

Exploring the FUTURE

MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Coal is the most valuable mineral produced in British Columbia. In 2000, the province produced 26 million tonnes from eight mines, with a value of approximately \$1.4 billion. British Columbia's active coal mines are on Vancouver Island, in the East-central Interior and in the Southeast Kootenay region, providing about 40 per cent of British Columbia's mining employment. Billions of tonnes of coal remain to be extracted from areas such as Comox, Telkwa, Tulameen and the Peace River region near the Alberta border.

COAL

The Coal Resource

British Columbia's total coal resource is estimated at more than 20 billion tonnes, varying in rank from lignite to anthracite. The province has an abundance of undeveloped coal deposits.

The Kootenay and Peace River coal fields have measured resources in excess of 2 billion tonnes. These are composed mainly of medium-volatile bituminous coking coal, with significant amounts of high-volatile and low-volatile bituminous coal.

The Comox coal field on Vancouver Island has a measured resource of over 85 million tonnes of high-volatile coal.

The Klappan and Groundhog fields have extensive undeveloped anthracite resources while the Hat Creek and Coal River areas are rich in undeveloped lignite to sub-bituminous rank coal.

Markets and Transportation

Most of the coal produced in British Columbia is exported. Approximately half goes to Japan. Most of the balance is sold in Europe, Korea and South America.

The province has three major coal ports: Roberts Bank, Vancouver and Prince Rupert. These ports are served by an efficient and highly developed railway transportation system.

Coalfields in British Columbia

To view a map on the Internet of the coalfields and coalbed methane potential in British Columbia go to:
[www.em.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geology/
EconomicGeology/coal/coalinbc/fig1.htm](http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geology/EconomicGeology/coal/coalinbc/fig1.htm)

For more information, contact:

Ministry of Energy and Mines, Geological Survey Branch
PO Box 9320, Stn Prov Govt, 5th Floor, 1810 Blanshard Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9N3
Phone: 250 952-0418 Fax: 250 952-0381
www.gov.bc.ca/em



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FACT SHEET