



Honourable Richard Neufeld

Honourable Pat Bell

# BC's MINING UPDATE

**Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector**

**JUNE 2004**

## Message from the Minister of State for Mining Marketing BC to the World

Investment in Mining exploration continues to increase in British Columbia while it is in decline in other jurisdictions such as Australia. This speaks volumes to the excitement we have been able to once again generate about BC's outstanding geology and the new regulatory framework our government has brought in to make those resources accessible.

In order to capture this opportunity the Ministry of Energy and Mines has partnered with the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines to develop a new marketing tool designed to attract further investment to B.C.'s mineral exploration sector - a detailed map showing mineral exploration properties available for sale or option in British Columbia.

The new map shows the location, development status, and exploration type and contact information for mineral properties that are currently available for sale or option in BC. All properties are listed on a detailed table included on the map.

BCYCM and the Ministry of Energy and Mines will distribute the map to prospective investors both in and out of the province. In addition the map will also be accessible on the Chamber's web site at [www.chamberofmines.bc.ca](http://www.chamberofmines.bc.ca) If you would like to have your property added to this map please contact me either by return email or at 250 953-4100.

### Pat Bell

Minister of State for Mining

## FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND LAND CERTAINTY - KEY TO DEVELOPMENT IN BC

The BC Government recognizes that increased land use certainty, particularly with First Nations is critical to attracting more mining investment and activity throughout the province.

"A number of actions have been taken in recent years to begin to resolve issues through agreements-in-principle treaties and other discussion mechanisms. Our initiatives are aimed not only at providing greater certainty for mining investors and industry, but also at increasing First Na-



Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell and Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations Geoff Plant with Chief Allan Joseph in Yekooche, B.C.

tions capacity to deal with issues effectively at discussion tables, while also providing more opportunity for them to participate economically in exploration and development," said Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell.

Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations Geoff Plant and Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell recently announced funding of \$282,250 for Yekooche First Nation to support mineral exploration training, research and field work, interpretation and negotiation. With this training, the Yekooche First Nation will gain the necessary skills to access and explore the mineral potential of the area, and pursue joint venture negotiations with a mining company.

"Working together with B.C. on important ventures and economic development projects like this demonstrates the continuing success of both the government and the Yekooche," said Yekooche Chief Allan Joseph. As a result of these successful projects, the Yekooche were nominated for the Northern B.C. Prospector of the Year Award that recognizes persistence, innovation and initiative by a Northern British Columbia prospector.

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## ***B.C. Only Province Nominated for International Award***

At the recent Mines and Money conference in Vancouver, the province of British Columbia was short-listed for an award honoring the region that has shown the most improvement in policies affecting the exploration community. Ten provinces/countries were nominated, and six have been short-listed:

Armenia – dramatic improvement in attitudes

**British Columbia** – anti-mining stance of 1990s is being reversed

China – beginning a five-year program of investment initiatives

Mongolia – surge of investment interest

Nunavut – encouragement to diamond and gold exploration

Tanzania – making giant efforts to encourage development.

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**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

**Minister of State for Mining**

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Government is moving forward with other important initiatives. \$300,000 was provided to Yale First Nation through economic development funding to support an aggregate and gold mining partnership between Yale First Nation and Qualark Resources Inc. In addition, a three year agreement in 2003 between the province and the Gitksan and Takla Lake First Nations provided \$400,000 to facilitate First Nation's participation in route assessment, skills assessment, employment training and negotiations with other companies for the development of the Stewart Omineca Resource Road.



*Premier Gordon Campbell promotes BC's mining industry to international investors at the Mines and Money World Congress in Vancouver during Mining Week May 16 - 22, 2004*

The Tahltan First Nation says it wants to expand its relationship with a provincial mining industry long troubled by uncertainty surrounding native land claims.

"We wanted to send a signal that the Tahltan people are supportive of mining on their land," Tahltan chief Jerry Asp said in a statement at the Mineral Exploration Roundup conference in Vancouver this past January. The group's expression of support for mining is the first of its kind from a B.C. First Nation, said Dan Jepsen, executive director of the B.C. & Yukon Chamber of Mines. "It's a major step forward," he said. "It creates business certainty for our sector in terms of what to expect when we enter the Tahltan First Nation's traditional territory and what their expectations are."

"Relationships have definitely improved," said Asp. "We've got 1/3 of the jobs at the Eskay Creek mine, 49% of the ore haul contracts and 100% of the catering contracts."

Government is also promoting First Nations - Industry partnerships. A good example of this is Eagle Rock; a joint venture between First Nations and Industry to build a quarry near Port Alberni that is expected to become one of the largest in Canada. Electra Gold has entered into a Mining Participation and Royalty Agreement with the Quatsino First Nation of North Vancouver Island to develop the industrial mineral potential of the Apple Bay and other mineral claims that Electra Gold recently purchased near Port Hardy.

"As of June 2004, we have signed Agreements-in Principle at four treaty tables, 69 treaty-related measures, and 145 economic measures" said Bell. "This work is creating economic opportunities for First Nations and increasing land certainty which is key in moving this province toward economic prosperity for everyone."