



BC's MINING UPDATE

Honourable Richard Neufeld

Honourable Pat Bell

Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector

JULY 2004

From the Desk of Pat Bell

While government recognizes the need to go to a single window approval process for mining permit applications we also realize that it will take some time to develop a system that works. In order to bridge the gap and ensure smooth delivery in the interim the Ministry has worked with industry to develop a new tool, "Joint Solutions Workshops".

Joint Solutions workshops bring together all the relevant government decision-makers with the miners operating in the region in one room. This allows all relevant agencies of government to work directly with industry in one forum so that when challenges do arrive all parties are able to find realistic solutions in a timely manner.

The first Joint Solutions workshop was held in Smithers in March 2004, followed by sessions in Prince George, Cranbrook, Nanaimo and Kamloops. At each of these meetings industry and government participants identified new ways to work together in their particular region in order to overcome challenges and speed up permit delivery.

"No one can recall a time when senior representatives from these separate ministries have jointly visited key regional centres and actively participated in solution-oriented workshops with key local government and industry personnel," said Dan Jepsen, Executive Director of the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines. "This is an

continued: Pat Bell

INDUSTRY APPRECIATES SHRINKING PERMIT DELIVERY TIME

In its continuing effort to support the mining industry in B.C. the Ministry of Energy and Mines has worked hard to reduce regulations and streamline operations. As a result, average permit delivery time is down by 26 per cent from early summer 2002.

By May 2002, 295 permits had been issued that year, with an average delivery time of 38 days. By June 2004, 348 permits had been issued for the year, with an average delivery time of 28 days.

"We are extremely pleased with the support that is being given bcMetals and the Red Chris Project from all levels within the BC Government," said bcMetals President and COO Ian Smith. "Recently we applied to MEM for a Notice of Work Permit for our Red Chris 2004 summer exploration program. Turnaround time was two days. This service was very much appreciated."

SAFETY COMES FIRST IN B.C. MINES



Minister Bell with Northgate's Kemess Mine team at 2004 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in Fernie. Story on page 2.

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extremely positive initiative that has already reaped rewards for those who made the effort to participate."

Additional and follow-up Joint Solutions workshops are being planned in a number of communities for the fall of 2004 and the spring of 2005. I believe these workshops are key in developing consistently rapid permit turnaround. Watch for dates and locations of future workshops in coming editions of *BC's Mining Update*.

Pat Bell
Minister of State for Mining

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**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Minister of State for Mining

CLAIM STAKING UP 165%

Mineral claim staking is way up in B.C., confirming the Province's mining revitalization plan is working.

In the first five months of this year mineral claim units totaled 24,000, an increase of 77 per cent over the same period last year and 165 per cent over the same period in 2002.

This clearly demonstrates that grassroots exploration is back in B.C. and that people once again see the opportunity that is presented by British Columbia's rich geology.

This is also great news for exploration companies operating in British Columbia. The return of a thriving population of prospectors in B.C. can only lead to new discoveries that will further elevate B.C.'s mineral potential on the international stage.



Government geologists in the field in the Toadoggone mining camp.

SAFETY COMES FIRST IN B.C. MINES

The Mining Association of British Columbia, in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, hosted the 49th Annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in Fernie on June 12.

The overall trophy for the surface competition was won by Highland Valley Copper, while Eskay Creek mine was the recipient of the overall trophy for the underground competition. Elkview took home the Three-Person Miners' First Aid Trophy.

"The mining industry should be proud of the fact it is the safest heavy industry in British Columbia," said minister of state for mining Pat Bell. "This admirable record reflects a dedication to safe mine practices on the part of everyone involved: mine management, workers and the Ministry of Energy and Mines through its inspections, audits and training programs."

Minister Bell announced that funding for the mine rescue competitions would be restored to \$45,000 for next year's competition.