



BC's MINING UPDATE

Honourable Richard Neufeld

Honourable Pat Bell

Restoring British Columbia's Mining Sector

JANUARY 2005

From the Desk of Pat Bell

British Columbia experienced a major surge and growth in the mining sector in 2004, and the forecast for 2005 looks to be just as good, if not better. As of today we have 13 mines that are in the Environmental Assessment process. Once these mines are up and running, the total operating mines in BC will be back to where we were in 1990.

One area where the benefits are most notable is the increase in job opportunities in the industry. The most recent employment survey points out that growth is strongest in Western Canada as mining has a net employment growth forecast of 38% Canada wide. This is the highest projected Net Employment Outlook for the mining sector in the history of the survey and the brightest outlook for jobs in the past four years.

In western Canada alone there is a net employment forecast of 46% with a majority of employers expecting to hire this year. And of the major centers that were surveyed, employers in Vancouver are expected to have the best hiring opportunities.

Pat Bell
Minister of State for Mining

Aboriginal Relations Branch connects First Nations and industry

The Ministry of Energy and Mines' Aboriginal Relations Branch (ARB) doesn't make it into the headlines, but staff are working hard behind the scenes assisting First Nations in sharing in the opportunities presented by mining activity.

The branch works with a wide range of stakeholders - other ministries, federal and provincial agencies, industry and our own ministry's Mining Division and regional inspectors - to work with First Nations to foster new resource development, while providing certainty on the land base.

Ongoing activities include informing and responding to First Nations and industry regarding issues and interests, consulting with First Nations and industry regarding economic opportunities, and assisting in negotiating and implementing agreements with First Nations and industry to facilitate exploration and development.

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Monica Perry, Senior Advisor in the Ministry of Energy and Mines' Aboriginal Relations Branch, seen in front of the Gitsegukla Community Hall, 21 miles west of New Hazelton.

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Senior Advisor on the mining side of the ARB team, Monica Perry, has worked with First Nations for some time and has been with the ministry for six months now, loving every minute. "It's great. I'm meeting all kinds of wonderful people - in First Nations and the mining industry," says Perry. "First Nations people are enthusiastic about finding out how to get involved in mining, and industry people are anxious to work with First Nations. Both sets of folks want to know how to make the connection. That's where this branch comes in."

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Mining for Miracles raises millions for BC Children's Hospital

The mining industry has been a committed supporter of BC Children's Hospital through its annual Mining for Miracles campaign, raising a total of almost \$7 million over the past 17 years for specialized hospital equipment.

The 2004 campaign raised \$703,850.

"The connection between BC Children's Hospital and the mining industry remained strong over the past few difficult years," said 2004/5 Mining Committee Chair Jon Collins (Vice President, Exploration Business Development Teck Cominco), "but the 2004 campaign rebounded to a new high with the upswing in miners' fortunes and the excellent guidance and rapport from the staff at Children's Hospital."



Every year the mining industry takes part in the BC Children's Hospital Miracle Weekend and presents its ever popular Fair. Last year's *Gold Rush Fair* included a Pie Throw, and our very own Minister of State for Mining, Pat Bell, was happy to take delivery of a pie for such a good cause.

This year's Mining for Miracles campaign has already begun. The 2005 *Coal Rush Fair* and Celebrity Pie Throw will take place on Thursday, May 12 in Club Square in downtown Vancouver.

Donors and volunteers from B.C. mining companies and mining associates included AMEC, Barrick Gold Corporation, BHP Billiton, Canaccord Capital, Cloke Holdings, Elk Valley Coal Corporation, Finning (Canada), Greater Vancouver Mining Women's Association, Highland Valley Copper, Huckleberry Mines Ltd., Kemess Mines Ltd., Knelson Concentrators, Ledcor Industries Ltd., Mining Association of BC, Mining Suppliers, Contractors & Consultants Association of BC, Placer Dome Inc., PricewaterhouseCoopers, Rescan Environmental Services, Teck Cominco Limited, The Claim Group, The Progressive Group, Thiessen Team, and Transwest Mining Systems Inc.