

Exploring the FUTURE

MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia's mining industry is recognized as a world leader, with world class support from both the public and private sectors. Private sector support includes a highly skilled workforce. Public sector support includes a comprehensive inventory of mineral, coal and aggregate reserves and resources, developed and maintained by the Geological Survey Branch of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. The inventory provides an excellent starting point for anyone planning mineral exploration in the province.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SERVICES

Surveys, Mapping and Research

Regional Geochemical Surveys (RGS) cover more than 70 per cent of British Columbia's land base, with more than 45,000 samples collected and 52 element determinations recorded in the RGS database.

These surveys help identify new exploration targets and mineral discoveries. Geochemical surveys also help to reveal the characteristic signatures of certain types of mineral deposits in different physiographic settings.

Regional Geological Mapping is done on a scale of 1:50:000 to identify environments where mineral deposits are likely to be discovered. Geology maps are published both in digital and paper formats.

Surficial Geological Mapping of overlying bedrock supports studies in areas such as till geochemistry, placer deposit origins, aggregate inventories and earthquake hazard assessments.

Economic Geology Research is carried out on varying scales, from single mineral deposits to mining camps to

province-wide surveys. The information is used to develop mineral deposit models, supporting mineral exploration activities.

Accessing Information

All maps and reports produced by the Geological Survey Branch are available for purchase through Crown Publications, www.crownpub.bc.ca

Most of the branch's geoscience data are available on the Internet, including:

- digital geoscience maps and data in interactive GIS formats;
- theme maps and data sets focusing on specific subjects such as coal, oil and gas, and aggregate potential;
- a detailed database of approximately 12,000 mineral deposits across British Columbia; and,
- a library of more than 25,000 mineral assessment reports.

For more information, contact:

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Ministry of Energy
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FACT SHEET