst the best in the world and Premier Campbell has directed me to get our industry growing again.

In the coming months I will be working on an aggressive agenda to give BC a competitive advantage over other major mining jurisdictions. This newsletter will keep you up to speed so you and your company can make informed investment decisions.

I look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming months.

Pat Bell

Minister of State for Mining

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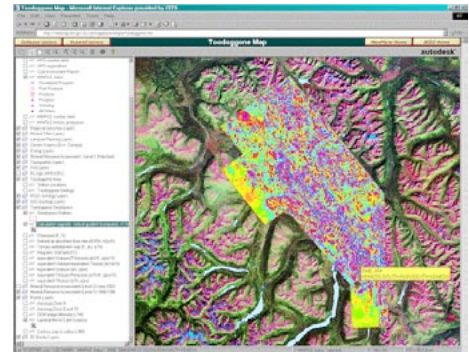
SMIN.Minister@gems2.gov.bc.ca



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Minister of State for Mining

Toodoggone River areas. The Horsefly survey covers an area near the Mount Polley mine approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Williams Lake. The Toodoggone River area encompasses the Kemess Mine and is located approximately 300 km northwest of Prince George. Both areas are



Toodoggone Multisensor Geophysical Survey

well known for copper and gold mineral occurrences and mines and industry interest has been high. This is new data and will serve as a prime tool for future mineral exploration, in these two geologically significant areas. The information is available to prospectors and companies through the ministry web site at www.MapPlace.ca.

Gibraltar Mine On Schedule For Copper Production By October 2004

Taseko Mines Ltd. announced March 26 that they are on track to re-start operations at the Gibraltar mine, located near Williams Lake in south-central British Columbia, as early as this summer. It is expected that copper concentrate shipments to customers could commence by October 2004.

Taseko's objective is to re-establish the Gibraltar mine with a competitive and predictable cost structure that is responsive to market conditions, resulting in sustainable operations over the long-term. Negotiating competitive prices for equipment purchases and contracts in preparation for re-start is key. The status of these activities is:

Ronald W. Thiessen, President and CEO of Taseko said, "Gibraltar re-start activities are well underway and have progressed to the point where we are confident the mine will deliver its first copper concentrate to the market on October 1, 2004. Most of the prerequisites of the re-start and delivery schedules are secure, and operations are proceeding on a normal course basis."

Gibraltar will be one of the first mine openings in central British Columbia in many years. The mine will employ approximately 290 people and create millions of dollars in economic activity.