



RESOURCE *Connector* 2021

FORGING AHEAD

The resource sector looks to the future

Help for small business in Northern BC

New hardwood potential in BC

REPRESENTING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

RESOURCE
Connector
NORTH





MATRIX

Camps | Logistics | Aviation Management

EXCITING NEW VENTURES FOR MATRIX CAMPS, LOGISTICS AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT

MATRIX'S NWBC OPERATION HAS MOVED!

Address: 3310 River Drive, Terrace, BC

Phone: 250-635-0507



MATRIX INTRODUCES NEW GREEN INITIATIVE, SELF-SUFFICIENT TURN-KEY SOLAR POWERED CAMPS

- Light weight, heli-portable units for fly-in access camp locations
- Back-up generator plug-ins for times of little sun exposure

MATRIX ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THEIR MECHANICAL DIVISION - MATRIX MECHANICAL SOLUTIONS



- On-site mechanical solutions with a highly qualified team of Heavy Duty Mechanics
- Matrix technicians arrive on site with all the required tooling, computers and diagnostics programs
- Keeping our clients' equipment running so they can focus on their program deliverables

Vancouver: 604-538-4574 ▪ **Yellowknife:** 867-766-4952

Iqaluit: 867-222-4128 ▪ **Terrace:** 250-635-0507

www.matrixco.ca

—
YOUR CLASSROOM
IS WHEREVER YOU
ARE LEARNING.

MINING EDUCATION FOR A COMPLEX WORLD.

At BCIT, Mining programs equip students with hands-on and specialized courses to start their in-demand careers or to upgrade their training. Through projects and field trips, students apply their knowledge to real situations to make them job ready when they graduate. The accredited Mining and Mineral Resource Engineering degree and the Mineral Exploration and Mining Technology diploma programs are still accepting applications for the Fall semester.

Enrol now at bcit.ca/mining.

BCIT[®]

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Board of Directors.....	6
Resource Connector North 2020-2021 Board of Directors.....	8
Bursaries & Scholarships	10
Message from the Honourable John Horgan	11
Message from the Honourable Bruce Ralston	12
Giving back: A perspective on time with John Irving.....	14
Incentivizing business improvements in northern B.C.....	16
The Employers' Advisors Office, A resource employers need to know about.....	18
Mining Round Up: Golden Triangle edition.....	20
New potential for hardwood timber.....	24
Trans Mountain pipeline expansion update.....	26
Resiliency: How do we get there?	28
Coastal GasLink helps build a skilled legacy at the College of New Caledonia	30
Boosting B.C.'s endangered salmon	32
Improving reclamation, relationships, and communities by NATS Nursery	34
Worker safety when working from heights	36
AME's first virtual Roundup: Leading through change	37
In the battle for energy hearts and minds, are you Gates or a McKibben?.....	40
Index to advertisers.....	42

Published by

DEL Communications Inc.

www.delcommunications.com

President & CEO

DAVID LANGSTAFF

Editor

TAMMY SCHUSTER

tammy@delcommunications.com

Advertising Sales Manager

DAYNA OULION

dayna@delcommunications.com

Advertising Sales

ROSS JAMES

DAN ROBERTS

ANTHONY ROMEO

MICHELLE RAIKE

GARY SEAMANS

Production services provided by:

S.G. Bennett Marketing Services

www.sgbennett.com

Creative Director / Layout & Design

KATHLEEN CABLE

©Copyright 2021. Resource Connector North. All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the publisher.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in and the reliability of the source, the publisher in no way guarantees nor warrants the information and is not responsible for errors, omissions or statements made by advertisers. Opinions and recommendations made by contributors or advertisers are not necessarily those of the publisher, its directors, officers or employees.

Publications mail agreement #40934510

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

DEL Communications Inc.

Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road

Winnipeg, MB R3L 0G5



PRINTED IN CANADA | 02/2021



**Snow Avalanche Risk Assessment
&
Hazard Management**



**PROGRAM DESIGN
HAZARD MAPPING**

www.snowavalanche.com

**SAFETY PLANS
778-875-9345**

**TRAINING
AVALANCHE CONTROL**
storm@snowavalanche.com



LIDAR . DIGITAL . ORTHO . POINTCLOUD . MODELING

- 🌲 Reduce field costs through Advanced Remote Sensing Techniques
- 🌲 Choose the most cost-effective and efficient solution with UAV or Aircraft Data Acquisition
 - 🌲 Acquire georeferenced imagery - up to 3cm Resolution!
 - 🌲 Simultaneous LiDAR & True-Colour/Infrared Imagery

From Mining Volume Surveys to Engineering Plans to Forest Planning
 Timber Volume Estimates: Species Identification, Stem Counts & Tree Heights
 Change Detection: Harvest, Free-To-Grow, Forest Health, Fire, Blow down, & Understorey Vegetation

Inquire now for your new Digital Acquisition Projects!

**2032 RIVER ROAD
PRINCE GEORGE, BC**

WWW.TDB.CA

250.562.1828

MESSAGE FROM THE RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The pandemic has affected us all and, like many organizations, it has caused Resource Connector North to change how it operates. While we have been meeting exclusively through online media, we have still managed to achieve several important accomplishments for 2020 with the goal of promoting economic growth in the natural resource sector for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Resource Connector North has engaged social media to connect with more of our members more often. We registered our website www.resourceconnector.ca where new members can register online at www.resourceconnector.ca/membership/become-a-member, and our current members can update their business information online. We have also increased our LinkedIn presence with a webpage (www.linkedin.com/company/resource-connector-north/) and use of Facebook (www.facebook.com/ResourceConnector) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/ResourceNorth) to promote RCN's activities and broadcast resource projects to our followers.

After the passing of RCN's long-time director, Rosalind Thorn, the Board created a bursary at the College of New Caledonia in her name for students enrolled in trades programs. This year's recipients were Christian Kelly and Damon McCulloch. We are also happy to announce we are

working on new bursaries with two more northern B.C. colleges, Northern Lights College and Coast Mountain College to broaden our reach to all areas within our mandate.

The Resource Connector North Board would like to introduce three new directors: Cameron Braun, Dynamic Capital; Leonard Legault, IRL Supplies, and Sidney Roy, Allnorth Consultants Ltd.

We are excited to once again be working with DEL Communications to develop our 2021 RCN Membership directory and magazine. You can check out past issues of the Resource Connector North directory and magazine at www.resourceconnector.ca/resources/magazine.

Finally, we postponed all of our in-person networking events for 2020 due to COVID-19. However, we are planning to resume hosting in-person, resource-based events in 2021 once it is safe to do so.

We wish you all the best for 2021 and we look forward to connecting with you to enable business to develop as a result of our region's bountiful resources.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Fraser Deacon
Chair ☆



DYNAMIC
AVALANCHE CONSULTING LTD.
www.dynamicavalanche.com

Professional Snow Avalanche Expertise

- ◆ Protection structures
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Avalanche forecasting
- ◆ Avalanche safety plans
- ◆ Engineering design
- ◆ Risk control
- ◆ Hazard mapping
- ◆ Worker training

Revelstoke, Whistler and Kimberley BC
Phone: 250.837.4466 | info@dynamicavalanche.com

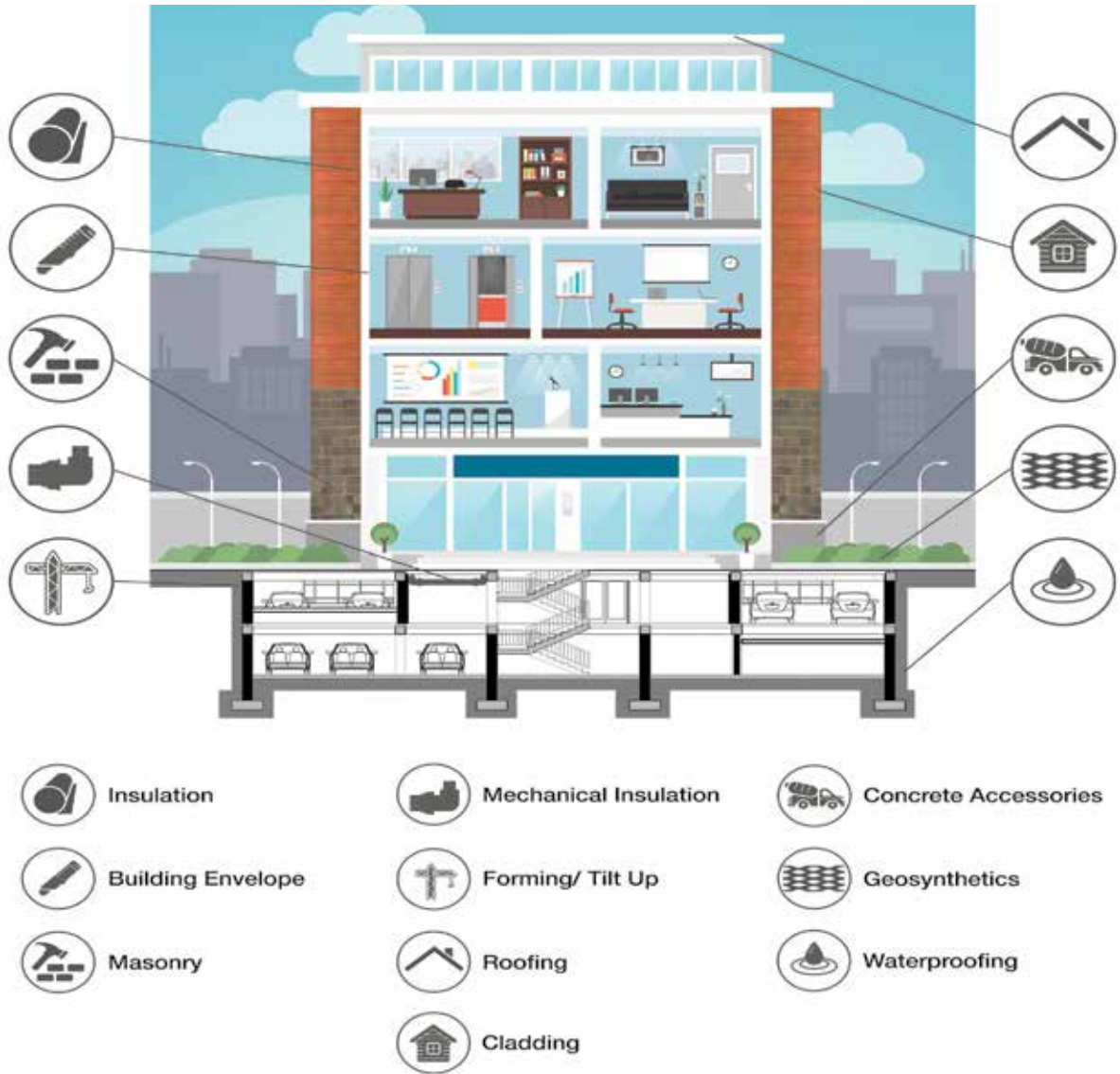


6315 Mattern St,
Smithers Airport
P.O. Box 477,
Smithers, V0J 2N0

P: (250) 847-4300
F: (250) 847-4322

email: info@apexdrill.com

www.apexdrill.com



BROCK WHITE IS YOUR SOURCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

At Brock White, we supply solutions from ground to roof. Our team has proudly served the Northern BC construction industry for over 40 years. Centrally located, our 17,600 square foot warehouse and yard are stocked and ready to fill your needs.

RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH 2020/2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FRASER DEACON
PRESIDENT



JACQUES FOURNIER
DIRECTOR



PAT MCGUIRE
DIRECTOR



CAMERON BRAUN
DIRECTOR



LEONARD LEGAULT
DIRECTOR



GREG HANKS
DIRECTOR



SIDNEY ROY
DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote economic growth in the natural resource sector for the benefit of all British Columbians.

VISION AND POSITIONING STATEMENT:

We serve business and industry related to natural resource development. We are a conduit of connectivity between business and natural resource sectors by:

- DELIVERING services and products;
- CREATING an environment of exchange of trade; and
- SUPPORTING investment in Northern B.C.





Sinkut RADIATOR SERVICE Inc.
& ALUMINUM COOLER REMANUFACTURING

We are an industrial radiator shop focused on servicing all types of radiators, coolers, and heat exchangers in the mining and forestry sectors. We have a large inventory of complete high flow upgraded radiators and coolers and are a fully insured NARSA HD Certified shop with trained and certified award-winning technicians.

Mailing address and Shop Location:
 4786 Griffith Rd Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A1

1-250-570-2727 sinkutradiator@gmail.com
www.sinkutradiatorservice.com

Excel Personnel Inc.

Offices in Prince George, Terrace, Kamloops and Kelowna to serve your staffing requirements.

www.excel.bc.ca

Terrace: 1-877-374-3853

Prince George: 250-596-3683

Kamloops: 250-374-3853

Kelowna: 778-484-8157



Your Full Service Recruitment Agency Since 1992

Temporary • Permanent
Contract • Executive Search



GREAT PEOPLE. EXCEPTIONAL COMPANIES.

Administration • IT/Engineering • Management • Finance • Sales/Marketing • Trades/Technical



FIREWEED HELICOPTERS

Whitehorse
867-668-5888

Mayo
867-996-2100

Dawson City
867-993-5700



Operating:
Bell 206B
Bell 206L4
Bell 204C
Bell 407
HU500D
MD520N

**Box 26,
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5X9**

info@fireweedhelicopters.ca
www.fireweedhelicopters.ca



Communications Inc.

SUITE 300, 6 ROSLYN ROAD
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

www.delcommunications.com

*The key to
publishing
success.*

*We offer outstanding
personal service
and quality in the areas of...*

- Creative Design
- Advertising Sales
- Trade Publications
- Video Production & Editing
- Qualified Sales & Editorial Team

Serving your truck rental needs through northwest BC



**Frontier
Truck Rentals**



Daily | Monthly | Weekly Rates

3046 YELLOWHEAD HIGHWAY, SMITHERS, BC V0J 2N0
T: 1.250.877.7769 | E: shawn@frontierchrysler.net

www.frontiertruckrentals.com

RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH

Bursaries & Scholarships



One of the Board of Directors' mandates is to encourage future generations who have chosen to pursue a career in the resource sector. In doing so, the Resource Connector North sponsors bursaries and scholarships available to students at the College of New Caledonia (CNC) and at Coast Mountain College who are enrolled in trades programs with an emphasis on the resource industry.

In 2020, Christian Kelly, a student of the Carpentry program at CNC was awarded the Rosalind Thorn Memorial Annual Trades Scholarship. He says the funding will help him purchase tools and equipment needed for his future as a finishing carpenter. "This will no

doubt help me on my path," says Kelly. "All I can say is thank you so much and I hope you keep providing these opportunities for future carpenters!"

Damon McCulloch, a student in the Industrial Mechanic Apprenticeship program was the recipient of the Resource Connector North Annual Trades Bursary. "It is very appreciated and helpful as I move into the apprentice job field," says McCulloch. "I am hoping to find employment as a millwright apprentice so I can return to school and get my Red Seal. Once again, thank you for providing me with this opportunity."

Keano David (Wilson), a student attending the Hazelton campus of Coast Mountain College, was

awarded the Resource Connector North Award for his achievements in the Harmonized Level 2 Carpentry Apprenticeship program. He said the award helped reduce his financial stresses and allowed him to stay in school. "I would like to thank the Resource Connector North for funding this award," says David. "I am hoping to have my own renovation business in the Hazeltons, and receiving this award really helped me out."

Congratulations to all of the 2020 award winners.

For more information or to apply for an award, visit the College of New Caledonia at cnc.bc.ca or Coast Mountain College at coastmountaincollege.ca. ★

You're at home here.





WE EXPEDITE & DELIVER

FOUR RIVERS CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Bulk Petroleum - Food Store - Home & Agro Centre

16 Cardlock Locations: Fort St. James to 100 Mile House, Terrace To Valemount,
Fuel Tank Sales & Rentals, Bulk Fuel and Oil Deliveries:
Vanderhoof Toll Free: **1-888-545-2667** | Houston: **1-800-848-6347**
Prince George: **1-866-309-2667** | Quesnel: **1-888-992-2667** | Terrace: **1-250-635-9595**
Food Store - Grocery, In Store Bakery, Deli, Fresh Meat, Produce, Housewares: **250-567-4406**
Home Centre-Hardware, Building Materials, Flooring, Appliances, Agro, Feed & Fertilizer: **250-567-4464**
C-Store, Gas Bar, Propane, Lube Oils & Marine Fuel: **250-567-4486**
Quesnel Agro/C-Store- Agro, Feed, Fertilizer, Lube Oils, Hardware, Confectionery Store: **250-992-7274**
Head Office: Four Rivers Toll Free: **1-877-567-4414**



MESSAGE FROM THE **HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN** PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



British Columbians have been through a lot since the last publication of the *Resource Connector North*. A global pandemic has turned our lives upside down and created unprecedented challenges that were unimaginable just a year ago.

In that time, we have mourned the loss of hundreds of our loved ones to the virus. Many businesses have had to reduce operations or even shut down to help protect their employees and customers. And despite our government's coordinated efforts to help rural, remote, and Indigenous communities respond, people and industries in Northern B.C. faced unique challenges.

While we will remember this time as one of the most difficult in our history, it is also leaving us with lessons that will serve us well as we build toward a brighter future. More than anything else, it has reminded us how resilient we can be when we look after each other and come together in common purpose.

From the beginning, we worked with business leaders, labour groups, and Dr. Bonnie Henry's team to keep people safe while also keeping our economy moving. Instead of a lockdown, we focused on helping businesses operate safely to the greatest extent possible. For example, work on construction sites continued with new safety measures, and the agricultural and forestry industries received the seasonal workers they needed under strict health rules.

But we know many have not been able to operate as usual. That's why our focus has been on supporting every business impacted by the pandemic, from the family-run corner store to the paper mill that employs hundreds of people.

Businesses have received help through property tax cuts, deferred tax payments, and BC Hydro rate relief. For the forestry sector, we deferred stumpage fees for three months ensuring eligible companies had access to \$80

million to help pay their bills. New programs are restoring dormant and inactive wells, cleaning up our environment while supporting B.C.'s energy sector, workers, and companies.

We know there is more to do. In the fall, we released our recovery plan and are now rolling out additional direct supports. By moving implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, we will create more certainty for natural resource projects and ensure everyone benefits in the prosperity.

There is hope on the horizon with the arrival of safe and effective vaccines. Economists believe we are poised for quicker and more robust recovery than other jurisdictions in Canada. That's because we are starting from a place of strength: B.C. has abundant natural resources and clean tech, a culture of innovation, and our prime location makes us a gateway to Asia and a major port to the USA.

As we battle additional waves of infections, it is clear that we are not out of the woods. Let's continue to do our part to keep each other healthy and safe. Then let's keep working together to build a B.C. that's even better than before – where businesses are thriving, the services you need are close to home, and no one in our province is left behind. ★



FREE SPIRIT
VENTURES
INC

2430 Ridgeview Place
Prince George, BC V2K 3Z3

E: free@safetypays.ca
Office: 250.561.3253
Cell: 250.960.9291

COR External Auditing
Forestry, Construction, Oil & Gas

Specialized Training Courses

Health & Safety
Program Development

Safety Consulting

Human Factors
Investigations

www.safetypays.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE **HONOURABLE BRUCE RALSTON** MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES, AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION



With 2020 now behind us and a new year ahead, we can reflect on last year's challenges but also see examples of how British Columbians can adapt, persevere, and be resilient in uncertain times.

We have found new ways to do things often taken for granted to protect not only ourselves, but our family, friends, and communities. This has meant constantly assessing what is safe and adapting to our new norm.

And while our government is still primarily focused on managing the COVID-19 pandemic within our province, we are also beginning to focus on our strengths as we turn our attention towards economic recovery and what this means for B.C. globally.

Throughout the pandemic, we were able to ensure resource operations across the province were listed as essential services with proactive measures that allowed production to be maintained while keeping workers and communities safe.

We created three programs with \$120 million in federal funding to support B.C. workers in oil and gas service companies decommissioning or performing restoration work on more than 2,000 dormant or orphan well sites.

Now, we are focused on supporting innovation by helping the resource sector transition to a lower-carbon output. One way we are working toward this is through the CleanBC program for industry, which includes the Industrial Incentive Program and the CleanBC Industry Fund. They provide opportunities to lower emissions while reducing carbon tax costs and investing directly into emissions-reduction projects.

We are also working towards a Mining Innovation Hub over the next four years. This hub will identify and support innovation, training for workers in new

technologies, regulatory excellence, environmental management, and low-carbon approaches.

We are confident that we can continue to attract investment from the growing Environmental/Social/Governance-focused investment sector which is now valued at over \$100 trillion globally.

We are well positioned for the future, with some of the least carbon-intensive operations in the world, due in part to innovation in the sector and our clean hydro-electricity advantage.

We partnered with Canada to ensure our resource-rich North has better access to the electrification infrastructure required to connect to B.C. Hydro's grid to ensure firm, clean power is available to help lessen the carbon intensity of our resource sector.

Our high safety and environmental standards, low-GHG profile and commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous communities has created a growing opportunity to position our province as a global brand of choice.

Low-carbon thinking, a focus on improving the permitting process, and fostering innovation in the resource sector together with strong commodity prices – like we are currently seeing in copper and gold – are some of the reasons international investors are touting B.C. as a premier mining destination for investment.

With the recent provincial election, I feel very fortunate to be continuing my role as Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation. The Ministry's new title reflects all the work we are doing across the resource sectors and what we have to do to move into the future.

Together, we can foster growth in the sustainable and responsible resource sector in British Columbia and build the clean, innovative economy of the future. ★

Export Navigator

exportnavigator.ca

DO YOU WANT TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

Your local export advisor is free of charge and here to help.
Email the advisor closest to you today!



Tim Thomas

Tim@exportnavigator.ca

📍 Prince George



Lilia Hansen

Lilia@exportnavigator.ca

📍 Dawson Creek / Fort St. John



Mietka Zieba

Mietka@exportnavigator.ca

📍 Prince Rupert

Email us today: info@exportnavigator.ca

Supported By:



Canada



Service Providers:

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and the Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Coast Mountain College offers training that leads to careers for in-demand jobs. Discover workforce training, trades training, business, health services, fine arts and university transfer programs.

Education unbound.

coastmountaincollege.ca

coast mountain college

GIVING BACK A PERSPECTIVE ON TIME

By Melanie Franner

When John Irving began working during his high school years at M&B's Chemainus sawmill doing cleanup on the Friday night graveyard shift, he had little idea that it would be the start of a life-long career in and around B.C.'s resource industries.

His summers spent tree planting and logging which were meant to help pay for his university education added to his resume of resource work. Small business finance with the Business Development Bank of Canada (formerly the Federal Business Development Bank) and Integris Credit Union in Prince George set him up for his current role as CFO of Sims Group of Companies of Prince George.

It also made him an obvious candidate for the Resource Connector North Board of Directors, a role he gladly accepted in 2015.

"I was recruited by another director

who knew that our company did a lot of work in the mining sector," says Irving, past chairman of the RCN Board. "I didn't do it to get anything out of it. I did it as a way to give back to the community. Prince George and the resource sector have supported me over my entire career. I wanted to give something back."

FROM HERE TO THERE

In 2012, Irving decided it was time for a career change and was excited to renew his hands-on work with the construction industry via his position with Sims Group of Companies. The business is involved in a lot of civil construction and mining.

"One of the things I noticed in terms of change from my working experience in the forest industry in the 1970s, was the heavy emphasis toward occupational health and safety within the resource sector," says Irving. "Another was the change in the regulatory process."

Irving also notes the recent rise in



the importance of social license. "I think that people who are in decision-making roles planning and implementing projects of all sizes need to recognize that it's a lot better to hold consultations and discussions with the local community and affected stakeholders where they want to work – before they start working there," he says. "Getting a permit from some level of government is not enough. Having social license is becoming more and more important to the success of a project."

HEALTHY AND STRONG

Looking back upon his career working in and financing the resource sector, Irving describes the current industry as being in a favourable situation.

"The forest sector is seeing record high prices in the last six months," he says, adding that these very profitable times offset the less profitable ones. "The forestry industry can be a real roller coaster ride."

Mining has also been performing well recently. "Gold prices have been very robust this year," says Irving. "This will kick start a whole bunch of mining proposals that have

"I wouldn't say that we've sailed through things, but we have certainly weathered things very well, especially in comparison to other parts of the country and other sectors."

been on the sidelines waiting for the economics to make them more worthwhile.”

Pipelines are also currently being built in the Northern Interior, with Irving citing the building of projects around and through Prince George for both the Kitimat and TransCanada projects. “There has been some good, lucrative work happening,” he says. “This, in turn, creates jobs for other industries, like the environmental sector.”

Even COVID-19 wasn’t able to slow the growth for long. “Given the impacts that COVID had in March and April, I think it’s accurate to say that the Prince George economy is doing reasonably well,” says Irving. “The people who have the skills have been able to find employment. I wouldn’t say that we’ve sailed through things, but we have certainly weathered things very well, especially in comparison to other parts of the country and other sectors.”

ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

Although Irving is retiring from the RCN Board of Directors, he is not retiring from the resource sector itself. He explains his timing as a way to help the Board and industry build toward a stronger future.

“I have recruited four other directors during my tenure on the Board,” he says, adding that it’s important to always introduce new people and new insight. “I’m 65 years old and will be retiring one of these days, so I think it’s important for other people to contribute and to get to see how different organizations work. It’s time for the younger people to take on the mantle and represent their constituencies within the resource sector.”

By stepping down from the Board, Irving is opening the door for others to step up. He is also freeing up some personal time to pursue other interests, such as conservation projects involving the Fraser River salmon through his membership in the Spruce City Wildlife Association in Prince George. “The resource sector is not just about rocks and timber,” he says. “It’s also about fish and wildlife, and that’s where I’ll be focusing more of my energy.” ★



HDH DRILLING - MINE SERVICING - STABILIZATION



SIMS GROUP OF COMPANIES:

www.simgroup.ca
1-877-564-9011

INCENTIVIZING BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT IN NORTHERN BC



Maintaining and growing an independent business in Northern B.C. can present challenges to local entrepreneurs. Those challenges are often finance based when it comes to wanting to improve upon the business or to diversify.

Fortunately, Northern Development Initiative Trust offers business development programs that provide rebates to eligible businesses for both consulting and innovation projects.

The Competitiveness Consulting Rebate (CCR) program provides a rebate to small- and medium-sized businesses engaged in manufacturing, innovative technologies, resource processing, transportation, or distribution for external business consulting projects. Projects must focus on increased productivity, new or incremental revenues, profitability and/or job creation.

A rebate of up to 50 per cent to a yearly maximum of \$30,000 is available for qualified projects, with the applicant contributing a minimum 25 per cent of the budget.

Examples of successful projects include customized workplace health and safety plans, the development of a marketing strategy, and the development of operational efficiencies.

In 2018, a Prince George based business, Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), hired a local consultant to bring their business to the next level by creating a new website, developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy, and training employees to increase their internal capacity.

Northern Industries Innovation Fund

Up to a \$50,000 rebate to support innovative projects that work to increase the competitiveness of local industrial businesses in Northern B.C.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
northerndevelopment.bc.ca/
northern-industries-innovation-fund

“Thanks to innovative thinking from our research and development team and financial support from Northern Development, we are exploring ways to repurpose machinery typically used in the forestry industry,”

Northern Development also offers the Northern Industries Innovation Fund (NIIF) which provides incremental funding to support innovation projects that increase the competitiveness of local businesses in traditional industries across Northern B.C. NIIF supports applied research and development, new or improved products and services, and testing of innovative equipment or technologies to support capital investment decisions.

A rebate of up to 50 percent to a maximum of \$50,000 is available for qualified projects, with the applicant contributing a minimum of 10 per cent.

A.L. Sims and Son Ltd. received a \$50,000 grant through the NIIF program in 2019 to assist with the engineering and fabrication costs of developing a drill slide hammer adaptation that will allow the drill to be attached to a Rottne forwarder.

“Thanks to innovative thinking from our research and development team and financial support from Northern Development, we are exploring ways to repurpose machinery typically used in the forestry industry,” says John Irving, chief financial officer at A.L. Sims and Son. “This specific project will allow A.L. Sims and Son to better serve clients in a cost-effective way while supporting other local businesses instead of relying on foreign markets for drill related products.”

Competitiveness Consulting Rebate

Up to a \$30,000 rebate to help industrial businesses offset the cost of outsourced consulting services

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
northernddevelopment.bc.ca/
competitiveness-consulting-rebate

Both CCR and NIIF are available to the industries including agriculture, aquaculture, energy, forestry, high-tech, industrial supply chain, manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, and transportation.

Please visit northernddevelopment.bc.ca for complete details. ★

INTERIOR WAREHOUSING LTD.

1955 RIVER ROAD, PRINCE GEORGE, BC V2L 5S8
Ph: (250) 563-4613
Fax: (250) 563-4745

- 110,000 sq. ft. of heated, dock height warehouse space
- Spaces available for lease 5,000 - 50,000 sq. ft. in size
- Two facilities in Prince George
- Eail and truck served

Complete Warehouse & Distribution Service
Don Engelsjord, President | Email: don@interiorwarehousing.com

www.interiorwarehousing.com

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Employers' Advisers Office to the rescue

By Melanie Franner



Kaitlin Irving, Employers Advisor, EAO.

Navigating the intricacies of workers' compensation can be a daunting task to even the most experienced employer. But there is a little known entity whose sole purpose is to help. Better yet, its services are wide ranging – and entirely free.

The Employers' Advisers Office (EAO) was created in 1974 under the Workers Compensation Act to provide advice and assistance to employers in British Columbia regarding claims, health and safety, and assessments (premiums). Broadly, the EAO can provide assistance to employers on any subject contained within the Workers Compensation Act; however, they are restricted from providing advice or assistance on matters outside of the Act. It currently operates under the direction of the Ministry of Labour of B.C.

The EAO is funded by the contributions made by employers to the workers' compensation system, so in a sense, employers have pre-paid for their services. It is completely independent from WorkSafeBC, which enables the EAO to advise employers in confidence.

Although the mining industry is

different from most other sectors in that occupational health and safety is regulated by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, rather than the Workers Compensation Act, this resource sector can still take advantage of the many benefits offered by the EAO, as injured worker claims are still adjudicated under the Act.

"We can still work with resource employers in a variety of ways," says Kaitlin Irving, employers' adviser, EAO. "For example, we can help with any claims-related questions, such as how to respond to an injury, how to dispute a claim, or even how to initiate or respond to an appeal on a claim."

Irving also adds that the EAO has access to information contained in WorkSafeBC claim files so its advisers can provide sound advice and feedback to employers.

The EAO offers a broad range of services to employers, and its advisers are available five days a week, eight hours a day to field calls from a toll-free line. An employer can call with any question related to the Act and WorkSafeBC, whether that be claim related, safety related, or with regards to registration and premiums.

On any given day, advisers field

calls about specific claims, orders or penalties received by employers, or registration issues for new employers, among many other things. For example, an employer might wish to call if a worker is injured and they are not sure how to respond, or what information to provide to WorkSafeBC. Another common question is related to workplace requirements for COVID-19, including what an employer needs to do to protect their employees from exposure and how to respond if an exposure occurs in the workplace. Advisers are usually able to resolve these questions quickly over the phone.

When the need arises, the EAO also offers more in-depth assistance by assigning a specific adviser to an employer. For example, when an employer calls after a worker has initiated an appeal on their claim, the employer is assigned to an adviser in their region to help them, which may include representation services during the appeal.

"In these cases, we build a long-term relationship with the employer and work with them throughout the appeal process, which can take several months or up to a year depending on the claim," says Irving. The EAO representation services are

not just restricted to claims though, and these cases can cover the gamut – everything from helping to register a business to dealing with orders or penalties received by employers.

In the case of an appeal, an adviser can represent an employer at both the Review Division (first level of appeal) and at the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal (second level of appeal). The adviser can also write submissions on an employer's behalf, and attend oral hearings to examine and cross-examine witnesses so long as there is merit.

A third and rapidly growing service offered by the EAO is instruction via seminars, webinars, and online learning, including:

- Introductory training for employers who are new to the workers' compensation system or who need a refresher;
- Claims management seminars to assist employers on managing workers' compensation claims, the return to work process, reviews, and appeals;
- Occupational health and safety instruction to provide an overview of the legislative and regulatory requirements; and
- Topical/informational learnings to provide an overview of the legislative and regulatory requirements for occupational health and safety.

All of these services are available free of charge.

"An individual can sign up to attend an event, or they can request a seminar to be brought to the workplace," says Irving. "We can also tailor a seminar specific to an employer's request."

Although COVID-19 has temporarily changed the dynamic of these seminars, it hasn't curbed the demand. In the year prior to March 2020, the EAO delivered a total of 469 seminars to almost 13,000 participants.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAO is not presently providing in-person seminars. But most are available online, and more will become available in 2021.

Although COVID-19 has temporarily changed the dynamic of these seminars, it hasn't curbed the demand. In the year prior to March 2020, the EAO delivered a total of 469 seminars to almost 13,000 participants.

The EAO also provides free subscriptions to its quarterly newsletter and policy bulletins.

With an employee base of 36 staff, the EAO is well positioned to answer to the needs of employers throughout the province. Its 20 advisors, seven-member leadership team and nine support staff are on hand in eight locations in Prince George,

Kamloops, Kelowna, Trail, Nanaimo, Abbotsford, Richmond, and Victoria.

As an established adviser, Irving's typical week is generally composed of file work for clients with whom she is assisting on appeals. This might include researching and writing submissions, or preparing for and attending oral hearings or mediations with clients. Additionally, each adviser rotates manning the toll-free line and is usually scheduled to be on-call once or twice a month. Irving also delivers seminars on a regular basis. "I always close by saying that if participants take one thing away from the seminar, let it be a reminder for them to please call us with any questions they may have about WorkSafeBC," says Irving. "We are always available to help and our services are always free. Our advisors are experts in all facets of the workers' compensation system." ★

Connolly Industrial Insulation Services (2004) Ltd.
 Bay #1, 4610 61st Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 2R2
 AB: 403-343-3125 BC: 778-876-3125

Commercial • Industrial • Hazmat

Connolly Industrial Insulation Services Ltd. is an insulation contractor specializing in **Commercial** and **Industrial Insulation** and **Hazmat remediation**.

Since 1977 it has served Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories.

connollyinsulation.com

NRCA Northern Region Construction Association
 WORK SAFE BC
 TIAC ACIT

MINING ROUNDUP FOR GOLDEN TRIANGLE: 2020 EDITION

By Melanie Franer

The October 2020 report from Momentum PR highlights the B.C. Golden Triangle as a hotspot in Canada's mining industry. The public, investor, and media relations agency describes the Golden Triangle as the new Canadian gold rush epicenter.

"Researchers believe that gold endowment at the golden triangle could equal that of Nevada's Golden Trend believed to be the host of the largest accumulation of gold in the Western Hemisphere," states the report, which cites the price of gold's surge to a six-year high (along with signs of a silver hike) as being main contributors to this trend.

"With more than 130 million ounces of gold and 800 million ounces of silver, as well as 40 million pounds

of copper discovered, now may be the best time for mining companies to pump money into the highly mineralized area," states the report.

Many mines within the Golden Triangle are experiencing activities that reflect this growing optimism.

Pretivm Resources' Brucejack mine is one such example. Brucejack is a high-grade, gold underground mine located in northwestern B.C. that began commercial operation in July 2017.

Despite some modifications due to COVID-19 that includes changing rotations to three weeks on and three weeks off, social distancing, and dining hall re-configuration, work at Brucejack continues to be robust. Pretivm reports gold production for Q1 2020 as 82,888 ounces at all-in

sustaining costs of \$996 per ounce of gold sold. The company states that the mine remains on target to reach 325,000 – 365,000 ounces of gold in 2020, at all-in sustaining costs of \$910-\$1,060 per ounce of gold sold.

Over at the Red Chris mine, which is located approximately 600 kilometres north of Smithers, mine production for 3Q 2020 totaled 22.2 million pounds copper and 18,052 ounces gold, as compared to 26.5 million pounds copper and 22,057 ounces gold produced in 2Q 2020. The metal production was lower than the prior quarter, reflecting a higher proportion of lower-grade stockpile material being fed to the mill due to unseasonal rainfall. This impacted the availability of higher grade mill feed from the pits, and resulted in lower recoveries. Lower grades and recoveries were partially offset by a 13 per cent increase in mill throughput.

Owned jointly by Newcrest Mining Limited and Imperial Metals Corporation (70/30), the Red Chris mine underwent a number of improvement initiatives in 2Q 2020 to improve efficiencies across the site, including the optimization of haul-road conditions and dumping locations to reduce truck-cycle times, and the introduction of just-in-time fueling to increase operating time.

Over the course of FY21, Red Chris is planning to implement a number of additional improvement initiatives across the site including a new fleet management system, the replacement of the conventional CAT793 truck



McElhanney | **THE BEST MANAGED COMPANIES**

THE RIGHT TOOLS, THE RIGHT PEOPLE - SINCE 1910

McElhanney uses the latest technology to increase project efficiencies; we get projects done right.
Contact us about your next mining project today: www.mcelhanney.com

Mapping | GIS | Surveying | Engineering | Environmental

tubs with high-performance trays to realise payload benefits and a number of throughput- and recovery-related projects.

Looking at a few of the newer projects, Scottie Resources Corp., which owns a 100 per cent interest in its flagship Scottie Gold property located 40 kilometres north of Stewart, reported drilling results on the mine's O-Zone target, including 2.26 g/t gold and 6.53 g/t silver over 19.04 m, which includes a high-grade interval of 10.7 g/t gold and 31.2 g/t silver over 2.77 metres.

The four holes drilled at O-Zone during 2020 demonstrate that the high-grade zone is open in most

directions. Drilling will continue in 2021 to expand the zone. The company completed 7,040 metres of drilling in 46 holes during 2020 and will continue to disclose additional results through 2021.

The Eskay Creek resource, an open-pit mine owned by Skeena Resources Ltd. located 83 kilometres northwest of Stewart, contains 2.6 million ounces at 5.9 g/t AuEq in the Indicated category and 1.4 million ounces at 3.0 g/t AuEq in the Inferred category. Skeena released a preliminary economic assessment in November 2019 which highlights an NPV5% of C\$638M, 51% IRR and a 1.2-year payback at US\$1,325/oz Au. The company is aggressively

advancing Eskay towards a pre-feasibility study with a target to release in H1 2021. The company drilled 83,000 metres in 2020 (infill and exploration). In 2021, an additional 5,000 metres over 27 holes is expected, with potential for further exploration drilling once the results are received.

Work also continues at Tatogga and New Nanik, both of which are operated by GT Gold Corp. In 2020, GT Gold continued to generate exploration targets on the Tatogga property, located west of the village of Iskuin, in part by interpreting the data collected by the company, as well as by revisiting the extensive exploration datasets gleaned from assessment reports.

In November 2020, GT Gold announced a fully subscribed, non-brokered private placement financing for total gross proceeds of \$5.7 million to be used to fund general working capital and to advance 2021 exploration activities on Tatogga.

The New Nanik property, located approximately 100 kilometres southeast of Terrace, saw a limited amount of reconnaissance work in 2018 and 2019. This included soil geochemical sampling on the remaining GT Gold tenures (three contiguous claims totaling 1,434.26 ha). In addition, a number of rock samples were collected for analysis from historical core stored on the property.

Although 2020 turned out to be anything but a typical year, it appears that mining operations within B.C.'s Golden Triangle remain on a trajectory of increased exploration and production. COVID-19 may have paused some project work, but in no way, dampened the spirits of an industry poised for growth. ★

AIRPLUS
Industrial
www.airplusindustrial.ca
Formerly ETP Energy Technology Products

SAME GREAT STAFF, SAME GREAT SERVICE FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

- Donaldson Torit Dust Collector Systems Sales
- NR Murphy Dust Collector Systems Sales
- Aftermarket Parts Sales for All Brands
- Engineering & Design Assistance

1.866.291.6855 | sales@airplusindustrial.ca

Mackenzie Hose & Fittings has been serving industry for over 25 years.

MHF | 1250 Frontage Road
Mackenzie, BC
250-997-5757
www.mackhose.ca

- Crane and Rigging Services
- Industrial Hose & Supply
- Baldwin Filters & Truck Parts
- Driving Force Rentals
- Brass and Pipe
- Tool Supply

GATES, GOODYEAR, GEAR WRENCH, MILWAUKEE

SUNEX TOOLS **Bendix** **IR Ingersoll Rand** **TYROLIT** **DRIVING FORCE**

Find out why “the Capital of the Peace” is a great place to...

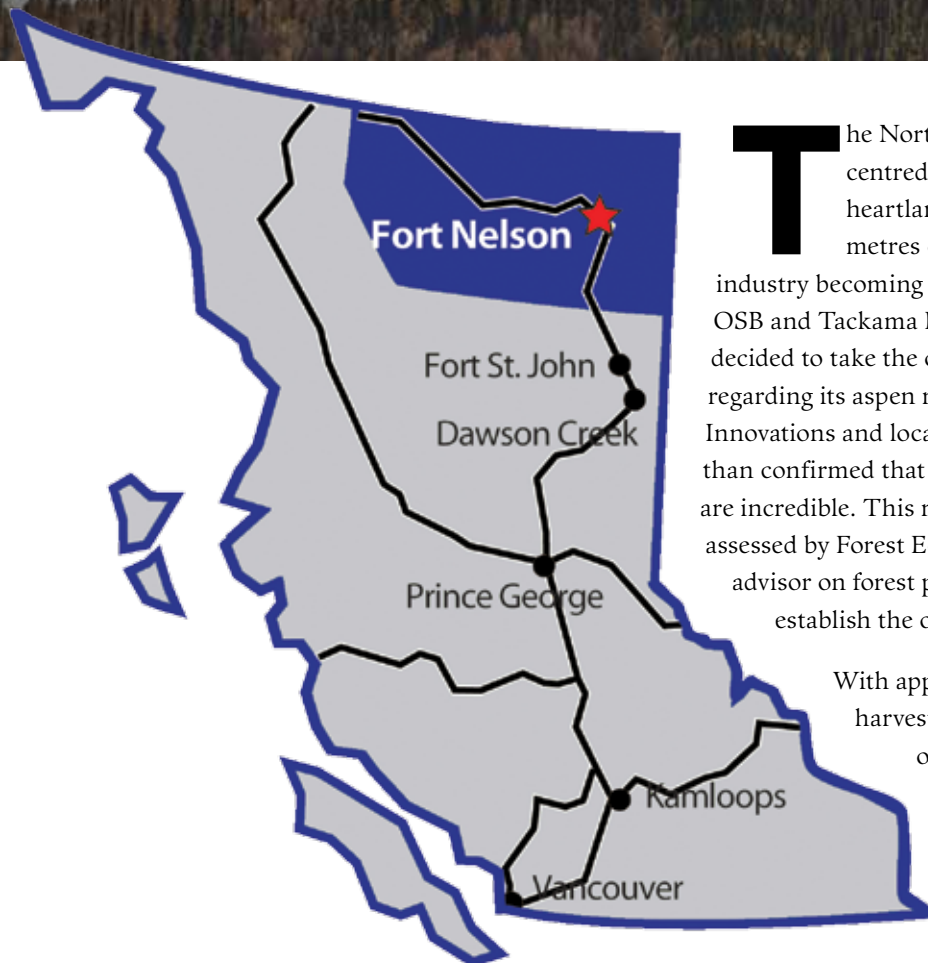


Visit www.dawsoncreek.ca online



HARDWOOD TIMBER POTENTIAL

Aspen research in Northern B.C.



The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality – centred in Fort Nelson, B.C. – is a traditional logging heartland with an untapped resource of millions of metres of harvestable hardwood. With the forest industry becoming dormant due to the closure of a Polar Board OSB and Tackama Plywood mills in 2008, the Municipality decided to take the opportunity to confirm what it believed regarding its aspen resource. Partnering with Forest Products Innovations and local small-scale sawmills, the research more than confirmed that the quality and potential of the timber supply are incredible. This research has subsequently been reviewed and assessed by Forest Economic Advisors (FEA), a world-leading advisor on forest product markets and economics to further establish the opportunity that lies in the resource.

With approximately 122 million cubic metres of harvestable northern hardwoods in the region, most of it within hours of Fort Nelson, B.C., the elements are in place for a forestry business cluster opportunity in the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

Approximately 86 per cent of the resource

Although not the focus of the studies, it was also determined that the timber supply in the region could support oriented strand board (OSB), hardwood plywood, hardwood lumber, and a range of engineered lumber productions.

is aspen, with the remainder being birch and cottonwood. Approximately 67 million cubic metres is within six hours from Fort Nelson's heavy industrial zoned (M-2) area and rail access. If only high volume stands are considered, there are 52 million cubic metres within that range (89 million cubic metres, or 73 per cent of the total 122 million, are high volume stands).

Two third-party studies have verified that the aspen is of exceptional quality compared to that of other areas, with very little decay in the stands examined. These studies also showed the potential for solid yields of aspen veneer of excellent quality for visual grading and for machine-rated LVL grades (G1 & G2). Although not the focus of

the studies, it was also determined that the timber supply in the region could support oriented strand board (OSB), hardwood plywood, hardwood lumber, and a range of engineered lumber productions.

Now that 2020 has wrapped up, the hopeful promise of reigniting the regional forest industry comes with the announcement from Peak Renewables that a large-scale pellet plant will open in Fort Nelson. Once such an operation is commissioned in Fort Nelson, the feasibility and potential for other small-medium scale forest product manufacturing will continue to rise. Much like the people living in the north, the forest sector in the north will be better and stronger, working together. ✨

opportunity is calling

Kitimat will soon have thousands of career opportunities sparked by the construction of Canada's first LNG export facility. We also have thousands of reasons to make our community your new home.

KITIMAT
A Marvel of Nature and Industry

www.kitimat.ca

FORGING AHEAD INTO WINTER

Trans Mountain Expansion Project update

By Deb Draper



Ian Anderson, President & CEO, TransMountain Corporation.



“The end of August marked a full year of re-started construction on the Expansion Project, and we are on-track with the budget and schedule.

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project involves installing approximately 980 kilometres of new pipeline twinning the existing Trans Mountain pipeline, Canada’s only pipeline system transporting oil products to the West Coast. The project includes 12 new pump stations, 19 new tanks added to existing storage terminals, and three new berths at Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, B.C.

Once in service – expected by December 2022 – pipeline capacity will go from approximately 300,000 to 890,000 barrels per day. Two of the three berths at Westridge Marine Terminal will be complete by then, and the third will come into service after construction.

In a press release for the third quarter 2020 financials, president and CEO of Trans Mountain Corporation, Ian Anderson, stated, “The end of August marked a full year of re-started construction on the Expansion Project, and we are on-track with the budget and schedule...Work continued in B.C. along the pipeline corridor in the North Thompson and B.C. Interior regions and at the Lower Mainland terminals with foreshore expansion at the Westridge Marine Terminal and preparation work for tunnel boring and installation of

tanks at the Burnaby Terminal. Work is underway in various phases of construction along the majority of the pipeline route.”

The winter construction season brought increased activity in the Yellowhead region due to the freeze-up of wet areas that are inaccessible to equipment and crews the rest of the year. In North Thompson, winter crews will continue right-of-way grading, stripping and clearing, developing approach/access sites, and establishing pump stations throughout the region.

The same winter weather developments are taking place in the B.C. Interior and Coquihalla-Hope areas. In Kamloops and south of the city, crews will be clearing, grading, and logging as long as weather allows. In the Coquihalla Summit area, the most technically challenging stretch of pipeline construction on the entire project, crews will add blasting to the work schedule. Similar work will follow in the Hope-Popkum area.

Pipeline construction is scheduled to begin between the Langley and Burnaby Terminal over the winter months, and work will continue on both the Burnaby and the Westridge Marine Terminals; however, in anticipation of a seasonal rainfall increase, winterization plans are in place for erosion and sediment controls and even the possibility of snow.

At the beginning of 2020, the project had signed \$500 million of commercial agreements with various Indigenous groups – 14 in Alberta and 45 in B.C. As of October 31, Trans Mountain reports that the company and its contractors have hired approximately 8,470 people,

and of the approximately 7,300 currently working, approximately 3,645 are residents of B.C.

The estimated \$12.6 billion budget for the Expansion Project will be injected into Canada’s economy through project spending, further new jobs in the short and long term, job-related training opportunities, and increases in taxes collected through

all three levels of government. A Conference Board of Canada report estimates that over the course of 20 years, Canada’s expanded capacity to get resources to market will bring \$46.7 billion in additional taxes and royalties to both the federal and provincial governments – \$5.7 billion to B.C. alone with another \$922 million in the form of municipal tax payments. ★

YXT
Terrace-Kitimat

GET CONNECTED THROUGH THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL AIRPORT

Capacity
Executive board room, full service restaurant and vehicle rentals (National, Hertz, Budget & Driving Force)

Connections
Connections to Vancouver, Calgary, Prince George, Bob Quinn and Dease Lake with unrestricted aircraft accommodation including 757, 737 and 767

Reliability
A state of the art instrument landing system upgraded in 2015 allowing for 99.7% reliability of scheduled flight completion

Safety
Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting

Port Edward
1 hr 30 mins

Meziadin Junction
2 hrs 30 mins

Terrace
15 mins

Kitimat
35 mins

JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY

Northwest Regional Airport
Terrace-Kitimat

103-4401 Bristol Rd., Terrace BC | (250) 635-2659 | www.yxt.ca

CAPACITY • CONNECTIONS • RELIABILITY • SAFETY

WHAT DOES RESILIENCY LOOK LIKE AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?



B.C. Premier John Horgan called Quesnel a 'hub of innovation' in face of forestry downturn. The Premier toured the Forestry Innovation Centre and met with the Mayor Bob Simpson and community representatives on January 20, 2020.

The City of Quesnel posed this hard-hitting question to 65 forestry specialists at their 2018 Future of Forestry Think Tank, which spurred the creation of their own Forestry Initiatives Program.

After surviving massive losses from the Mountain Pine Beetle, catastrophic wildfire seasons in 2018 and 2019, and the Quesnel TSA Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) being reduced by 35 per cent in 2017, Quesnel decided to face their economic uncertainty head on by organizing the Future of Forestry Think Tank.

The City kicked off the Think Tank process in 2018, followed by another in 2019. Industry, academia, First Nations, and government (provincial, federal, and local) gathered to

uncover the true state of landscape: forestry regulations have focused on stand-level practices, leading to a fragmented, monoculture-based landscape that is vulnerable to pests and wildfires. So what would a resilient land base look like, and how would we get there?

The sense of urgency to address these challenges meant finding a way to explore solutions now, using Quesnel as an incubator to accelerate research and development in alternate forest management and innovative manufacturing and processing of forest fibre. The City's Forestry Initiatives Program was established in early 2019 to carry out the recommendations from the Think Tanks:

1. Plan and manage ecosystems for ecological resilience;

2. Optimize fibre recovery and utilization, realize more value, and reduce costs;
3. Assess the market demand for future forest products;
4. Secure investments that diversify the manufacturing hub;
5. Develop the non-timber or non-fibre forest product potential;
6. Expand training, education, and research at the North Cariboo Community Campus; and,
7. Establish a Quesnel & Area Forestry Leadership Group.

Since being established, the Program has:

- Strengthened local partnerships between the City, First Nations, industry, the College of New Caledonia, and University of Northern British Columbia, and expanded that network to include the University of British Columbia, FPInnovations, Natural Resources Finland, and more;
- Secured a spot as a provincial hub of Silv@21, a five-year research project with UBC and the University of Laval, which investigates improving silviculture practices in light of climate change;
- Run a successful Community Wildfire Protection Plan plus coordinate FireSmart resources in order to reduce our risk of future catastrophic wildfires;



Left: Forestry Initiatives staff, B.C. Wildfire Service, and local FireSmart representatives host an open house at the Forestry Innovation Centre to discuss the upcoming wildfire season and Quesnel's risk reduction efforts.



Right: Forestry Initiatives Manager Erin Robinson works with a local consultant to conduct fuel mitigation treatments near the Quesnel Airport.



- Promoted the selection of the Quesnel TSA as a Forest Landscape Pilot (FLP) by the province, one of five locations in B.C., and is engaged with the team of local industry, First Nations, and governments which will inform future regulatory changes for FLPs throughout British Columbia; and,

- Partnered on a Biomass Utilization Scoping Study with Lhtako Dene and Nazko First Nations and Clean Energy Consulting to rank project opportunities based on an actual biomass inventory and on their alignment with the objectives of the stakeholders.

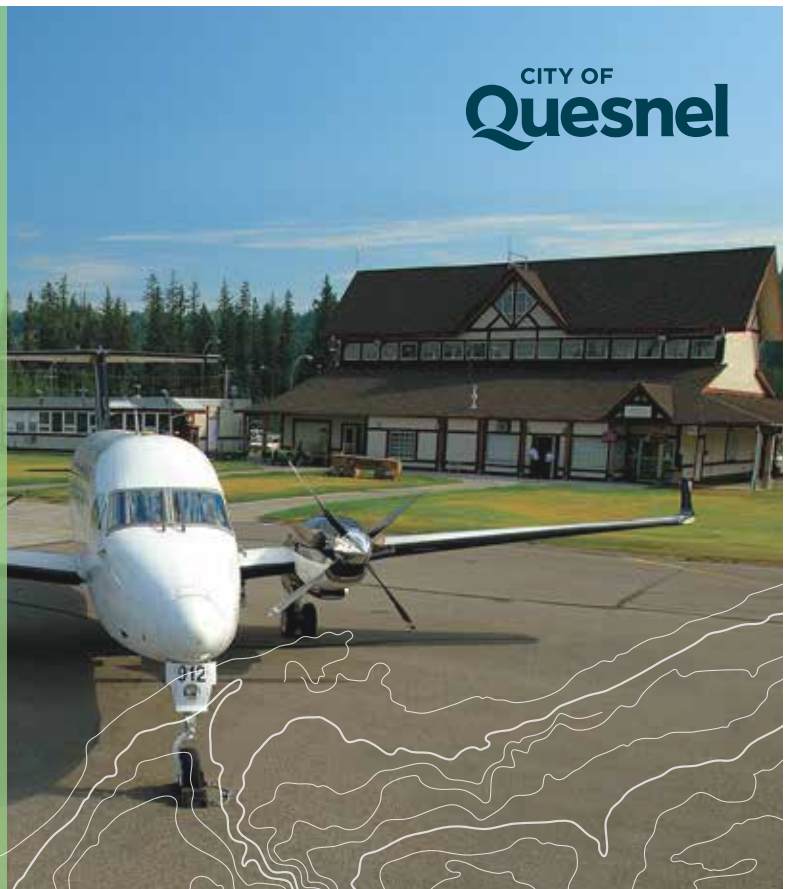
By working together across organizational boundaries, we are working to ensure that Quesnel continues to thrive during this challenging time. Find out more at quesnel.ca/forestry, follow us @CityofQuesnel, and sign up for updates at quesnel.ca/subscribe. ★

Invest in Quesnel.

AIRPORT LAND FOR LEASE:

- Zoned for light industrial and commercial use
- Up to a 5-year Revitalization Tax Exemption (conditions apply)
- Negotiable lease rates
- Access to services
- Close proximity to city centre

250-992-2111 | quesnel.ca
jpucek@quesnel.ca



BUILDING A SKILLED LEGACY IN NORTHERN B.C.



Coastal GasLink recently renewed investments at two of Northern B.C.'s leading post-secondary institutions, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and the College of New Caledonia (CNC). These investments will support Indigenous and local communities to access the skills and training needed to participate in projects like Coastal GasLink and other future developments.

“On our project we have welders, equipment operators, mechanics, all sorts of trades,” says Kiel Giddens, public affairs manager for Coastal GasLink. “But we also have ones that folks don’t normally think about, such as culinary, administration, and dozens of other trades that are actually essential to support major projects like Coastal GasLink.”

Coastal GasLink’s partnership with UNBC provides an investment of \$180,000 over the next three years to support civil and environmental engineering programs, as well as funding for Indigenous students enrolled at UNBC. These scholarships help to address the needs identified by Indigenous communities for flexible financial support offered to students.

“This significant investment meets the local labour market demand for knowledge and skills in a variety of disciplines,” says Dr. Geoff Payne, UNBC interim president. “These awards allow for more students to engage in learning and research opportunities at UNBC.”

Coastal GasLink’s latest investment into the College of New Caledonia will help trades and technology students access the funds and equipment they need to launch a meaningful career.

Coastal GasLink also renewed its partnership with CNC with an investment of \$150,000 to support unique programs such as the Coastal GasLink Pathway to Pipeline Readiness: CNC Skills Fund Bursaries, which support trades and technology students in need. This funding will also assist in the purchasing and upgrading of equipment for trades programs at five CNC campuses including Prince George, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, and Mackenzie.

“The numerous ways in which Coastal GasLink’s generous donations have and will continue to benefit trades students across most of the region CNC serves are quite significant,” says Dr. Dennis Johnson, CNC president. “We’re thankful to Coastal GasLink for its continued support and investment in northern B.C.’s next generation of skilled trade workers.”

Zach Pearson, a current CNC student shared that these investments make it a bit easier and financially feasible to come to school. “It’s a good thing for companies to do,” says Pearson. “It shows they want to try to help young people and give them that advantage to get through school.”

Whether it’s working with community groups or partnering with post-secondary institutions to help students like Zach, Coastal GasLink is committed to supporting strong and vibrant communities across the project route. ★



WWW.SMPRV.CA
1-800-665-3151



LOCATED IN SMITHERS AND HOUSTON B.C.



Offering Turnkey Solutions for Industrial Gases & Hardgoods

Praxair provides:

- Industrial gases for welding & cutting
- Onsite mobile construction trailer for your gases & hardgoods
- Expertise & technical support

Praxair Canada Inc. is rebranding to Linde
More details coming soon



800.225.8247



praxair.ca



Making our planet more productive™

© Copyright 2020, Praxair Technology, Inc. All rights reserved.

YOU HAVE A HARD ENOUGH JOB. LEAVE THE "GETTING THERE" TO US!



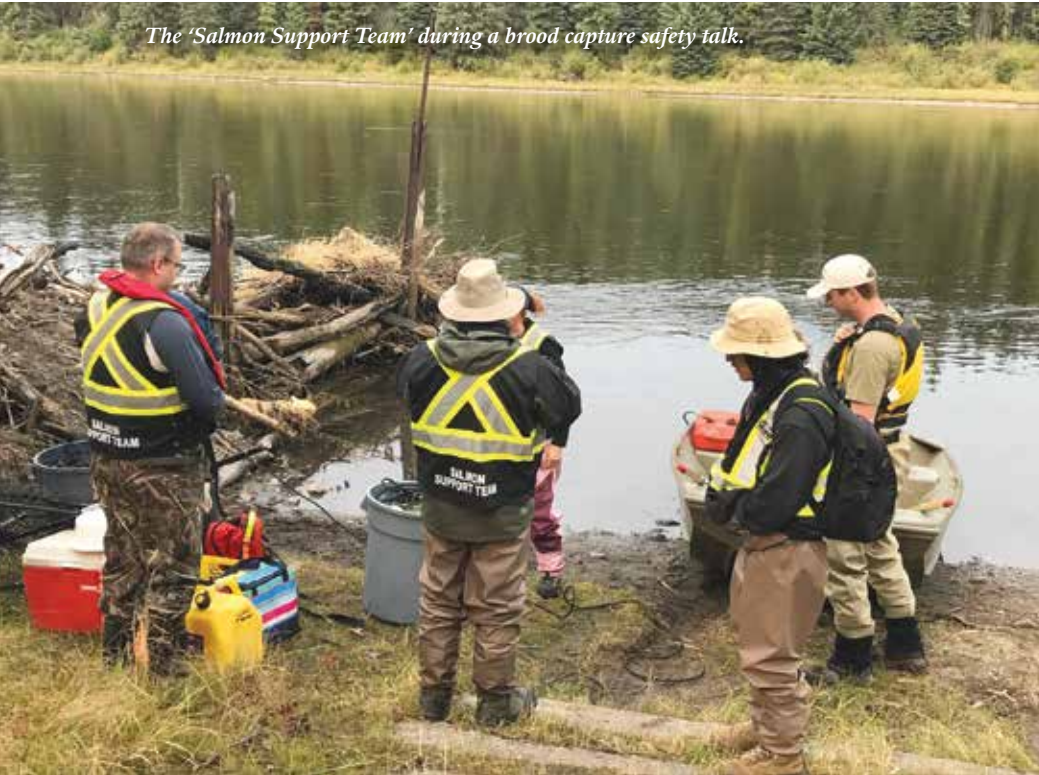
SERVING NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



(250) 962-5566
www.aberdeenheli.com

NEW FACILITY HELPS B.C.'S ENDANGERED SALMON POPULATION

The 'Salmon Support Team' during a brood capture safety talk.



In a year when many aspects of daily life have had to stop or be redirected, the Spruce City Wildlife Association (SCWA) managed to keep on flowing. After receiving a \$240,000 grant from the B.C. Salmon Restoration Innovation Fund, the SCWA was able to spend 2020 upgrading their hatchery located on the Nechako River in Prince George.

Salmon stocks in the mid- and upper-Fraser River have been identified as threatened and endangered, respectively. It has been over a decade since the area has seen a return of over 50 fish to the Endako or Chilako Rivers, whereas returns used to see over one thousand fish. The goal of the

Association is to rebuild the salmon population while creating awareness.

The SCWA was established in 1970 to preserve and manage the area's fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor recreational resources through conservation, education, and community outreach. The hatchery has been operating since 1986 and also houses the Nechako-Fraser Natural Resource Stewardship Centre. It is the only hatchery facility north of Kamloops on the Fraser watershed where the threatened stocks run.

"We wanted to create a more bio-secure facility and take advantage of newer technologies that have been developed," says Dustin Snyder,

director of stock rebuilding programs at the SCWA. "At the same time, because of the landside situation at Big Bar, the Department of Fisheries and the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance came together in the interest of preserving and increasing the upper Fraser salmon stocks."

Together, the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) and the Department of Fisheries topped up the grant to allow the Association to fully achieve their renovation goals and, in turn, increase their capacity. This meant completely gutting the incubation area and jackhammering out the concrete floor to make way for new equipment, and a new separate structure has been constructed to hold industrial-grade chillers and pumps.

With the use of chillers, the hatchery tries to simulate the natural temperature of the river. The hatchery raises spring and summer Chinook which spawn at different times in different streams. Because these eggs are collected at varying times and areas, the temperatures must be adjusted for each stock. Maintaining the eggs at the hatchery is a delicate process, and with the new improvements, the SCWA is now able to mimic the temperatures required for each stock.

"The new controls which have been installed will allow us to be more precise in measuring both the temperature of the water and the amount of water in the pipes," says



New equipment includes industrial-grade chillers and pumps, as well as improved water capacity.

Snyder. “So it’s given us the ability to really hone in and get as close to nature as possible.”

Having a more exact measure on water flow means that the Association can double their incubation capacity because more stocks can be processed as more water is recirculated.

To increase water capacity, the main line from the aeration tower to all the troughs was removed and replaced with a larger pipe. Two of their three water wells underwent testing to confirm water capacity, and pumps and lines were replaced. In the event that one well breaks down, the other working well can continue to supply water.

“Our capacity has not only doubled because we have the two incubation systems,” says Snyder. “It’s almost fair to say that we’ve quadrupled capacity because we have a backup for every single component. Each incubation system has two pumps in case one pump fails, two chillers, two UV sterilizers, and two bio filters so that in the event that anything on a single incubation system goes down, we just have to flip a switch and that system can continue to run.”

An aeration system, which was added to the incubation system, was donated by a Department of Fisheries facility on the coast. New troughs that hold the hatched fry were designed and constructed by a local fabricator GAP Custom Manufacturing to ensure better flow and waste management, and a

bio-secure holding area added to the outside of the facility will help control the spread of disease. “Adult fish sometimes have disease or bacteria on their skin,” says Snyder. “So to avoid disease transfer inside the facility, we now have a designated area outside where those adults can be kept.” This allows volunteers to take the eggs or milt from the adult fish and rerelease them without bringing them inside.

Due to the construction, the Association was only able to perform the brood capture this year — which yielded over 32,000 eggs — but they gave the eggs to the Department of Fisheries and the UFFCA. “We still achieved our goals and were able to contribute to the success of restocking salmon.”

And since there won’t be any fish in the facility this year, the Association will use the time to complete construction and train new volunteers with the goal of starting their process in September. “We have a really dedicated crew,” says Snyder. “We call ourselves the Salmon Support team.”

The Salmon Support team, a core group of six volunteers, performed the brood capture this year without the help of additional volunteers. This allowed them to maintain their physical distance and follow all safety protocols. “This was our social circle for the entire summer and early fall,” says Snyder. “It wasn’t always ideal, but it worked.”

The SCWA hopes that it can again welcome the public to their new hatchery for their annual fry release in 2022. To learn more about the Spruce City Wildlife Association, visit them on Facebook or their website www.scwa.bc.ca. ★

PROUD TO BE
YOUR SHADOW MINISTER FOR
NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

WWW.BOBZIMMER.CA BOB.ZIMMER@PARL.GC.CA 1-855-767-4567

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES IN RECLAMATION, RELATIONSHIPS, AND COMMUNITIES

By Haley Argen, NATS Nursery Ltd.



NATS Nursery is passionate about reclamation and restoration of degraded habitats, and our amazing team helps collect, propagate, grow, and supply over 340 native species of plants to projects across North America. We have learned a lot through the decades, and have seen some promising and inspiring new directions in reclamation planning in recent years. Many contemporary resource extraction projects are reaching for new heights as industry leaders look to improve on the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of their projects.

In Canada, we are working to address historic and colonial injustices and move down a path of greater acceptance and reconciliation with our Indigenous people. Climate change, global warming, acidification of our oceans, loss of habitat and access to clean fresh water, and an ever-increasing rate of species extinction are ever present issues facing humankind. These issues pose serious challenges to current and future generations, and they offer many opportunities for change leading to improved outcomes over time. Because these issues are related, positive changes in one area often lead to positive changes in others.

Climate change, global warming, acidification of our oceans, loss of habitat and access to clean fresh water, and an ever-increasing rate of species extinction are ever present issues facing humankind.

Improving quality in reclamation of disturbed habitat is a great example of positive change. It involves rights holders and others from a variety of backgrounds, with a range of specialized knowledge, and includes them early in the planning process.

To achieve positive change, we need people who are knowledgeable in a wide variety of specialized areas to collaborate with each other, while also including, respecting, and recognizing the value of traditional knowledge, as a strategy to reach common goals.

By including and involving local communities, especially First Nations within whose territory the project is located, traditional knowledge can be respected and inform good planning. Along that path, there are also opportunities to share and learn, and contribute to community well-being and reconciliation. These actions help to foster consensus

and social license without which any project faces a more difficult path.

When project managers and consultants reach out early to the people needed to collect seeds and grow plants required for revegetation work, enough time is allowed to ensure these tasks can be achieved within a realistic timeline and budget.

In our experience at NATS Nursery, we have found that these (and other) aspects of the reclamation and restoration projects that we have worked with are often integrally related. Mutual respect, sharing of knowledge, and working together early on to identify and fit strengths to tasks leads to better outcomes.

Ultimately, it requires exploration to learn what opportunities exist for a given project, and it begins with reaching out to start a conversation. ★



Native Plants Start Here

Specializing in...

- Native Plants for Reclamation
- Seed Processing
- Seed Storage
- First Nation Alliances

604-530-9300
www.NATSnursery.com



KEEPING WORKERS SAFE WHEN WORKING FROM HEIGHTS



With the icy and slippery surfaces that winter brings, fall prevention and protection is a major health and safety topic. Avoiding the risk of falling from ladders, scaffolds, or other elevations requires safety diligence by both worker and employer.

Occupational health and safety laws generally require action when a worker has the potential to fall approximately 10 feet. Most jurisdictions require the use of specific fall protection measures before, or in addition to, personal protective equipment (PPE). These measures generally include the use of fixed barriers such as handrails and guardrails, warning barriers and control zones, fall or travel restraint systems that prevent workers from falling or from travelling to an unguarded edge, fall containment systems such as safety nets, and fall arrest systems that will stop a worker's fall before hitting the surface below.

To prevent injury, lost time, or death, every employer and worker can minimize the risks and help prevent falls when working at elevations.

These include:

- Planning and supervision for each work area and avoid working in dangerous weather conditions.
- Conducting risk assessments to identify and address any hazards related to the work to be performed, and selecting the appropriate equipment.
- Creating a fall prevention plan that is site specific when employees are working over certain vertical heights between 10 - 25 feet and are not protected by permanent guardrails.

The plan should include:

- Fall hazards and fall protection systems that are in place for each area;
- Procedures for assembling, maintaining, inspecting, using, and dismantling equipment such as ladders, scaffolds, platform, and fall-protection equipment;
- Procedures for rescuing a worker who has fallen and is suspended by personal fall protection system or safety net;
- Providing training for practical fall prevention, fall arrest techniques, and fall protection equipment.

Whenever PPE is used, the employer must ensure that the workers know how to properly select, fit, use, inspect, and maintain their gear. The employer is responsible for providing the appropriate training and safety equipment that complies with safety standards and ensuring that workers use the fall protection system provided at all times.

National Emergency Safety Service provides specialized safety services throughout Canada. We offer tailor-made solutions and training for workplace safety. ★

N.E.S.S. National Emergency Safety Service

5 Phases of Mine Health and Safety Development

- **EXPLORATION**
Emergency response plan
- **ASSESSMENT**
H&S program creation application
- **CONSTRUCTION**
Site safety advisor, risk assessment, due diligence
- **PRODUCTION**
Training program development & audit
- **CLOSURE & RECLAMATION**
Case management, root cause incident analysis

1-250-571-7119
www.nationalemergency.ca

AME REMOTE ROUNDUP 2021: LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

By Kylie Williams for AME



Leading Through Change' was the theme for AME Roundup 2021, the association's 38th Mineral Exploration Roundup and the first entirely virtual conference. Safety is the industry's highest priority and AME led the way in safely facilitating the largest virtual gathering of the global exploration industry to date due to the global pandemic.

Over five days, Remote Roundup welcomed attendees from more than 20 countries, with the majority of participants spending over 10 hours on the customized online platform, which gathered over 32,000 booth visits and 15,000 unique views of conference presentations. The platform offered all of the traditional experiences Roundup is known for, including technical, ESG (environment, social, and governance) and finance presentations, The Gathering Place, exhibit hall, networking events, Core Shack, and more. Even the AGM went virtual where the association welcomed Jill Tsolinas as AME Chair for 2021.

In his Opening Ceremony remarks, Premier John Horgan congratulated B.C.'s mineral exploration sector for raising \$358 million in 2020 and thanked B.C.'s explorers for keeping the economy ticking along, especially in rural areas, by spending \$422 million throughout the province on mineral exploration in 2020, the most since 2013.

RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One overarching theme for the conference was responsible resource development and B.C. and Canada's unique ability to supply the climate-critical commodities the world needs from safe and sustainable operations, particularly as the disruptions caused by COVID-19 subside and the new normal takes hold.

"Building back better starts now," said Paul Lefebvre, parliamentary secretary to the Federal Minister of Natural Resources at the Government Industry Forum, "And minerals and metals must be at the heart of that."

Throughout the conference, speakers positioned nickel, copper, gold, cobalt, and other projects under the ESG spotlight, noting the necessity of these metals for building our low carbon economies. In a session focused on ESG, attendees heard from Microsoft and Scotiabank on the growing demand from consumers and investors for metals supply chains to meet and exceed ESG standards. Mining companies at the source of these supply chains are increasingly under the microscope, but by adhering to credible certifications, this gives investors, lenders, and buyers the confidence that there is no social harm or environmental damage.

"There's only one way a mineral exploration company can operate today, and that's with the highest

possible ESG performance," said Ross Beaty, chair, Pan American Silver, during the ESG Session.

OPEN & SMART EXPLORATION

Among many noteworthy comments, Robert Friedland, founder and executive co-chairman, Ivanhoe Mines, said during his keynote address, "At one end we'll have smarter exploration, at the other, smarter markets." He elaborated that during exploration, the latest geophysical and other search tools were making deeper and covered orebodies easier to find. At the other end of the mining cycle, he posited how commodities may be priced in the future.

"All commodities will have differential pricing," said Friedland, "There'll be no 'one price' for copper, no 'one price' for gold. They'll be priced according to ESG factors."



The latest smart exploration practices were on display in several sessions throughout the conference, including new models for ore formation in the Golden Triangle and innovative exploration tools to sniff out mineral deposits and mineralized structures by testing gases in soils.

ADVOCACY AND ACCESS

“Mineral exploration and mining can and should be at the forefront of the post COVID-19 B.C. economic recovery plan. There is already increased demand for “critical minerals” and “green metals,” and that demand will continue to grow... What we need now is a big push forward on advanced-stage projects that are in the permitting process.” said Kendra Johnston, AME president and CEO in a recent article in The Province.

Permitting, as always, was top of mind for B.C.’s explorers. Fazil

Mihlar, B.C.’s Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation, acknowledged in the Government Industry Forum that the existing processes need improvement and said that his ministry was focused on reducing time for permits. “We understand that we need to do better,” said Mihlar. “We’re not waiting for perfection.”

TRANSFORMATION OF MINERAL EXPLORATION

One of many transformations discussed during the conference was the mineral exploration sector’s contributions toward reconciliation. During the Government Industry Forum, Newcrest Mining’s Ben Wither, manager HSEC and people at Red Chris, observed that the industry is “moving away from transactional relationships” with affected First Nations and toward stronger, longer-lasting partnerships.

On the final day, in a moving, raw, honest, and ultimately uplifting keynote session on diversity and inclusion, a diverse panel shared the challenges, issues, and best practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in mineral exploration. The session highlighted that mineral exploration in B.C. is early in its transformation from a white, cis, male-dominated sector to one with more women, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) people.

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Many attendees donated to the Ronald McDonald House B.C. & Yukon, BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, Britannia Mine Museum. and MineralsEd throughout the conference, raising more than \$10,000. The support and commitment that the mineral exploration community shows to our industry non-profits and those in need continues to be humbling, thank you.

Overall, the virtual platform enabled all the experiences attendees at AME Roundup have come to expect, including new geoscience and discovery stories, the latest views on commodities and finance, open discussions about relationships with communities and the public, and opportunities to network.

It is not over yet. For those who registered for the conference, you have six months to re-visit all the conference content on-demand. If you missed it, you can still register today, and review the conference content at your leisure for the next six months. Visit AME Roundup (www.roundup.amebc.ca/registration-info/) to register. ★

Interior Workplace Compliance Testing
 “Keeping Your Workplace Safe”
Drug & Alcohol Testing
COMPLETE HIRING SOLUTIONS



I.W.C.T.
INTERIOR WORKPLACE COMPLIANCE TESTING

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2010
Collection locations throughout BC and Alberta
Toll Free: 1 877 764 6829



For complete details of our services visit our website www.iwct.ca
 1652 Quinn Street, Prince George V2N 1X3
 admin@iwct.ca | 250.561.(PASS)7277 | Fax: 250.561.7297

In Northeast British Columbia, the air is crisp, the land untouched, and opportunities for a diverse range of businesses are endless. Blend work with play, connect with clients and nature, beat the commute and when needed, truly unplug.

Build your best life
in the Northern Rockies

www.investnorthernrockies.ca

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDES ENGINEERING OR GEOSCIENCE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES AS PART OF ITS OPERATIONS **YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION ON NEW REGULATIONS.**

Under BC's new *Professional Governance Act*, organizations in the private and public sector that engage in the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience in BC must register for a Permit to Practice beginning July 2021.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT [EGBC.CA/FIRMS](https://egbc.ca/firms)



**ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE BATTLE FOR ENERGY HEARTS AND MINDS, ARE YOU GATES OR A MCKIBBEN?

By Stewart Muir

A great argument is raging on what caused Texans to go without heat and water during the Arctic blast of February 2021.

For a state with a higher GDP than all of Canada, you wouldn't expect to find a regulatory system so messed up that people were dying of cold in their own homes. Frozen wind turbines and unprepared gas networks have both been blamed.

We'll find out in time what the exact causes were. The episode stands as a reminder that public perspectives about energy – and the future of how we use it – remain divided in 2021, and if anything those divisions are growing.

How voters see energy and climate directly influences the policies that politicians enact. Energy literacy matters. Recently, I learned of a member of Parliament sitting on an influential committee in Ottawa who was unaware that plastic is made from petroleum.

The same week as the Texas disaster, something else happened that underlined where public discourse on these issues is headed.

In a new book, Bill Gates argues that defeating the reality of climate change means eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by a mixture of solutions, including investments in new technologies.

Gates' often refers to Canadian researcher, Winnipeg's Vaclav Smil, who in numerous books over his long academic career has shown why grand predictions inevitably turn out to be wrong, and why the transformation of energy systems will not be an "exceptionally speedy" affair.

Like a typical computer programmer, Gates knows that the way to solve a complex problem is to first

break it down to small steps, and then solve each step individually. But not everyone thinks this way. Stiff resistance to Gates's new title *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* immediately emerged. Climate writer-activist Bill McKibben, whose use of the inaccurate term "tar sands" offers a clue to his perspective, was indignant.

Instead, McKibben said in a *New York Times* review, everyone should be following the advice of U.S. activist Mark Jacobson, who is convinced that renewables can provide 80 per cent of energy needs by 2030. A review in London's *Financial Times* dismissed Gates' ideas, because the problem with technology is that "it might encourage inaction and distraction."

Critics of humanity's overwhelming reliance on petroleum and coal seem able to see only the problems – and they are real ones – associated with legacy fuels. Consequently, we have the confounding situation today of opposition to the very solutions that are reducing emissions.

A good example is fracking, which has done more to reduce emissions than all government policies. Yet it is stiffly opposed. Similarly, liquefied natural gas (LNG) displaces higher emitting fuels making it a climate solution, not the problem that some claim.

Process improvements that brought deep and fast reductions in Canada's upstream oil and gas emissions are met with stoney silence among those who insist on a perfect solution, or no solution at all.

Electric vehicles are positioned as a miracle cure for what ails the environment. Exxon projects that if all new cars were electric by 2025, and the world's entire light-duty fleet was electric by 2040, liquid-fuel demand in 2040 would remain the same as it was in 2013. This is due in large part to growth in heavy-duty uses like shipping, trucks, and rail because most of the world's population wants to live as we do in Europe and North America.

Carbon capture and removal is another proven solution that would be good for both the environment and the energy business as we know it today. Several projects in Canada are operating, while the U.S. has over 25 commercial-scale ventures in active development.

Which Bill are you when it comes to energy transition – a McKibben or a Gates? Remember, this isn't about climate: both Bills agree on the problem. Where we land on this question will flavour many of the public policy debates coming our way.

Stewart Muir is founder and executive director of the Resource Works Society, a Vancouver-based not-for-profit. He has been studying environmental issues since the 1990s. ★



Burnaby. Calgary. Fraser Valley. Kamloops. Kelowna. Prince George. Surrey. Victoria.

We're here to work with you.

WMB
WILSON M. BECK
INSURANCE SERVICES

"We care. We help."

— CONTACT US TODAY —

1-888-437-1100

www.wmbeck.com

info@wmbeck.com

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Aberdeen Helicopters Ltd.....	31	Free Spirit Ventures Inc.....	11
Airplus Industrial.....	22	Frontier Truck Rentals.....	9
Apex Diamond Drilling Ltd.....	6	Interior Warehousing Ltd.....	17
BCIT British Columbia Institute of Technology.....	3	Interior Workplace Compliance Testing.....	38
BK Two-Way Radio Ltd.....	IBC	Mackenzie Hose & Fittings.....	22
Bob Zimmer, MP.....	33	Matrix Camps Logistics Aviation Management.....	IFC
Brock White Canada.....	7	McElhanney Ltd.....	20
CIF Construction Ltd.....	OBC	National Emergency Safety Service.....	36
City of Dawson Creek.....	23	NATS Nursery Ltd.....	35
City of Quesnel.....	29	Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.....	38
Coast Mountain College.....	13	Northwest Regional Airport Terrace-Kitimat.....	27
Connolly Industrial Insulation Services (2004) Ltd.....	19	Praxair Canada Inc.....	31
District of Kitimat.....	25	SIMS Group.....	15
Dynamic Avalanche Consulting Ltd.....	6	Sinkut Radiator Service Inc.....	8
Engineers & Geoscientists British Columbia.....	39	Storm Mountain Technical Service.....	5
Excel Personnel Inc.....	8	Sullivan Motors.....	23, 31
Export Navigator.....	13	TDB.....	5
Fireweed Helicopters Ltd.....	9	Wilson M. Beck.....	41
Four Rivers Co-operative Association.....	10		



SUITE 300, 6 ROSLYN ROAD, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA
www.delcommunications.com

DEL Communications Inc.

The key to success.

*We offer outstanding personal service
 and quality in the areas of...*

- Creative Design
- Advertising sales
- Trade Publications
- Video Production & Editing
- Qualified Sales & Editorial Team



BK

TWO-WAY RADIO LTD.

*Leaders
in Wireless*



- SALES • SERVICE
- RENTALS • INSTALLATIONS

QUESNEL

1195 Highway 97 N.

250-992-9907

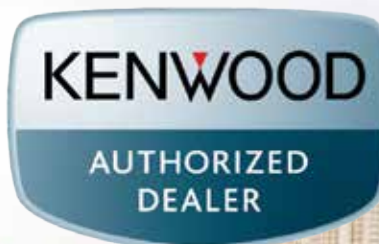
PRINCE GEORGE

3963 15th Avenue

250-562-4856

1-877-898-4856

www.bktwoway.ca



**TWO-WAY RADIOS • SATELLITE PHONES
• SPOT • HIGH SPEED SATELLITE INTERNET**



**Responsible.
Quality Controlled.
Experienced.**



**Learn more at:
WWW.CIFCON.COM**

