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RESOURCE SECTORS IN
NORTHERN BC

BC LNG PROJECTS
FACE THE UNKNOWN

UPDATES ON
BRUCEJACK GOLD
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ON THE COVER: Photograph of the Brucejack Gold Project by Pretivm Resources Inc. taken October 2016. Photo credit: Pretivm Resources Inc.

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**RESOURCE
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MESSAGE
FROM THE
ASSOCIATION

This will be another year of work and transition as all industries adapt to the economy. With many projects moving forward and a few standing still, diversifying is still an important reality in business.

As we waited with feelings of uncertainty to see what our new government focussed on — procedures, policies, tax structures — we persevered.

The Red Chris and Mount Milligan mines began operations, Site C came to fruition, and several LNG projects have been green-lighted. With the Brucejack Project commissioning this year and the completion of Stuart World Ports, the province will see more economic diversification.

While we would like to see all projects proceed, it's important to go forward with balance. It's essential that we advance with projects that are manageable and sustainable, and that will provide long-term job security and economic growth for our communities.

The main goal of the Resource Connector North Association is to continue reaching out to all resource sectors in the industrial community and help connect companies with opportunities.

Looking forward, we would like to expand our stakeholder base and attract more people to attend and speak at our networking events, and to contribute to and access our material. It is important we continue bringing value to the business community and continue growing our network.

Thanks goes out to the past and current board members for the hard work, passion, and dedication they have invested into this Association. We look forward to bringing the same level of commitment as we work to promote and facilitate growth in our businesses and our communities in Northern British Columbia. ●

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THE RESOURCES TO LEAD CANADA

By Premier Christy Clark

B.C. is leading the country like never before. We're first in economic growth, first in creating jobs, and have the lowest taxes for middle class families. A big part of that success has been thriving resource industries and as B.C. continues to build Canada's top economy, we need a healthy resource sector more than ever. Yes, it's a key economic driver, a fundamental part of the economic and social fabric of communities across the province. But more than that – it's who we are.

Our resource sector built this province, and it continues to provide opportunities that create jobs across the province. We have earned a well-deserved global reputation as a leader in sustainability, responsible resource development, and climate action. We are held up by other jurisdictions and the United Nations as proof positive that you can grow the economy and look after the environment at the same time.

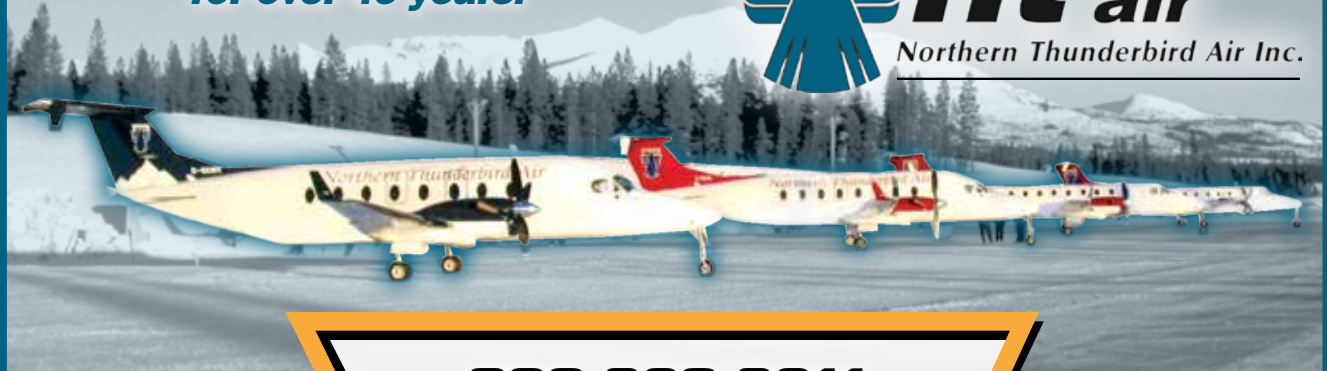
As Premier, my job is to help you expand and succeed so you can continue creating opportunities. It means getting out of your way by cutting needless red tape, ensuring we maintain the highest environmental standards so our customers can have confidence that

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“ Our resource sector built this province, and it continues to provide opportunities that create jobs across the province. ”

B.C. products are responsibly developed, ensuring First Nations share in the benefits of resource development as full and equal partners, and expanding our markets through international trade missions and overseas offices.

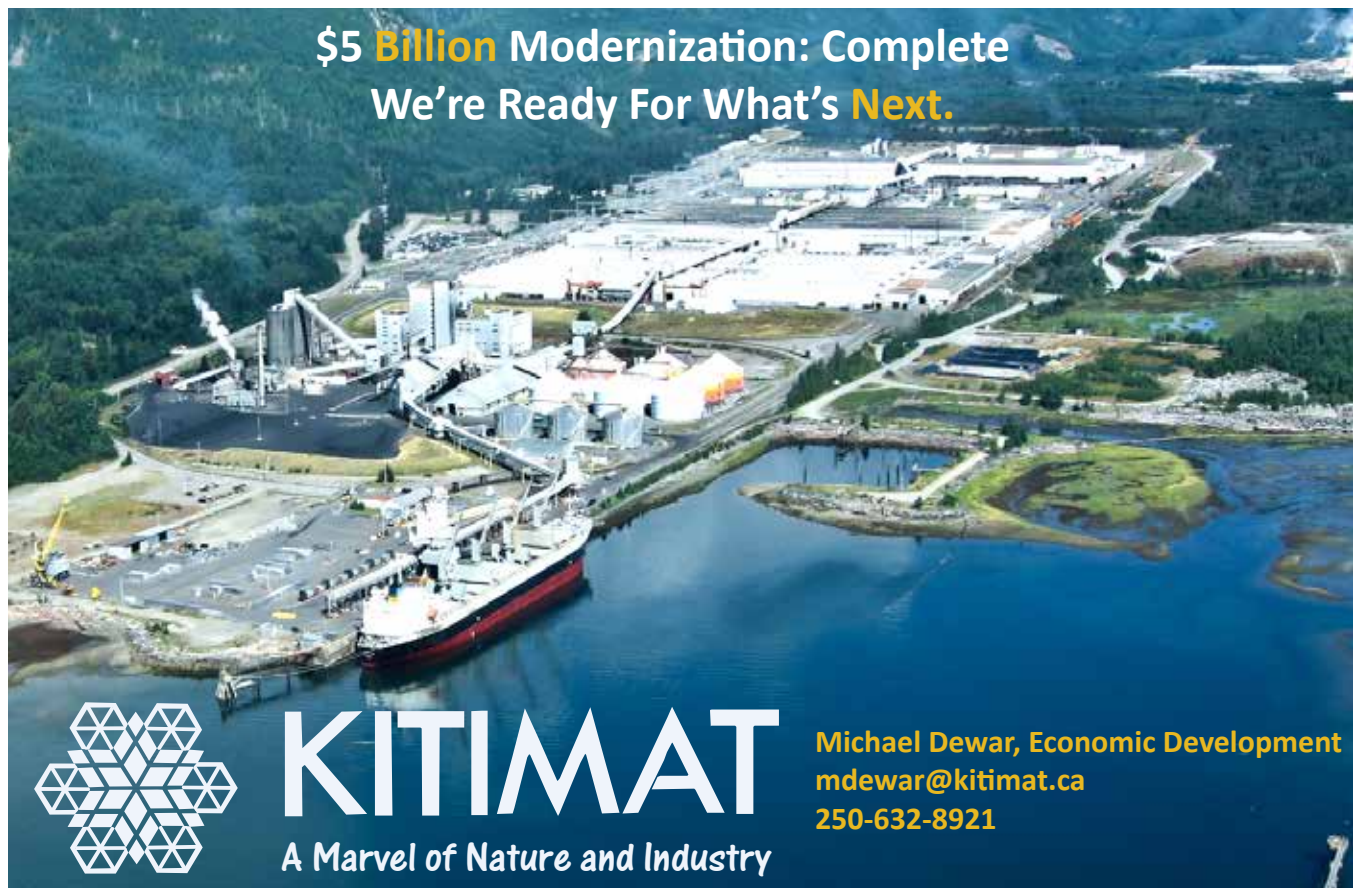
It's a proven strategy. For example, in 2003, our presence in the world's largest country was a single lumber trade office in China. Thirteen years of dedicated work later, lumber exports to China have increased by 2,000 per cent. We're also investing \$5 million to open doors for B.C. wood products in India, which has one of the world's fastest-growing workforces – and not coincidentally, the fastest-growing demand for new homes. We're working hard to make sure they build those homes with wood – B.C. wood.

Despite some challenges with low commodity prices, metallic mineral and coal exports last year totalled over \$7.5 billion, and \$272 million was spent on mineral explorations – up from only \$29 million in 2001. We're working to keep those numbers growing. Today, there are five new mines compared with five years ago, which means over 1,500 new jobs – with more to come. There are over 20 new mines and expansion proposals currently under review. We've


also reduced the backlog for mining permits by reducing the turnaround time from 110 days to less than 50 days, surpassing our goal of 60 days set out in the BC Jobs Plan.

And in LNG, we saw the first of hopefully many projects make the commitment to move forward. At \$1.6 billion, Woodfibre LNG is the largest private sector investment in the lower mainland's history. In September, Pacific NorthWest received federal approval. If they decide to move forward in 2017, it will mean an investment of \$11.4 billion. If just five LNG projects go forward, it could create a total investment of \$175 billion, increase our provincial GDP by \$1 trillion, and create over 100,000 jobs. We'll keep working hard with communities, First Nations, and proponents to seize this generational opportunity that will transform the lives of thousands of British Columbians.

With the country's leading economy and record job growth, there has never been a better time to be British Columbian. B.C.'s resource sector will play a vital role in ensuring we continue to lead, and create a stronger future for our children. ●



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MINISTER OF JOBS,
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British Columbia is leading the nation in economic growth and job creation. Our rich and diverse resources have been a major driver for this success, and our careful plan to diversify, grow and strengthen our economy is paying off.

The BC Jobs Plan was launched five years ago and set clear goals for where we wanted B.C.'s economy to go. Since that time, B.C. has among the lowest unemployment rates in Canada, the largest growth in GDP of all the provinces, and is leading the nation in year-over-year job growth.

B.C. is an appealing location for industry by keeping our corporate income tax rate the lowest in Canada, and individuals enjoy the benefits of having the lowest personal income tax rates as well.

Even with these successes, we will continue to set policies and develop programs that will enable our economy to continue to grow. We endeavour to further expand all of our prospective markets, and there are signs that B.C.'s resources will play a large role in growing the economy across the province.

A historical milestone was reached on November 4 when Woodfibre LNG announced their project will go forward. Pacific NorthWest LNG has also announced a conditional final investment.

Our government is focused on building a viable, globally competitive liquefied natural gas industry to create jobs and secure long-term economic benefits for all British Columbians. Already, B.C. has approved \$590 million under the Infrastructure Royalty Credit Program for new resource roads and pipelines since 2011.

B.C.'s economy was built on its existing natural resources and we will continue to develop opportunities for the sustainable use of these resources, but we also know that a diversified economy is a successful one.

One example is B.C.'s agrifoods industry. Agrifood and seafood provides stable jobs to 57,000 British Columbians and supports strong and diversified communities. The agrifood and seafood sector has a worldwide reputation for producing innovative, safe, high-quality and great-tasting food, which creates new markets for B.C. businesses and prosperity for our fishing and farming families.

B.C. set a record for agrifood revenue last year at \$13 billion. Revenue has grown almost 20 per cent since 2011, far exceeding the projections set out in our first growth strategy.

The B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan sets a new, ambitious goal to grow agrifood and seafood sector revenues by 43 per cent, from \$10.5 billion in 2010 to \$15 billion by 2020 by increasing production, building markets and driving competitiveness.

Electricity infrastructure and mined materials form a significant part

of B.C.'s economy. The long history of B.C.'s mining and energy sector has created the expertise and service infrastructure of a world-class sector, which has prospered through the ups and downs of global commodity cycles.

The mining and energy sector provides significant opportunities for all British Columbians with more than 45,000 people employed in mineral exploration, mining, and related sectors in B.C. today. Since our government launched the BC Jobs Plan, more than \$2 billion has been spent on mineral exploration in B.C. accounting for nearly 19 per cent of all exploration spending in Canada.

B.C. continues to see mines being built. We have five new mines today that we didn't have in 2011—creating over 1,500 new jobs. Expansions of nine major mines have also been approved and over 20 new mine and expansion proposals are currently within the permitting process.

B.C. companies are global leaders in sustainable mining practices and clean energy technology. Our mining and energy sector will play a key transition role as Canada continues to move toward a low-carbon economy. The sector is positioned to export our technology and expertise to the world.

Our forest sector is also a key economic driver and a fundamental component of the economic and social fabric of dozens of B.C.'s communities.

In 2015, the value of B.C. forest product exports was \$12.9 billion, 36 per cent of all goods exported from B.C., and provided 65,000 direct jobs. All of this activity contributed \$7.2 billion directly to the B.C. economy.

B.C. continues to be a world leader in sustainable forest management with more than 52 million hectares of

environmentally sustainable certified forests. This is more than any other jurisdiction in the world.

Our new \$75 million Rural Dividend three-year pilot project is designed to help small rural communities and B.C. First Nations to diversify their economies.

We've invested \$85 million in the new Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. to reduce the risk of wildfires, improve community safety and help restore the health of ecosystems and wildlife habitats. This is in addition to the \$400 million invested since 2005 to reforest areas after wildfires or insect infestations.

To enhance the health and resilience of our forests, and ensure the future of B.C.'s forestry industry, we're increasing the number of seedlings planted to 28 million per year by 2020 as part of our Forests for Tomorrow Program.

With our abundant natural resources, unique geographic advantages, and proximity to Asia, we are well-positioned to meet the global demand for energy, forestry products, and agrifoods.

The BC Jobs Plan is working. With over 2.3 million people working, B.C.'s economy is growing and adding jobs. The natural resources sectors provide significant benefits for regions, communities, and industries across the province. Northern British Columbia has one of the most talented workforces in the world as well as a host of innovative businesses that support the natural resource sectors.

With these assets, natural resources in B.C. will continue to play a critical role in growing our economy and driving job creation in every region of our province. I look forward to the on-going success of these dynamic and critical sectors of our economy. ●



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MESSAGE FROM



MAYOR LYNN HALL
MAYOR OF
PRINCE GEORGE

There may be no better place in Canada than Prince George to understand the presence of the forest industry and imagine its future.

This City is at the centre of Canada's most important forest region, with more than a dozen sawmills, four pulp mills, and three wood pellet plants in close proximity. Thousands of people are employed in these facilities and in the companies that provide service to the forest industry. No city has more experience with the forest industry, nor greater know-how on forest products and forest sustainability.

Beyond our current operations, Prince George offers a glimpse into the future of forestry. We are home to the tallest modern wood building in North America, a downtown renewable energy system that uses sawmill residue to produce heat, UNBC: Canada's green university, and research forests that are among Canada's oldest and largest.

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MESSAGE FROM



MAYOR PHIL GERMUTH MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

As Mayor of Kitimat, and on behalf of Council, I want to invite you to join in on Kitimat's bright value-added industrial future.

With the recent successful completion of the Rio Tinto Alcan's Modernization Project, Kitimat showcased to the world its capacity to perform a multi-billion-dollar industrial project. This has helped attract attention from other megaproject industrial proponents such as LNG export facilities and oil refineries. With these proposed projects and ample opportunity for additional development, Kitimat and the rest of British Columbia are poised for activity.

Our region has been going through a period of economic growth and renewal not seen in decades and is positioned to continue. Thanks to our strong industrial heritage spanning more than 60 years, we are prepared for new industry. Kitimat is pro-development, and like our Haisla Nation friends and neighbours, we are conscious of the environment. This healthy balance truly makes Kitimat a marvel of nature and industry.

Kitimat's local suppliers and service providers have decades of experience working with large industrial proponents and are ready for future value-added industrial development such as LNG. When this value-added industrial development happens, not only will Kitimat flourish, but all of B.C. will prosper. ●

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MESSAGE FROM



MAYOR CAROL LECLERC
MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF TERRACE

On behalf of Terrace City Council, it is my pleasure to introduce you to the 2017 Resource Connector.

Terrace continues to be a vibrant hub of activity as B.C.'s service and supply centre for the northwest. Our community offers a wide variety of services, supplies, and contractors to meet the needs of small businesses and major projects throughout the region.

Ease of connectivity between businesses and communities is crucial to doing business in the north. As such, Terrace is strategically situated at the crossroads of highways 16, 37, and 113 between the Kitsumkalum and Kitselas Bands, and the Northwest Regional Airport is only a 10 minute drive from downtown. We are proud to be considered the Heart of the Northwest.

We are excited about the opportunities that the future holds for growth and sustainable development in a variety of sectors including mining, tourism, value added forestry, LNG, and manufacturing. I invite you to take part in our resource sector by supporting local businesses and investing in Terrace. Please contact our Economic Development office at 250-615-4030 with any questions and to learn more. ●

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HURRY UP AND WAIT

Natural Gas Pipelines Existing (solid lines) and proposed (dotted lines) natural gas pipelines in B.C. Red markers indicate locations of proposed LNG export facilities.

Credit: Province of BC

Northern BC LNG infrastructure projects face an unknown 2017

By Kylie Williams

In the last four years, 20 liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure projects have been proposed for British Columbia (B.C.) to carry natural gas extracted from the large hydrocarbon basins in the northeast of the province to ports on the west coast, and onward to markets in Asia. Since the B.C. government released its LNG Strategy in 2012, 18 export licences have been approved and nine environmental assessments completed, but few projects are advancing due to uncertainty, oversupply, and low prices.

Despite this, energy companies in northeastern B.C. are planning to ramp-up operations in 2017 with increased production from more wells, but the transport and export of the gas continues to generate controversy. Pipelines, a safer and less expensive alternative to rail or road transport, are vigorously opposed by climate activists and some community and indigenous leaders. News about pipelines has dominated the North American media this year, speculation on approvals

and covering opposition to the liquid pipelines carrying the products of the oil sands around the continent. The gas pipelines between Fort Nelson and Fort St. John in northeastern B.C. are also in the news, along with the storage and export facilities proposed for construction at sites along the B.C.'s northern coastline.

PIPELINES

The 525km Pacific Northern Gas transmission pipeline is the main pipeline currently bringing natural gas from the Summit Lake area near Fort St John across to LNG export facilities at Kitimat.

Operator Pacific Northern Gas plans to loop or 'twin' the existing pipeline to increase carrying capacity. The project is in the pre-application phase and receiving public feedback. Chevron's proposed 480km Pacific Trail Pipeline (PTP) follows a similar route from Summit Lake to the Kitimat LNG facility site at Bish Cove on the northwest coast. The partnership operating the PTP project has applied for an Environmental

Assessment Certificate extension and must start construction by mid-2018.

In November 2016, TransCanada Corporation signed a project agreement with 12 hereditary chiefs of the Gitksan Nation and announced the thirteenth project agreement executed with First Nations in B.C. TransCanada was selected by Pacific NorthWest LNG to build the 900km, \$5 billion Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline from near Fort St. John to the Pacific Northwest LNG export facility proposed for construction at Lelu Island off the coast of Port Edward, near Prince Rupert. The facility was approved by the federal government in September 2016, but is still waiting for a final investment decision from project leader, Petronas.

LNG Canada's proposed 670km Coastal Gaslink Pipeline was set to deliver natural gas from the Dawson Creek area to Kitimat, but LNG Canada announced in July 2016 that joint venture partners, Shell, PetroChina, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Kogas, have delayed a final investment decision, despite strong stakeholder and

First Nations' support, and critical regulatory approvals.


Finally, partners Prince Rupert LNG and Spectra Energy propose to build the Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project, an 850km natural gas pipeline from production areas in northeast B.C. to BG Canada's proposed LNG export facility on Ridley Island near Prince Rupert. The project also received federal approval in November 2014.

EXPORT FACILITIES

The cornerstone of B.C.'s burgeoning LNG industry is access to Asian markets. Along the northwest coast, several LNG liquification, storage, and export terminals are waiting for approval. LNG facilities are proposed near Stewart, Kitsault, and in the Nasoga Gulf. Near Prince Rupert, eight terminal and export facilities are proposed to receive natural gas via new and existing pipelines, including the stalled Pacific NorthWest LNG facility on Lelu Island. Despite receiving approvals from the federal government in September 2016, the final investment decision for the highly-publicised and contentious project is delayed.

Several pipelines will terminate further south at Kitimat where another two terminals are proposed. Despite an Environmental Assessment Certificate issued June 2015, LNG Canada has not made a final investment decision for their Kitimat LNG export facility. The Haisla First Nation are looking for one or more industry partners to construct and operate the proposed Cedar LNG processing facility also near Kitimat. ●

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By Tammy Schuster

Prince George Airport main entrance

With recent pipeline announcements, container port expansions, and mining projects moving forward, there are high hopes

for B.C.'s economy. The infrastructure needed to support the resource industry is intensifying and the Prince George Airport (YXS) is set to be the intermodal link of Central British Columbia.

The Prince George Airport has been undergoing extensive upgrades for many years and is now in place to become a major link in transportation logistics connecting the northern resources of B.C. to the rest of the province and the world.

With the fourth longest runway in Canada, the airport can handle any size of freighter aircraft in the world and is well equipped with instrument landing equipment and high intensity lighting systems comparable to any large metropolitan airport.

With over 800 hectares of land, the airport's fuel capacity has also been expended over the past three years to handle enough fuel for the large aircrafts.

A new 25,000 square-foot warehouse was also constructed last year which is key for connecting the road trucking system with the airlines. Roseneau Transport, one of the two largest dynamic carriers in Western Canada, is the anchor tenant in the cargo facility with space still available for lease.

"These are vital aspects in cargo distribution whether looking at servicing aircrafts bringing

goods and services to the pipelines, LNG, or mining production, and we certainly have the infrastructure to service that," says John Gibson, president and CEO, Prince George Airport Authority (PGAA).

"At the same time, we have the best passenger service connecting the Interior with the north, east, south, and west," says Gibson. With more than 300 commercial flights per week, the PGAA continues to add to its flight services. WestJet and Air Canada provide more flights than any other cities in the province outside of Vancouver and Kelowna. Pacific Coastal Airlines services Victoria non-stop and has a charter program for the resource industry, as does Central Mountain Air who also flies all over the province using YXS as a hub.

"We've been talking with major providers of North American ground transportation about servicing the pipelines and LNG, and they were amazed at the infrastructure we had in place," says Gibson. "It's common to consider only Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton as a service point."

The next step for the airport authority is to attract bigger cargo airlines through Prince George on a regular basis. Gibson says his team has been working to raise awareness among the logistics community servicing the natural resource industry.

He says they have also had discussions with carriers in Asia in an effort to develop a preliminary program next year.

The Prince George Airport is already a northern service centre for production and transportation companies. Linked to the rail lines with a major CN Rail facility less than 15 kilometres away, the airport is also the first airport on the Transpacific route that connects the air to the road network.

A more obvious advantage to flying into the Prince George Airport lies simply in the airport's proximity to the worksites in the north such as Site C, LNG, and various pipelines. But something that may be overlooked is that Prince George does not have the air or road congestion experienced at the larger city airports such as Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton, which would make for a timelier and more efficient delivery.

"Business development is more economical — our land, gas, and energy prices are lower here compared to Vancouver," says Gibson. "There really are many compelling reasons to set up a logistics centre in Prince George." ●



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MT. POLLEY UPDATE

PROGRESS MADE TO RETURN THE MINE TO REGULAR OPERATION

By Lyndon McLean



After more than two years of work to bring Mount Polley Mine back from the breach of the tailings storage facility, the area is almost back to normal. While there's still work to do, a lot of good progress has been made.

The August 2014 breach released more than 10 million cubic metres of supernatant water, more than 7 million cubic metres of tailings solids, 6.5 million cubic metres of interstitial water, and more than half a million cubic metres of construction materials into the downstream environment. Operations were suspended on August 4, 2014, and on August 5, 2015, mine operations were restarted. With permit amendments issued by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) and the Ministry of Environment (MOE) the mine was allowed to proceed on a modified operation plan.

"All British Columbians were shaken by the Mount Polley tailings dam failure. It was unprecedented for our province, but it did happen," said the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review. "We've taken a leadership position and have done all we can to ensure such a failure can never happen in B.C. again."

Almost two years after the incident, on June 23, 2016, Mount Polley Mine received authorizations from MEM and MOE to return to normal operations.

"The mine is up and running again, almost back to normal," says Paul French, president of United Steelworkers, Local 1-425. "There are currently 160 unionized employees at the mine, working at the dam to meet compliance."

"The workers are dealing with what they have to, and the restoration of Hazeltine Creek has gone

well," French says. "The area has been reforested and bridges replaced, and you'd have a hard time believing so much has been done in such a short time."

According to Minister Bennett, "Remediation and restoration efforts have seen more than 30,000 trees and shrubs planted, along with over 16 hectares of grass planted in the Hazeltine Creek corridor. Mammal-denning habitats and avian perches have also been put in place. With collaboration, we have slowly begun to restore this beautiful area of the province."

Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce President Charlene Harrison says the Chamber fully supports the work at Mount Polley and that having the mine operating again has been great for the community. She says that while a lot of attention was paid to the breach, she'd like people to also see the rehabilitation efforts.

“From what I’ve seen, it’s phenomenal how much work has been done and how it looks,” she says. “It’s like night and day.”

According to Steve Robertson, vice-president of corporate affairs at Imperial Metals, everything is going well from an operations perspective.

“Steady progress has been made to improve operations,” he says, noting current production rate of 20,000 tonnes per day, on par with production prior to the breach. Currently, most ore is coming from Cariboo pit and being enhanced by higher grade ore from underground. Robertson notes that plans are underway to move tailings from Springer pit, where they were placed from August 2015 through June 2016. Once removed there will be potential to access additional ore there, increasing overall production.

“At Hazeltine Creek, the channel has been reconstructed to make it stable, and all of the terrestrial work is done,” he says. “Work is also being done to get ready to allow fish back in from Polley and Quesnel Lakes. The lower section of nearby Edney Creek has been rebuilt and has been successful in re-establishing populations of all fish species that were noted to live

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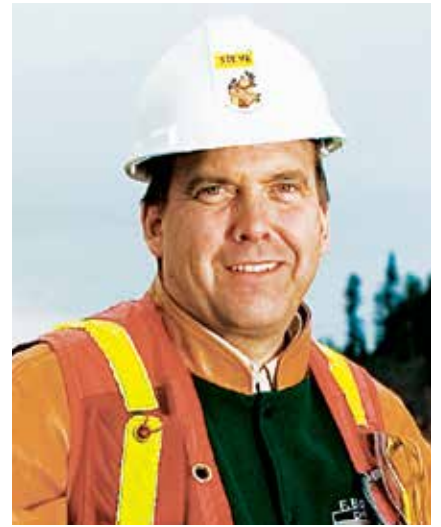
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Steve Robertson, vice-president of corporate affairs at Imperial Metals

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there prior to the breach. We now just need to get the long-term water management plan in place to allow the same at Hazeltine Creek.”

Imperial Metals submitted its documentation as part of that plan, and the proposal is currently in comment period, which will be followed by a technical review by the Cariboo Mine Development Review Committee. Robertson hopes for a decision by February 2017, with a plan expected to be in place by fall 2017.

“We’re confident that the best solution is on the table,” he says, “The work that’s been done with First Nations and communities has all been a satisfying process.”

Paul French echoes those sentiments and says real progress has been made to restore the area. “Working with First Nations has been good – they’re the best watchdog for making sure the mine does what it’s supposed to,” he says. “People see the area the way it was when the breach occurred, but there have been a lot of improvements. You’d never know it happened.” ●

NORTHERN B.C. RESOURCE SECTORS POSITIONED FOR GROWTH IN 2017

By Kylie Williams



A new \$1-million trust will be established to commemorate the visit of Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and celebrate the endorsement of the Great Bear Rainforest under The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy initiative.

PHOTO CREDIT: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia led the country in economic growth in 2016. Despite several challenging years for global commodity process, B.C. grew at twice the rate of the national economy

thanks to a solid foundation provided by the mining, natural gas, and forestry sectors located dominantly in the northern half of the province. While the numbers may look good on paper, it's still a waiting game on the ground, as workers wait for the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry to take off, especially in the Peace Region of northeast B.C. where unemployment numbers are highest.

ENERGY

B.C.'s natural gas reserves - the source of a burgeoning LNG industry - are found mostly in sedimentary basins in the northeast of the province around Fort St. John and the Peace River. Since the B.C. Government released its LNG Strategy in February 2012, 18 export licenses have been approved and six pipelines proposed to transport the gas from these basins to ships bound for Asian markets off the west coast.

In September 2016, the Federal Government announced approval of B.C.'s largest LNG project, the \$11 billion Pacific NorthWest LNG facility near Prince Rupert. By the end of 2016, however, project owner, Petronas, had not made a final investment decision (FID) about the project. LNG prices have declined since 2012 and remained weak throughout 2016, and ongoing controversy over pipeline routes and export facility locations may be factors in the decision. Kitimat residents are also waiting for Shell and partners to make a FID for the proposed LNG Canada project there.

For the B.C. oil patch in the northeast, 2016 was a rough year. Although Prime Minister Trudeau approved Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline between Alberta's oil sands and the west coast across southern B.C., Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline project proposed to carry oil to Kitimat was rejected.

Some unemployed oil and gas workers in northeastern B.C. were able find construction jobs in the hydroelectric energy sector, as BC Hydro continues to upgrade aging infrastructure throughout northern B.C. and forge ahead with the Site C Clean Energy Project near Fort St. John. Electricity demand is expected to grow by another 40 per cent over the next 20



Coarse ore stock pile at Red Chris Mine.
PHOTO CREDIT: IMPERIAL METALS



Shipment of copper concentrate from Red Chris Mine being loaded in Port of Stewart.
PHOTO CREDIT: IMPERIAL METALS

years and Site C, the third hydroelectric dam on the Peace River, will produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours of electricity each year - enough to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

MINING

Northwestern BC's Golden Triangle, between Stikine, Cassiar, and Atlin, is host to billions of dollars worth of undiscovered gold, silver, and copper. Although the region has been explored and mined on a smaller scale for decades, the recently paved Stewart-Cassiar Highway (Hwy 37) has improved project access and completion of the \$700 million high-voltage Northwest Transmission Line has bought down the cost of power.

Imperial Metals' Red Chris mine near Iskut opened in mid- 2015 and ramped up to full production in 2016. Metal production for the third quarter of 2016 was 18.7 million pounds copper and 9,655 ounces gold.

Construction continued at Pretium Resources' underground Brucejack mine, north of Stewart, to access the rich Valley of the Kings deposit. Pretium is on-track to commence mining in mid-2017. Further north, near the Yukon border, construction of JDS Silver's high-grade, silver-lead-zinc mine is well underway.

A number of advanced exploration projects are in progress; IDM Mining Ltd. is completing a feasibility study at the Red Mountain Gold Project near Stewart, Colorado Resources have four exploration projects in north-central B.C., and Ascot Resources Ltd. is developing their Premier deposit, near Stewart.

Rising metallurgical coal prices in 2016 inspired Conuma Coal Resources Ltd. to reopen the Brule and Wolverine Coal mines near Tumbler Ridge, employing hundreds of local workers, and Teck Resources set quarterly production records at their Elkview and Line Creek operations.

FORESTRY

Around 150,000 jobs and 40 per cent of B.C.'s regional economies depend on the B.C. forestry sector. The sector itself exports mainly to the United States, but Asian export markets are growing. As of October 2016, B.C. forest product exports totalled \$11.62 billion, up 9.3 per cent from \$10.64 billion compared to October 2015.

Uncertainty around a softwood lumber agreement between Canada and the United States is casting a shadow over the B.C. forestry sector. The previous softwood lumber agreement between the two countries expired in late 2015. No new agreement was reached in 2016 and it is

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expected that softwood – a key ingredient for affordable housing in the US - will be on the table during discussion between the leaders of the two countries in early 2017.


Earlier in 2016, the B.C. Government introduced legislation to protect the 6.4 million hectare Great Bear Rainforest on B.C.'s north and central Pacific coast. Under the new measures, 85 per cent of the forest will be protected and 15 per cent will be available for logging, providing certainty for forestry companies in the region.

LOOKING AHEAD

Although commodity price outlooks are optimistic heading in to 2017, northern B.C.'s resource sectors are watching a number of developments likely to have an impact on the region. Asia's hunger for B.C. resources will make an impact, along with the new US administration. Closer to home, the carbon pricing scheme introduced by Trudeau in October 2016 will affect natural resource sectors, particularly coal, and B.C. residents go to the polls in May 2017. ●



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BRUCEJACK GOLD PROJECT POISED TO BEGIN PRODUCTION IN 2017

With final preparations taking place the Brucejack Gold Project in northwest British Columbia is scheduled to begin commissioning in mid-2017. If progress continues as expected, the mine will go into full production by the end of the year.

Construction on the project began in 2015 once all federal approvals and provincial permits were granted. Throughout 2016, underground development advanced along with construction of the mill facility building and a 330-person camp. A 57-kilometer transmission line was also constructed and is scheduled to be fully energized in early 2017.

According to a company news release dated December 16, 2016, excavation of the major infrastructure is now complete with the third and final vent raise broken through to surface. Underground development crews are progressing at an average rate of over 30 meters per day and

work is continuing with ramp and level development, while concrete and slab installation for the underground crusher and transfer tower continue to progress.



Located approximately 65 kilometers north of Stewart, B.C., the property owned by Pretium Resources Inc. (Pretium) consists of 122,133 hectares (over 301,798 acres) of land. The Brucejack Gold Project will produce high-grade visible gold within a lower grade of quartz in the Valley of the Kings deposit. Feasibility studies, some as recent as December 2016, have outlined proven and probable mineral reserves in the Valley of the Kings of 8.1 million ounces of gold.

While the project remains on schedule, the permitting processes and financing proved to be the top challenges for the company. The complexity of the high-grade deposit at Brucejack was sometimes difficult to conceptualize. However, the quality of the project and the diligence of the Pretium team overcame the difficulties, and the necessary funds were raised at a time when financing was limited.

The 2,700 ton-per-day mill is now fully-enclosed and the internal structure is under construction, with

steel work approximately 50 per cent complete and concrete forming approximately 90 per cent complete.

The 330-person camp includes mine dry facilities, offices, recreational facilities, dining hall, and kitchen. Now fully operational, the camp is currently housing construction crews and underground development crews with upwards of 800 people on site spread amongst various camps.

Peak personnel time will be reached in February, with a focus on the assembly inside the mill and continuing underground development. Key members of the management team and technical teams have been hired with remaining employees expected to be hired and on-site in the spring.

For more information on the Brucejack Project or on Pretium Resources Inc., please visit their website at pretivm.com or contact Troy Shultz, manager, investor relations at tshultz@pretivm.com. ●

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Founded in 1980 by Douglas Roy, the company has offices in Fort St. John, Prince George, and Terrace, B.C., as well as in Fairview and Calgary, A.B. With a

team of over 65 people on staff, the company has the capabilities to support project sites in Northern and Central B.C., as well as all of Western Canada.

The land services division at Roy Northern has vast expertise in the acquisition of surface rights, regulatory compliance, emergency response planning, third party agreements, GIS, and First Nations partnerships and land dealings.

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pipeline easement acquisitions, acquisition on Crown, freehold and federal lands, and damage settlements. The company also has experience with the processes of board applications, hearings, and consultations.

“Many people forget that, particularly in BC, there are many applications that need to be filed in order to move a project ahead,” says Scott Rogerson, archaeologist in Roy Northern’s Terrace office. “We often get asked when environmental and archaeological assessments are required.”

Depending on the type of land, for example, if a project is on Crown land, an application must be made to the government which requires environmental, archaeological, and geotechnical assessments.

“Our land services division will assist in performing the assessments and filing those applications,” says Rogerson.

Roy Northern provides consulting services focused on environmental legislation and compliance. The company has done extensive work with planning, construction, reclamation, contaminated sites, emergency spill response, and gravel and sub-surface soil testing,

Roy Northern also consults on a wide range of archaeological and heritage planning projects.



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The company also offers UAV and remote sensing services — a highly-effective, cost-efficient method for gathering infrastructural information and topographical data, as well as environmental monitoring.

“We can integrate the information into environmental and archaeological assessments,” says Rogerson. “We can also get very close to survey-grade imagery and 3D modelling with the use of these drones.”

The UAVs are used to collect information for industries such oil & gas, mineral exploration, forestry, and agriculture.

Working closely and collaboratively with clients, First Nations, and stakeholders, Roy Northern Land and Environmental provides interdisciplinary expertise to ensure clients meet and exceed their requirements while helping foster positive relationships among communities and industry.

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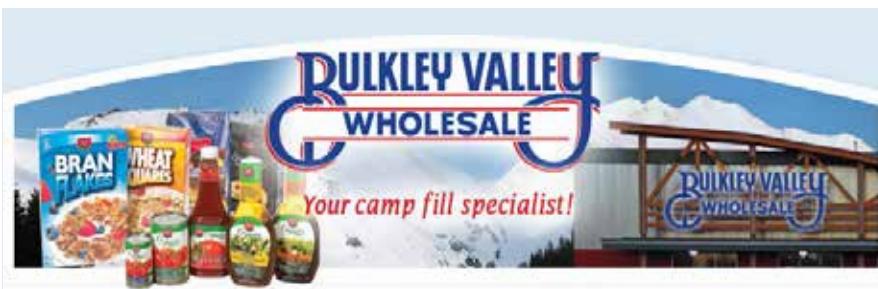
BLACKWATER PROJECT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL IN 2017

The Blackwater Project has yet to start construction, but it is already making an impact on the local region.

The Blackwater Project, an open-pit gold and silver mine located 110 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof, British Columbia, was acquired by New Gold Inc. in 2011. Since that time, New Gold has spent over \$1 billion on acquisition and development costs and has provided over \$375,000 in sponsorships and donations to local and regional community programs.

By maintaining a project office in Vanderhoof, hiring locally, and engaging communities through a Community Liaison Committee, New Gold has made significant contributions to the region and the province.

Since 2012, the Blackwater Project has employed over 500 employees and contractors, 65 per cent of which were hired locally and 23 per cent have been Indigenous workers. The project expects to employ between 1,200 and 1,500



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people during construction and up to 500 full-time employees once the mine is operational.

New Gold strives to build strong respectful relationships with Indigenous communities and has signed fifteen agreements with First Nations across Canada. The company is also collaborating with local Indigenous communities to develop a First Nations training and employment strategy to help maximize employment for Indigenous workers during construction and operations.

Construction of the \$1.6-billion project will include an open pit, ore processing facilities, tailings



By maintaining a project office in Vanderhoof, hiring locally, and engaging communities through a Community Liaison Committee, New Gold has made significant contributions to the region and the province.

storage facility, waste rock stockpile, water management facilities, offices, personnel camps, warehouses, and truck shop.

The project is currently in environmental assessment and permitting processes with the federal and provincial governments. New Gold plans to complete the environmental assessment process in the first half of 2017, and move forward so the project is shovel ready to take advantage of a recovery in gold prices. Thereafter, the timing of Blackwater's development will be driven by prevailing market conditions.

Once in production, New Gold estimates that the Blackwater Mine will spend over \$296 million annually on goods and services in B.C., with \$109.8 million spent regionally.

The Blackwater Project will continue to work with communities to help prepare local contractors and workers for upcoming construction and operations opportunities, while presenting promising social and economic opportunities for local residents, businesses, and contractors.

To find out more about the New Gold Blackwater Project visit them online at www.newgold.com/Blackwater, email at office.blackwater@newgold.com or call the project office at (250) 567-3276. ●



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