

Exploring the FUTURE

MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mining has been a cornerstone of British Columbia's economy for over 150 years. Beginning with coal mines on Vancouver Island and placer gold camps along the Fraser River, the province's development has historically been tied to resource exploration and extraction. Today, British Columbia is recognized world wide for its mining and mineral potential with abundant mineral resources, a highly skilled workforce, a recently improved investment climate and a comprehensive geoscience database. These factors combine to make British Columbia an excellent choice for mining investors.

GEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Geological Potential

British Columbia encompasses the largest part of the Canadian Cordillera, a mountainous region rich in a variety of minerals. It includes belts of distinctive rock which vary markedly from east to west.

Most of the coal, coalbed methane and industrial minerals resources, such as barite and magnesite, formed by sedimentary processes are located along the eastern margin of the Cordillera. Older sedimentary rocks, just west of the younger sediments, are rich in zinc, lead and silver. In the central and western portion of the province, rocks are predominantly volcanic and intrusive, and known to contain large deposits, particularly of copper, gold and molybdenum.

The potential for finding deposits of these commodities is enhanced by a steady stream of new information from geological mapping and economic geology research. This information is available to the public through the British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines. It includes detailed records on approximately 12,000 mineral occurrences.

New Directions for Exploration and Development

British Columbia produces coal, copper, gold, silver, zinc and a growing list of industrial minerals and structural materials valued at more than \$2.8 billion a year. Strong potential exists for developing metallic and non-metallic minerals not previously produced in the province, including platinum, palladium, diamonds and metallic and industrial minerals used for space-age composites.

Currently, the province's most important mineral resource types are:

- porphyry copper-gold and copper-molybdenum deposits;
- sedimentary coal and coal-related deposits;
- zinc-copper-gold-silver-bearing volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits;
- zinc-lead-silver-gold-bearing sedimentary exhalative deposits; and,
- precious metal, gold-silver vein and placer deposits.

For more information, contact:

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