



BC's MINING UPDATE

Honourable Richard Neufeld

Honourable Pat Bell

Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector

FEBRUARY 2005

From the Desk of Pat Bell

Momentum in B.C.'s mining sector continues to grow. Over the past two weeks, we have released the BC Mining Plan, launched Mineral Titles Online and announced plans for a \$25 million grant to the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines to develop a center for geo-science in British Columbia.

As tangible evidence that the mining industry is once again looking to B.C., Roundup 2005 surpassed all attendance projections and generated a tremendous amount of excitement. Over 5,200 delegates attended the conference, an increase of more than 30 per cent over last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the work of the BCYCM team for organizing such a successful event, and I wish them even greater success in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Michael Gray for his work as President over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with Michael, and I admire his commitment to revitalizing the mining industry in British Columbia. At the same time, I would like to congratulate Dave Caulfield on his appointment as BCYCM President, and I look forward to working with the Chamber under his leadership.

Pat Bell
Minister of State for Mining

BC Mining Plan leaps into action – boosting industry, economy

The recently launched BC Mining Plan presents strategies and actions to support a healthy, sustainable mining sector for the next decade and beyond – and it got off to a fast start with the announcement of funding for a new geoscience centre and the release of other geoscience resources.

“Exploration expenditures exceeded \$130 million in 2004. That’s proof positive that mining is back in business in B.C.,” said Minister of State for Mining Pat Bell. “The BC Mining Plan shows how government will continue to work with industry, communities and First Nations to help make sure the industry’s revitalization continues into the future.”

As part of the BC Mining Plan, the Province will seek legislative approval for a \$25 million grant to the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines for a new B.C. centre for geoscience. New geoscience publications and maps were also released recently. This new data will lead the way to new exploration and mining development in the province.

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The Plan is available on the Ministry website at
www.gov.bc.ca/em/down/mining_plan_jan_17_05.pdf
or by calling 250 952-0596.

MINING PLAN, *Continued from p.1*

In the coming year, the Province will build on the strategies outlined in the Mining Plan, including partnerships with industry and communities, continued work to reduce the regulatory burden, and collaboration with numerous groups to reinforce B.C.'s leadership in environmental stewardship.

BC MINING FACT

Mineral Titles Online, launched on January 12, registered more than 2.56 million hits in the first week, and by January 31 more than 1.34 million hectares had been acquired – more than for all of 2004. These claim acquisitions may lead to mine development.

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Western Canadian Coal opens new mine and ships new coal – signals re-birth of northeast

When the *M/V Pacific Success* sailed away from the pier at Ridley Terminals, Port of Prince Rupert, earlier this year it carried the first shipment from Canada's newest coal mine, the Dillon mine. The vessel's destination was South Korea, where POSCO, one of the world's foremost steel producers, will use the Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI) coal to make steel.

Owned and operated by Western Canadian Coal, of Vancouver, the Dillon open pit mine, located near Tumbler Ridge in northeastern B.C., boasts 1.5 million proven tonnes of PCI coal.

The Dillon activity signals the re-birth of British Columbia's northeast coalfields and firmly establishes renewed economic opportunity for northern communities. Demand for PCI coal is strong, particularly in Asia.

"We have always known that BC has great coal reserves. However, we now have a competitive tax system and a streamlined regulatory environment that has allowed us to take advantage of world demand and be competitive in the global marketplace," said Gary Livingstone, President of Western Canadian Coal.

Western Canadian Coal employs over 100 people, a figure that is expected to rise substantially when construction and operation begins on their Wolverine mine, also near Tumbler Ridge. Wolverine recently received an Environmental Assessment Certificate and has applied for a mine permit.



The M/V Pacific Success prior to sailing from Ridley Terminals earlier this year with the first shipment from Canada's newest coal mine, the Dillon mine. Celebrating the moment are, from left to right: Western Canadian Coal COO John Hogg, MLA for North Coast Bill Belsey, City of Prince Rupert Councillor Nelson Kinney, Ridley Terminals Inc. President and COO Greg Slocombe, Vice President, Finance and Operations and Harbour Master of the Prince Rupert Port Authority Joe Rektor and Ridley Terminals Inc. Operations Coordinator Pete Peterson.