



BC's MINING UPDATE

Honourable Richard Neufeld

Honourable Pat Bell

Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector

DECEMBER 2004

From the Desk of Pat Bell

This past month has been another exciting one for a rejuvenated mining industry in the province of British Columbia. All indicators point to the best year for mining in over a decade. With more than 45,000 claims recorded so far this year, BC has recorded the highest number of claims staked since 1991. As well, exploration investment in BC is projected to be at its highest level since 1991, at \$120 million.

However, the good news for mining communities does not stop there. Not only can mining contribute to a sustainable and diversified provincial economy through the development of our natural resources, but also as a part of our tourism sector through the development of our mining history. A great example of this is the new Coal Discovery Center in Sparwood. This project builds on the rich tradition of coal mining in the area and celebrates the vital role that modern coal mining still plays in the local community.

During my recent trip to the Kootenays I was fortunate to see the progress of this exciting project and I look forward to touring the facility in the not too distant future. I applaud the vision of Mrs. Cindy Brunel and her colleagues from the Sparwood Coal Discovery Centre Society and wish them all the success in the world as they continue their hard work on this project.

Pat Bell
Minister of State for Mining

CONTRACTORS SHARE IN MINING'S NEW WEALTH

With abundant coal resources, and prices continuing to climb, contractors and suppliers across the province are reaping the benefits of the mining industry's return to prosperity.

"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," said Mayor of Sparwood Cal McDougall.

One contractor happy to be part of the turnaround is Tercon Contractors, LTD. Tercon conducts all mining activity at Pine Valley Coal's recently opened Willow Creek coal project near Chetwynd and maintains active projects with Elk Valley in Southeast B.C.

"Business is good and getting better," said Tercon's Vice-President of Corporate Development Daryl Bell "We have numerous bids out and expect to increase our workforce in the near future."

Tercon employs 60 workers, three to four management staff plus several explosive sub-contractors at the Willow Creek operation and an additional 30 associated with their Elk Valley projects. Tercon is based in Kamloops, employing 24 at their head office.



Tercon employees mine coal at Pine Valley's Willow Creek project near Chetwynd using equipment purchased from the Finning (Canada) regional office in Kamloops.

BC MINING FACT

More than 45,000 mineral claim units have been staked and recorded in B.C. so far this year, the highest level since 1991.

Ministers Neufeld and Bell would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe



and happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!



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GOVERNMENT GRANT PRESERVES DRILL CORE FOR FUTURE EXPLORERS



MLAs present cheque for preservation of drill core at ceremony on Peavine Road near Kimberley earlier this month. Left to right: Columbia River-Revelstoke MLA Wendy McMahon; Ross Stanfield, Director, East Kootenay Chamber of Mines; Doug Anderson, Director, EK Chamber of Mines; Paul Ransom, Director, EK Chamber of Mines; Dave Pighin, Geologist; Peter Klewchuck, Director, EK Chamber of Mines; and East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett.

The provincial government has provided a \$10,000 grant to the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines as its portion of an innovative partnership designed to preserve drill core material in the Elk Valley.

The samples come from mineral exploration programs that were carried out by Cominco Ltd. over the past couple of decades. The resulting drill core was then stored on the Sullivan Mine site near Kimberley.

“By ensuring this geo-science asset is preserved and accessible we are hoping to better encourage grass-roots exploration activity in the Kootenay region,” said Minister Pat Bell.

Once transported to its new location the exploration drill core will be made available to prospectors and mineral companies in their search for new mineral deposits in the area.

The East Kootenay Chamber of Mines, in conjunction with Stikine Gold Corp., will co-ordinate the transfer of the exploration drill core to a long-term storage site where it will be made available to all interested parties. Eagle Plains Resources Ltd. of Cranbrook has agreed to provide the storage facilities for the core.