

Mining Report



November 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ **Mineral Titles Online a Winner**
- ▶ **Geoscience Workshop in Lillooet a First**
- ▶ **Introducing a New Version of Minfile**
- ▶ **Community Coal Forum Draws Sell-Out Crowd**
- ▶ **Minerals South Hits the Mark**
- ▶ **Gem of a Quote**
- ▶ **Do You Know Moly?**

MEDIA ROOM

CONTACT US

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

- ▶ **Northwest Mining Association Annual Meeting**
Spokane, Washington
December 5 - 9, 2005
- ▶ **Geoscience BC Request for Proposals: Industrial Matching Grant Program for Universities, Colleges and Consultants**

Geoscience BC is pleased to issue a request for applied research proposals from universities, colleges and consultants.
December 5, 2005

- ▶ **Mineral Exploration Roundup 2006**

Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina, Vancouver, BC
Early Registration at [BC Mining House](#)
January 23 - 26, 2006



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Coaltrans Conference A Huge International Hit

Minister Bill Bennett spoke to a full house at the Coaltrans Canada's Vancouver conference Monday, November 7th. Bennett's keynote speech to the international crowd of industry executives, coal investors, shipping companies and energy consultants kicked off the event. Presentations included those from Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Barlow Jonker, the Coal Association of Canada, Salman Partners and Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, to name a few.

The conference focused on three main topics: the expansion and development of the Canadian coal industry in the international markets; the challenges and opportunities facing the industry; and the future outlook for resources and reserves. Coal industry and the Northeast business community sponsorships helped make the event a success.



VANCOUVER - Minister Bennett (centre) exchanges a word with Robert Stan (right) President and CEO Grand Cache Coal Corporation at the Coaltrans Canada Conference in Vancouver on November 7, 2005 before his keynote address. Also presenting that morning was Mark Morey (left) Director, North American Power, Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA).

Mining The Tops

Business BC's Top 100 ranking shows British Columbia's strongest and fastest-growing companies employed 170,000 people and earned \$45.9 billion in revenue during 2004. Miners and a tremendous resource boom played a significant role in B.C.'s top companies. Firms on the strongest companies list included Teck Cominco, Placer Dome, and Teekay Shipping. B.C.'s mining sector proved to be the single biggest player in this year's Top 100 list.

Notes from the Minister

I've been minister of state for mining for about six months now and I've made a few "discoveries" of my own.



Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of State for Mining

When the Premier appointed me, I knew that mining was coming back in BC. However, I did not fully appreciate the exploration industry's renewed enthusiasm for discovering new mines. This is an exciting time, with so many good prospects being scoped out and developed. The EAO is processing over 20 projects right now, with more coming. Hat's off to the industry for the confidence you are showing in our great province. We continue to look for ways to improve our processes, regulations and service, both on the exploration side and for operating mines. We invite your suggestions and welcome any ideas you have for improvement.

READER SURVEY:

- What would you like to see in future issues of the Mining Report?
- What concerns or questions would you like to ask the new Minister of State for Mining, the Honourable Bill Bennett?

Please send your comments, queries and feedback to:

Barbara.Stewart@gov.bc.ca

Mineral Titles Online a Winner—Not Once, Not Twice—but Three Times!

The innovative web-based system was recently honoured by several national industry organizations. Mineral Titles Online was awarded: Gold Distinction Award at GTEC 2005 (Government Technology Exhibition), nominated by the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines; 2005 Award of Excellence for Innovation in the Field of Geographic Information Systems from the Environmental Systems Research Institute; and The Innovative Collaboration Award (shared) at the B.C. Public Sector Information Technology Awards. MTO was developed by the Titles Division of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in collaboration with Pacific GeoTech Systems Ltd. and the Ministries of Agriculture and Lands, Finance and Labour and Citizens Services.



VICTORIA - The Mineral Titles Branch was presented with an Award of Excellence at ESRI Canada's 2005 Regional User Conference in Victoria on October 4, 2005. Rick Conte, Director Mineral Titles Branch (far left) is joined by Kim Stone, Manager Mineral Titles Branch, Eugen Toaxen CEO Pacific Geotech Systems, Alex Miller President ESRI Canada, and Andy Lang President Pacific Geotech Systems.

Introducing a New Version of Minfile

MINFILE – easy, on-line access to British Columbia's mineral information! It's a digital database of over 12,000 sites, used by prospectors and geologists to help them choose areas to explore and to help attract new mineral exploration investment to the province.

A NEW and IMPROVED MINFILE will be implemented over the next few months!

After 20 years of service the DOS-based version of MINFILE is being upgraded to an SQL database, providing:

- ▶ an Internet-based search system that will be closely integrated with MapPlace for improved geospatial linkage
- ▶ an offline database and search tool for use by clients when they are unable to be connected to the Internet
- ▶ a new Internet-based, data entry tool for clients to submit documentation for new mineral occurrences or to suggest updates to existing records.

Clients can now access and use a Beta version of the new system, on-line at www.MINFILE.ca

New Director Of Coal Resources Named

During his keynote address, Minister Bennett announced Glen Wonders as the newly named Director, Coal Resources, for the province. Glen's mandate is to work with industry, First Nations and communities to facilitate the development of new coal projects in BC. Glen was previously the Regional Director of Mining and Minerals for the north central and northeast and is a Registered Professional Forester in both Alberta and British Columbia. Glen also holds an MBA from Royal Roads University.

Geoscience Workshop in Lillooet a First

The Lillooet Community and Geoscience BC sponsored a Geoscience Workshop in Lillooet on October 13 to help generate local jobs and support the diversification of the local economy by attracting more mineral exploration. It marked the first time in BC that members of the community and local industry met with other industry, non-government organizations and government representatives to identify geoscience surveys for their region. Surveys are a key tool to attract mineral exploration investment. Thirty different project proposals were discussed, including reviews of geological mapping, geochemistry and geophysical surveys, mineral deposit studies and industrial mineral market studies.

Stay-tuned, the BC Geological Survey plans on delivering a geoscience project next year in the Lillooet area.

Community Coal Forum Draws Sell-Out Crowd

The inaugural Coal Conference in northeastern BC took place in Tumbler Ridge on October 19th and 20th. The successful forum featured a great line-up of speakers, including Minister Bennett, and a sold-out crowd. The displays and presentations focused



TUMBLER RIDGE - Minister Bill Bennett speaks to a sell-out crowd at the Northeast BC Community Coal Forum that took place in Tumbler Ridge on October 20, 2005. Bill Oppen, Regional Project Manager, Ministry of Economic Development was event emcee.

on the theme BC's Advantage and the importance of coal to northeast communities. There was positive feedback from industry, community and First Nations in attendance. Training and employment issues were hot topics. Many people contributed into making this event a success: heartfelt thanks to Mayor Clay Illies, Mayor Evan Saugstad, Ray Proulx, Economic Development Officer for Tumbler Ridge, Brenda Banhan, President of the Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Glen Wonders, Director - Coal Resources MEMPR, Monica Perry, Manager of Sustainability MEMPR and especially Bill Oppen, Regional Project Manager, Ministry of Economic Development, for their roles in ensuring an excellent conference.

GEM OF A QUOTE

"The delivery of a mining and milling permit for our MAX project is a major milestone for Roca," says Scott Broughton, CEO. "We would like to thank the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for their constructive review of the MAX Project - soon to be the newest metal mine in the province!"

Scott Broughton, P.Eng., President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Stikine Gold Corporation.

Do You Know Moly?

After more than 20 years of being undervalued, molybdenum has finally come into its own with prices soaring upwards of US\$30 per pound. A new look at molybdenum, commonly referred to as moly, sparked by market interest and supply shortage has led to an increase in demand and higher prices.

- ▶ BC produced 320 300 tonnes of molybdenum from 1915 through 2004
- ▶ Endako is one of the world's largest primary producers of molybdenum, and Canada's top low-cost producer
- ▶ The Huckleberry, Gibraltar and Highland Valley Copper copper mines can also produce molybdenum.
- ▶ All of BC's molybdenum production is from porphyry-type deposits
- ▶ Molybdenum net revenues reflected the most significant growth of any commodity included in the 2004 survey, increasing by 209% to \$398 million from \$129 million in 2003.
- ▶ Average molybdenum prices rose 206% during this period from US\$5.21 per pound to US\$15.92 per pound, and total shipments were up by 23% in 2004.
- ▶ Molybdenum's most significant use is in the steel making industry and demand for steel is at an unprecedented level.

From: [PriceWaterhouseCooper Report on British Columbia's Mining Sector.](#)

Minerals South Hits The Mark

Bill Bennett had the opportunity to attend East Kootenay Chamber of Mines' first "Minerals South" Conference in Cranbrook on October 27. The conference was an information forum for explorationists, miners and community representatives. By all accounts the event was well received by all attendees. Gold was a main subject of the day, with additional discussion of molybdenum and coal. Funding for the conference was provided by MEMPR, Columbia Basin Trust, BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines, and several junior mining companies and suppliers. Next years Minerals South 2006 will be held in Nelson, B.C.



CRANBROOK - Minister Bill Bennett listens as Scott Broughton discusses his company's future plans for ROCA Mines' Max Molybdenum Project, at the East Kootenay Chamber of Mine's Minerals South Conference on October 27, 2005. Scott is the President ad CEO of Stikine Gold Corporation.

Metal Mine Permit Awarded

Roca Mines knows what molybdenum is all about. The BC junior mining company owns a number of properties in BC, including and the MAX Molybdenum Project in the heart of the famous Lardeau area south of Revelstoke, near Trout Lake.

- ▶ The Max Molybdenum Project received a mining permit from MEMPR on November 7, 2005 for development and operation of an underground mine and onsite concentrator. Roca plans to develop a 500 tonne per day mining operation that would produce up to 72,000 tonnes per year by using existing underground access to the deposit. Roca is hoping to reduce lead time and initial capital costs to production.