

Mining Report



March 2006

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Mackenzie, B.C.

April 27 – 29, 2006

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Canadian Institute of Mines, Metallurgy and Petroleum
Vancouver, B.C.

May 14 – 17, 2006

MINERAL EXPLORATION ROUNDUP 2006



ROUND THEM UP AGAIN !

January was a busy month for Minister Bill Bennett as he worked hard to promote mining in B.C.

Minister Bennett spent four days in Vancouver to enjoy and learn at the [23rd Annual Mineral Exploration Roundup](#).

Minister Bennett joined 5,400 registrants who made it the largest one yet. Even with the largest attendance to date, the conference still had a small informal and comfortable feel. There were new exhibits to view with the latest information in mineral exploration available, including new projects, new service sector companies and training organizations.

The hot topic of the conference was nailed by Monday's CEO Breakfast Speaker when [Teck Cominco's](#) President and CEO (link to <http://www.teckcominco.com/>) Don Lindsay spoke about the labour crunch hitting the global mining sector – particularly in terms of geoscientists. "The constraint on people that the industry is facing today is absolutely enormous," said Mr. Lindsay, "within a decade, 60 per cent of Canadian geoscientists will be 65 years old or more."



Same great organization, new and improved name - the BC Yukon Chamber of Mines changed their name to the Association for Mineral Exploration BC

Notes from the Minister

The beginning of a new year

always brings hope and optimism. And the mining industry is one of the most hopeful, optimistic



Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of State for Mining

groups around. This year the optimism came with a value: exploration investment topped out at \$220 million in 2005. This represents 650 exploration projects and 4,000 good jobs B.C. didn't have only a few short years ago. I know it's a cliché, but "mining is back in B.C.!"

Roundup was very exciting again this year, with the strongest attendance on record. I spent Sunday through Thursday at the conference and had the opportunity to visit with many in the industry. Confidence is definitely up and I saw lots of deals being done at the conference.

One of the messages I received at Roundup this year is the industry's concern about skilled workers. I can say unequivocally, government is also concerned and we already have a great many initiatives in place to meet the demand today and tomorrow for skilled workers in the mining industry. In our new budget, we added \$400 million over the

Continued on page 2, Minister's Notes



Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

\$2.3 Million to Train Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Jobs

Another highpoint of Roundup was hearing Premier Gordon Campbell speak at the awards banquet on Wednesday night. Campbell announced the province will invest an additional \$2.3 million for training youth from rural and aboriginal communities so they can pursue careers in B.C.'s mining and mineral exploration industry.

\$1.3 million of the funding is for the expansion of a province-wide Mining Education and Skills Development Program, from the pilot project at Northwest Community College. Another \$1 million is for "prospector and environmental teams" to reclaim old mine sites and explore for new ones.



President Rob Pease (right), British Columbia Institute of Technology students Erin Edwards (far left) Inderpaul Dhaliwal, and Chad Koshlay (far right) after Minister Bennett announced the province-wide Job Fairs.

Bennett spoke on Tuesday morning – BC Day – about how important the mining industry is to the future of B.C. Minister Bennett announced a new Mining Rocks "Job and Career Opportunities Tour 2006." For more information on "Mining Rocks" visit our Website.

"HELP WANTED" Apply to B.C. for High Paying Jobs in the Mineral and Mining Industry

January 24, 2006

VANCOUVER – Minister Bennett (centre) was joined by Dan Jepsen, Association of Mineral Exploration BC CEO, (left) incoming AME BC

next four years to skills training. We are also expanding the prospector training program stated in Smithers last year to include other regions. We will continue with the Mining Apprenticeship Program in the Kootenays and my colleague Colin Hansen will continue to expand the number of apprenticed workers in B.C. The number has gone from 14,000 in 2003 to an anticipated 35,000 apprentices in 2006. What a wonderful "problem" to have, compared to a few years ago when it was people chasing jobs, rather than jobs chasing people.

Over the past four years, the mining industry and government have developed a strong working relationship. When there are issues, like the need for skilled workers, we sit down and find ways to improve the situation. Remember, my door is always open.



WOW \$220 MILLION– B.C. Hits the Mark with Fifteen Year High in Exploration Investment

January 18, 2006

BURNABY - Bill Bennett, Minister of State for Mining, was joined by Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (right), to watch as a student processes copper in the school

assay lab during a tour of the B.C.I.T. mining program facility. Minister Bennett announced the 2005 Exploration Expenditure investment numbers, which reached \$220 million, the best year for B.C.'s mining industry in fifteen years.

NOTABLE QUOTES...

"The Province's stable economy and supportive government policies have helped make B.C. the preferred international destination for exploration investment, attracting more workers to the industry." David Caulfield, Past-President of the Association of Mineral Exploration B.C. on investment in mining. Prince George Citizen, January 19, 2006.

"I think job fairs are a great idea to help our young people find employment, especially in rural areas in the north. Jobs fairs are a great opportunity for people to gain knowledge about the mining industry that is of interest to them and that they otherwise might not know."

Town of Smithers Mayor Jim Davidson.

