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- 6** MESSAGE FROM THE RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 7** RCN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 8** MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN, PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 10** MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE BRUCE RALSTON, MINISTER OF JOBS, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY
- 12** MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 16** THE BIG DIG: UPDATE ON MINING OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 19** ON THE WINDS OF TOMORROW: B.C. LEADS THE WAY
- 21** CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY AT ALTAGAS' RIDLEY ISLAND PROPANE EXPORT TERMINAL
- 23** LUMBER INDUSTRY SAYS BATTLE FAR FROM OVER
- 25** THE PORT OF PRINCE RUPERT IS BUILDING A BETTER BRITISH COLUMBIA THROUGH TRADE
- 27** NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY
- 30** CITY OF DAWSON CREEK – LIVE, WORK AND THRIVE
- 34** CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 36** BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE AT NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
- 38** THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF NORTHERN B.C. RESOURCE SECTORS IN 2017
- 41** NEW REPORT EXAMINES THE HR CHALLENGES AND CHANGES UNIQUE TO CANADA'S EXPLORATION SECTOR
- 44** SHARING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT
- 46** QUESNEL, BRITISH COLUMBIA MOVING CONFIDENTLY INTO THE FUTURE
- 48** MINERALS NORTH CONFERENCE 2018
- 50** INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

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President
David Langstaff

Publisher
Jason Stefanik

Editor
Tammy Schuster
tammy@delcommunications.com

Advertising Sales Manager
Dayna Oulion
TF: 1-866-424-6398

Advertising Sales
Ross James
Michelle Raike
Gary Seamans

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Art Director
Kathy Cable

Layout
Dave Bamburak

Advertising Art
Dave Bamburak
Dana Jensen

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MESSAGE
FROM THE
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Another year has come and gone and 2018 is full of promises, but first let take a look in the rear view mirror to 2017.

There have been fires and softwood lumber deals that have caused havoc in the forestry sector; mines in Tumbler Rider and the

Golden Triangle regions reopened while others struggled to survive; a major investment in LPG for Prince Rupert with more expansion in the forecast; and pipelines have been a hot topic while LNG has been strangely silent. It has been a very dynamic and interesting year without question.

But as we look forward, 2018 is promising. Mining is strengthening, pipelines are going ahead, and Site C will continue forward. All while the Port of Prince Rupert has a second \$300-million-dollar LPG terminal that received its final positive investment, and the container terminal considering to double its size. It seems the winds are shifting for the north and although LNG has yet to appear, we already have a great outlook for years to come.

RCN remains committed to delivering business-to-business connections and is investing on this very statement in 2018 with a new website under development, networking events occurring again, and a focused attention to social media relevance. Our board has some new faces which is vital to staying relevant to our supporters and ensuring we are delivering on our mission.

Look for more exciting changes in 2018 and thank you, as always, for your support. ●

RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIR: CURT STEEVES
Acklands Grainger
778-808-7974
steevesc@agi.ca



**VICE-CHAIR:
CLAUDETTE GOUGER**
AuRico Metals
250-613-7571
claudette.gouger@auricometals.ca



ROSALIND THORN
250-961-2532
rrthorn@telus.net



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



USING OUR RESOURCES TO BUILD A BETTER B.C.

British Columbia is blessed with exceptional natural resources. Even more exceptional are the local workers and local businesses who unlock the economic potential of those resources, turning them into jobs and prosperity for our province.

Resource industries are the bedrock of the economy in many B.C. communities. Forestry alone supports more than 60,000 workers and their families.

That's why I've been fighting so hard to protect B.C.'s interests in the softwood lumber dispute and redoubling our efforts to expand international trade in B.C. products.

In my first week as Premier, I went to Ottawa and Washington, D.C., to deliver a message both to the Prime Minister, and to U.S. trade representatives. I made it crystal clear that our province was interested in a fair, long-term deal to avoid time and money being wasted in duties and litigation.

However, we cannot control the outcome of softwood lumber negotiations, so we're moving quickly to build other markets. That's why our minister of forests led the single biggest forests trade mission to Asia in B.C.'s history. Minister Doug Donaldson was joined by more than 30 senior executives from B.C. forest companies and associations as they met with the Chinese government and with business leaders in Shanghai, Nanjing, and in Tokyo, Japan.

We recognize that B.C.'s trade and investment relationships in Asia are vital to our economic prosperity. We have a long-standing link with Asia, and we are taking every opportunity to deepen cultural,

family, and business connections to strengthen our trade relationships, not just for forestry but for all B.C. industries.

We're not picking winners and losers in our approach to resource development – because B.C. is strongest when we focus on building a strong, sustainable economy with a diversity of industries.

Our mining sector has a production value of \$6.3 billion and provides jobs for 30,000 British Columbians, supporting families in communities throughout the province. And that direct investment supports over 1,100 B.C. businesses that provide services and supplies to mining operators.

Our natural gas industry is also a significant employer and contributor to B.C.'s prosperity. Our province currently produces a quarter of Canada's natural gas – putting a further 13,000 people to work and delivering nearly one billion a year in revenue that supports the services that people rely on.

Each of these industries is equally important to our government, because they are important to families and communities that rely on them. Sustainable resource development is one of the foundations of a strong, sustainable economy that benefits everyone. We will be working to strengthen these resource industries, while also respecting Indigenous rights and title and protecting our air, land, and water.

We're telling the world that B.C. is a great place to invest, because it is. We have abundant resources, skilled workers, and industry partners that deliver prosperity while protecting the environment.

Together, we can chart a path to prosperity and build up families and communities. ●



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MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE **BRUCE RALSTON**, MINISTER OF JOBS, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY



As British Columbians work hard to build their careers and businesses, your government is hard at work making life more affordable, improving the services you depend on, and building a strong and sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Your government is focused on building on the traditional resource economies that B.C.'s economy depends on by spurring innovation, embracing new technology to help meet the demands of the digital age and helping businesses get their products to new international markets.

To help the resource sector innovate and create good, well-paying jobs, we are working with businesses and post-secondary institutions, such as the University of Northern B.C., to develop innovation centres in key areas of the economy that will help build a better B.C. and support our traditional industries, such as mining, agriculture, and forestry.

We're providing funding to tech consortiums through the B.C. Innovation Council's Ignite Program, which helps accelerate commercialization of new technologies and innovations in the natural resources and applied sciences sectors in British Columbia. One of these consortiums, ExcelSense Technologies has partnered with the University of British Columbia to build self-cleaning camera technology with the potential to save forestry and mining companies millions of dollars in maintenance and downtime and address safety concerns in high-risk locations.

We're supporting new investment in the Interior and Northern B.C.; recently celebrating Japan's Sumitomo Corporation's investment into Pacific BioEnergy's wood pellet plant in Prince George, and the \$200-million expansion of DP World Canada's Fairview Terminal expansion, which has boosted shipping capacity by over 60 per cent – a major victory for Prince Rupert.

Changing global markets and new technologies are the driving forces behind the development of new

economies, so to ensure B.C. stays ahead of the curve, we will be launching an Emerging Economy Task Force. The objective will be to take a long-term view on the changing and emerging opportunities across every sector of the B.C. economy.

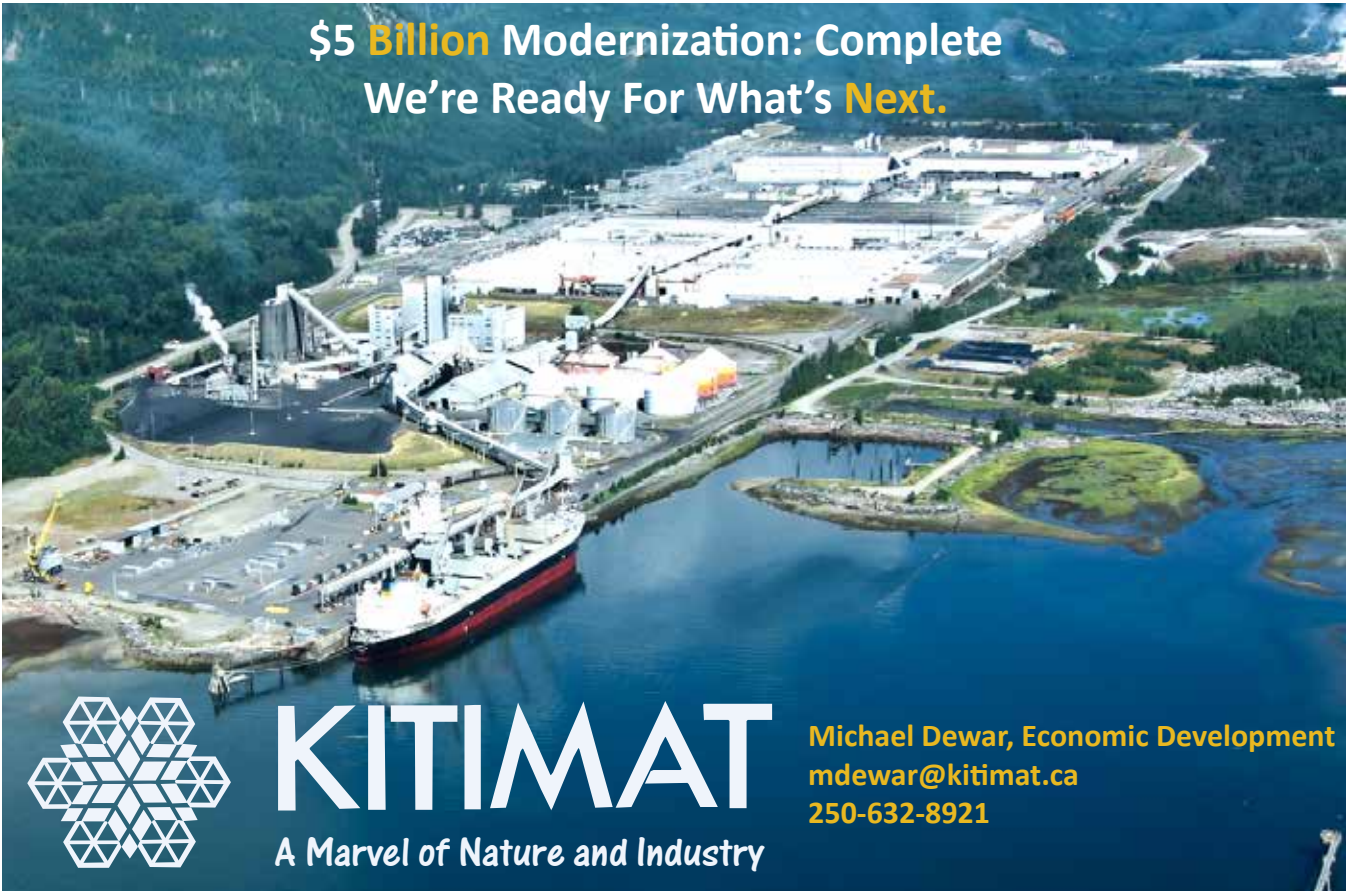
We're also supporting companies to grow beyond their local markets by helping them navigate the export process and connecting them with new opportunities abroad. We're doing this through programs like the Export Navigator pilot project, which has been instrumental in helping more than 130 small and medium-sized businesses across B.C. access new markets, and through our network of trade and investment representatives located in 16 cities around the world.

This year, small business owners are also benefiting from our government's 20-per-cent reduction – from 2.5 to 2 per cent – in the small business income tax rate, allowing them to keep more of their hard-earned money and reinvest it back into their business. Small businesses are a critical part of B.C.'s economy. They support the resource sector, kick-start innovation, and spur job growth throughout the province.

Small business employment is also growing at a faster rate than any other time in the past decade. We will launch a Small Business Task Force in 2018 that will build on this momentum and recommend solutions to barriers to growth, with a focus on the difficulty in finding skilled workers and the high cost-of-living in many B.C. communities.

Your government is working to build a strong, sustainable and innovative economy that benefits all British Columbians. We are working towards creating the economic conditions that will enable businesses to thrive in every corner of the province. With new programs to support B.C.'s traditional economies through new technology and innovation, and building on the momentum of small business growth, B.C.'s economic future looks brighter than ever. ●

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MNBC'S GOAL AND MANDATE IS TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP TO THE FUTURE
DECISION MAKERS AND POLICY MAKERS OF THE
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Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Ministry of Employment and Training provides training to employment supports to Métis people in British Columbia through a network of seven regional offices and one provincial office. Clients do not have to be provincially registered Métis citizens to receive funding. We are here to support all Métis people in B.C.

MNBC is the official Métis agreement holder for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) for the Province of British Columbia, the entire geographic catchment area for service. While ASETS is the primary funder for Métis Employment and Training, MNBC also receives funding from the Province of B.C. for project specific or industry-specific training programs. MNBC partners with industry to provide training programs specific to employers' needs, to ensure that trained individuals meet the expectations and requirements of their future employer.

The majority of MNBC ASETS clients through an individual training model receive one-on-one advice and career counselling throughout their entire application process. Individual training is available to clients who are either unemployed or under-employed. MNBC is able to fund course fees, tuition, books, supplies, equipment, and in some situations, travel and living allowances can cover short courses, apprenticeships, diplomas and certificate programs, and the final two years of a bachelor's degree. MNBC's goal and mandate is to provide support and mentorship to the future decision makers and policy makers of the province of British Columbia.

If the application for funding meets approval, training and mentorship supports shall continue up to and including employment. MNBC strongly believes when we focus on the intake of the client and provide strong career counselling at

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MNBC's goal and mandate is to provide support and mentorship to the future decision makers and policy makers of the province of British Columbia.

the beginning of their training to employment journey, our clients' success rate increases as a result. Training for transferable skills is important to MNBC, so we are always monitoring the labour market and connecting with employers to ensure the training we are funding is providing sustainable employment to our clients.

MNBC is also able to provide wage subsidies and employment supports for employees with pending employment. Through the Employment Supports program, MNBC is able to provide assistance to Métis people with confirmed pending employment with the purchase of mandatory safety equipment, small tools, business attire, union initiation fees, one-way transportation to the job, and assistance with other items that pose an immediate barrier to employment.

MNBC takes a holistic approach to employment and training. We understand that it is not only the clients' relationship that is critical,



the relationships that MNBC develops with industry and employers are just as important to the success for the client and to the economic development and growth of our communities and of our province.

If you would like more information

about the MNBC Employment and Training Program and what it may offer your organization or to you as a Métis person, please feel free to contact the director of employment and training at 1-800-940-1150 or 604-557-5851. ●



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By mobilizing rock trucks from its idled Huckleberry mine to Red Chris mine, Imperial Metals can increase the mining rate and open up the Main zone pit at Red Chris mine.

THE BIG DIG: UPDATE ON MINING OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

RED CHRIS GOING STRONG

By Deb Smith

In northwestern B.C., 80 kilometres south of Dease Lake and 18 kilometres southeast of the village of Iskut, is one of the world's largest porphyry copper gold deposits. From this, the Red Chris mine, an open-pit conventional copper/gold mine owned by Imperial Metals Corporation, has been producing copper concentrate since February 2015.

The mine operates year round with a current workforce of 370 employees. About half the employees are from surrounding northern communities, over 35 per cent are First Nations, and 16 per cent are female.

According to an Imperial Metals press release dated October 13, 2017, metal production for Q3 2017 was 19.65 million pounds copper and 8,426 ounces gold, up 27 per cent and 37 per cent respectively from the second quarter.

Grades which averaged 0.38 per cent copper and 0.18 g/t gold in July and August, increased to 0.47 per cent copper and 0.29 g/t gold in September as deep main zone ore became the primary source of mill feed for the remainder of the year. The plant achieved the design mill throughput for the third quarter averaging 30,135 tonnes per calendar day, and the 2017 production target is 76-80 million pounds copper and 33-37,000 ounces gold.

The company has begun work on mobilizing five rock trucks from its idled Huckleberry mine to Red Chris to increase

the mining rate, which will enable Red Chris to open up the Main zone pit and deliver more ore from deeper in the Main zone to the mill in 2018.

MOUNT POLLEY GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Owned and operated by Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC), a subsidiary of Imperial Metals Corporation, the Mount Polley mine is an open pit copper/gold mine in south-central British Columbia, 56 kilometres northeast of Williams Lake. Operations were suspended after the August 2014 breach of a tailings storage facility, resuming in full almost two years later in June 2016 under authorization by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MED) and the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

In April 2017, following extensive public consultation with First Nations and local communities, the company received formal approval of its long-term water management plan and continued with ongoing rehabilitation of the areas impacted by the breach.

Current mining is focused in the Cariboo pit, and subject to engineering and development, the Boundary zone underground workings. All 2017 production is expected to come from open-pit operations.

About 370 employees work at the mine year-round, most



Picturesque Brucejack Mine: poised for a steady state of gold production in 2018.



Mount Polley Mine: current mining will be focused on the Cariboo Pit.



The last quarter of 2017, Pretium Resources focused on opening up the various underground levels of Brucejack mine so that come Q1 of 2018, they can begin gold production.

travelling in from surrounding communities. When the B.C. forest fires restricted road access to the mine site in July 2017, mining operations were significantly reduced and finally suspended for the last two weeks of July.

According to a company press release dated October 13 2017, mill throughput for the third quarter was 1.44 million tonnes, down 23 per cent from the second quarter, and milling of material from low-grade stockpiles was required to augment lower mining rates. As a result, Q3 production was 3.98 million pounds copper and 9,989 ounces gold.

The updated 2017 target ranges for Mount Polley are to produce approximately 20-22 million pounds copper and 51-55 thousand ounces gold.

FULL SPEED AHEAD AT BRUCEJACK MINE

Pretium Resources Inc. is continuing to ramp-up gold production through Q4 2017 at the high-grade underground Brucejack mine in northwestern British Columbia, approximately 65 kilometres north of Stewart.

According to a company news release dated October 11, 2017, during Q3 of 2017, the Brucejack Mine produced 82,203 ounces of gold and 83,233 ounces of silver. During the last two months of the quarter, as the ramp-up progressed and the mill began processing stope ore exclusively, the averages were 12.36 grams per tonne gold and 96.92 per cent recoveries, averages for the entire quarter at 10.52 grams per tonne gold and 96.49 per cent respectively.

By the end of Q3, all the main operating units in the mill building were performing slightly better than expected at a process plant throughput average of 2,840 tonnes per day for a total of 261,262 tonnes of ore.

Crews are currently working two weeks on, two weeks off with more than 400 workers altogether. In addition to Pretium Resources crews, underground mining contractor, Procon Mining & Tunneling Ltd. is onsite, and a First Nations contractor is providing much of the road maintenance and logistics support.

“We’re continuing with our ramp-up through Q4,” says Joseph Ovsenek, president and CEO of Pretium Resources. “During Q3 our priority was the mill, making sure it was delivering as expected. Now for the last quarter of 2017, we’ve focused on the underground, opening up the various levels of the mine so that come Q1 of 2018, we will be at a steady state of gold production.” ●

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ON THE WINDS OF TOMORROW: B.C. LEADS THE WAY



By Melanie Franner

The Meikle Wind Project has significantly changed the landscape of wind power in the province of British Columbia. Located approximately 33 kilometres north of Tumbler Ridge, the 184.6 megawatt (MW) project reached commercial production in January 2017, increasing the province's installed wind capacity by an impressive 37 per cent.

As the largest wind facility in British Columbia, the Meikle Wind Project generates an amount of energy equal to the annual needs of 54,000 British Columbia homes.

"About 25 per cent of all electricity in the province of British Columbia is produced by independently owned power producers," says Jae Mather,

executive director, Clean Energy B.C., a professional association representing the independent power producers in the province. "Of that 25 per cent, about six per cent is wind power."

Mather admits that the number may appear low but he describes wind power as a highly relevant factor in B.C.'s electricity world. Better yet, he says that there is huge growth potential ahead.

"I'd like to see us double, if not triple, our current wind energy output within 10 years," he says. "B.C.'s unique geography means it has the opportunity to produce so much more."

Other significant wind projects in the province include:

- AltaGas' 102-MW Bear Mountain Wind Park near Dawson Creek, which was British Columbia's first fully-operational wind park. The facility became operational in October 2009 and generates enough electricity to power most of the province's South Peace region;
- Capital Power's 142-MW Quality Wind facility near Tumbler Ridge, which began commercial operation in November 2012 and generates enough clean electricity to meet the annual, average needs of approximately 43,000 homes;
- Alterra Power Corp.'s 144-MW Dokie 1 Wind Farm located in northeast British Columbia. Alterra Power Corp. also has plans to for an

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The Meikle Wind Project in Tumbler Ridge, B.C. is the largest wind facility in the province.

estimated 156-MW Dokie 2 Wind Farm expansion, which is still in the planning stage;

- Eye of the Wind at Grouse Mountain, which currently produces 1.5MW; and
- Cape Scott/Knob Hill Wind Farm on Vancouver Island, which produces 99MW.

Together, these wind farms represent

a significant piece of the independent power-producer pie, with BC Hydro accounting for about 75 per cent of the total electricity output for the province.

And, according to Mather, there are a many more smaller wind-power operations currently in the works.

“We have over 3,000 MW of shovel-ready renewable projects right now,” he says. “There is a vast amount

more that could be done with wind power in the province. Plus, we have incredibly good relationships with First Nations groups, and as far as I am concerned, independent power in the province is the single largest reconciliation tool in the government’s tool box.”

Mather suggests that a number of smaller projects currently progressing through the development and construction stages will come online within the next few years.

“Globally, wind turbines typically generate electricity about 40 per cent of the time,” he says. “Our best locations in B.C. can produce power about 70 per cent of the time. That shows you how our province’s incredible geography has created the perfect opportunity to use wind to meet more and more of our electricity needs. There is a huge potential for wind power here in British Columbia.” ●

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Proposed Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal Project Site



Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal Project site.

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY AT ALTAGAS' RIDLEY ISLAND PROPANE EXPORT TERMINAL

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Construction is moving at a swift pace at AltaGas' Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal (RIPET), and already the project is capturing interest from suppliers, local communities and businesses, and the Asian market.

Operating from Ridley Terminals Inc., near Prince Rupert, British Columbia, the advantages of the project are indisputable. The brownfield site has excellent access to CN's rail network and AltaGas' processing plants. An existing world-class marine jetty with ample deep water access to the Pacific Ocean will allow for the efficient loading of very large gas carriers that can access key global markets. With short shipping distances to Asian

markets –10 days compared to 25 days from the U.S. Gulf Coast – RIPET will open up new market opportunities for natural gas producers in Western Canada.

On August 1, 2017, AltaGas and Astomos Energy Corporation of Japan held an official signing ceremony to conclude a sale and purchase agreement for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from RIPET. Astomos, one of the world's largest LPG players, will purchase half of the 1.2 million tonnes of propane expected to be shipped from the terminal each year, beginning in Q1 2019.

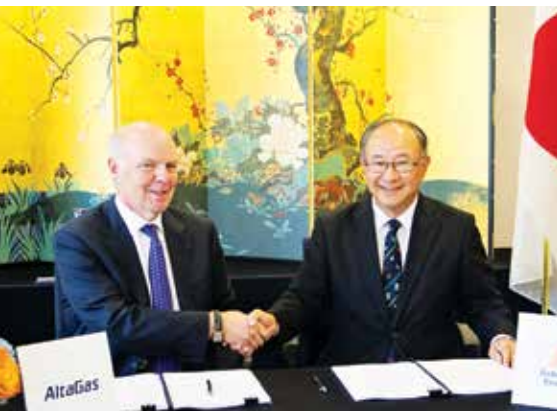
"The long-term agreement with Astomos is a major step in



Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal rendering.



Propane tank foundation.



David Cornhill, chairman and founder of AltaGas with Osamu Masuda, president of Astomos Energy as they celebrate the signing of an agreement for the sale and purchase of LPG from the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal currently under construction.

underpinning development of our Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal, Canada's first propane export terminal," said Dan Woznow, vice-president, Energy Exports at AltaGas.

Annually, RIPET is expected to ship propane that will be sourced from British Columbia and Alberta and transported using the existing CN rail network. Based on production from AltaGas' existing facilities and forecasts from new plants under construction and in active development, AltaGas anticipates having volumes equal to approximately 600,000 tonnes. The remaining volumes are expected to come from other producers and suppliers.

"This export terminal is one of the key building blocks of our strategy to build out natural gas processing and liquids separation capacity in the Montney formation, a leading North American gas play. The additional processing capacity we are building and connectivity to the export terminal provides upstream energy producers with unparalleled access at the most competitive rates to these premium markets. Market diversity, including global markets outside Canada, is a key step forward for Canadian producers," said Woznow.

AltaGas' self-perform construction model – successfully used in the past to build other projects on time and on budget – is once again being used to build RIPET. Construction began in the first quarter of this year. Crews are working on the concrete outer portion of the propane tank and have assembled two tower cranes that will be used in civil construction work. Civil site preparations have been completed and all major long-lead equipment has been ordered. Over the next few months, the propane tank will start to take shape with the final pour on the outer portion scheduled near the end of 2017.

RIPET is expected to be in-service by the first quarter of 2019. ●



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LUMBER INDUSTRY SAYS BATTLE FAR FROM OVER

By Jim Timlick

This past December, members of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) ruled unanimously that American producers have been harmed by imports of subsidized Canadian lumber. While the ruling hardly came as a surprise, it did nothing to dispel the concerns of B.C. lumber producers who conduct business south of the border.

The USITC's ruling is the latest in a series of recent regulatory actions undertaken by American authorities that threaten to make it substantially more difficult for the B.C. forestry industry to sell its good to U.S. buyers.

In April, the U.S. Department of Commerce imposed preliminary duties on countervailing subsidies following a review conducted by the USITC. Two months later, the commission imposed additional duties on dumping. Final duty rates were announced on November 6, and even though they

were slightly lower than the preliminary rates set earlier in the year, they still ranged between 20 and 23 per cent.

"The U.S. industry is recording record levels of profitability. It's stunning that the ITC could find 4-0 that our industry is injuring the U.S. domestic industry when they're making money hand over fist," says Susan Yurkovich, president of the B.C. Lumber Trade Council.

Yurkovich says the impact of the tariffs on B.C. producers has been somewhat muted to date, due mainly to the fact that price increases have been passed on to U.S. consumers and the Canadian dollar remains relatively cheap. The concern for B.C. producers, she says, is if the loonie's value starts to climb or the U.S. housing market experiences another downturn, there could suddenly be less demand for Canadian lumber products.

One of the more immediate impacts of the U.S.-imposed tariffs is that it could tie up substantial amounts of capital for some B.C.-based companies.

Canadian companies are required by law to provide cash deposits to pay for any future duties. That's money that could otherwise be spent on building new plants, upgrading equipment or hiring more staff, Yurkovich says.

"That cash is sitting there for the administrative review and appeals process to work their way through the system and that money is effectively taken out of the system," she says. "Obviously, if you're a larger player with deeper pockets you may have the ability to withstand a longer period of duties, but some may not."

The B.C. forestry industry contributes about \$13 billion a year the provincial GDP and supports approximately 145,000 direct and indirect jobs annually.



While there haven't been any job losses linked directly to the tariffs yet, Yurkovich says potential losses remain a concern for BCLTC members.

"One hundred per cent. That's why we're fighting this with everything we have," she added.

Tariffs also pose a threat for many companies that do business with the B.C. lumber industry, such as Prince George-based West Fraser Electro/Mechanical Ltd.

West Fraser Electro/Mechanical sells and repairs industrial electric motors and a substantial part of their clientele is sawmills within B.C.

General manager Robert Shaw says the latest U.S. tariffs haven't had a major impact on business to date but suggests that could soon change. The main concern, he says, is that some mills may hold off on major capital expenditures until the issue works its way through the appeals process, something he believes he has already seen evidence of.

"Over the past few months some of the sawmills have had little to no spend," Shaw says. "They didn't know what would happen in the next year so their capital expenditures, their growth, their maintenance plans were really impacted just by holding their reins back. They

weren't sure if they could spend because they weren't sure what this tariff was going to be."

Shaw says the reduced capital spend will likely mean more maintenance work in terms of servicing older equipment.

Although the B.C. lumber industry may have lost its latest battle with U.S. regulators, the war is far from over. The BCLTC is taking a "Team Canada approach" and is working with the Government of Canada and the Province of B.C. in its fight with the USITC. It is also filing appeals through both NAFTA and the WTO for both countervailing duties and dumping and will also be part of an administrative review process that will begin later this year.

Yurkovich says the council is optimistic that the tariffs will eventually be reduced, but it's preparing for a lengthy fight. She says the last dispute between the two sides took more than five years to resolve.

"Each time we've gone through an administrative review, the duties were reduced over time. It's hard to say what the road ahead looks like, but it certainly takes time to go through the appeals process and the administrative review." ●






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Photo: Industrial Forestry Service Ltd.



THE PORT OF PRINCE RUPERT IS BUILDING A BETTER BRITISH COLUMBIA THROUGH TRADE

By Joe Rektor, interim president and CEO, Port of Prince Rupert

A major success story has been quietly playing out in northern B.C. at the Port of Prince Rupert over the past decade. A recent economic impact study tells the story of a port that has grown into a key North America gateway for trade with Asia, producing widespread economic and social benefits from its international import and export operations.

In 2016, the Port of Prince Rupert shipped over \$35 billion worth of goods through its terminals, making it the third largest port by value of trade in Canada, while generating over \$1 billion in economic activity in the process. Its operations are directly responsible for creating over 3,100 jobs, with an average annual wage of over \$80,000 for the women and men

involved in moving goods to and from our international markets. When factoring in the indirect jobs from delivering supplies and services to those businesses, total employment in and around the Port increases to over 5,200.

These employment numbers represent an increase of over 150 per cent over the last decade —thousands of new service jobs on water, in terminals and logistics centres, on railway, in trucks, and many other related activities. The people of northern B.C. communities such as Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers, Burns Lake, and Prince George are among the best in the world at efficiently and reliably moving exports and imports through our gateway to their final destinations.

That's not just our opinion; we have awards from trade industry associations and testimonials from global shippers to prove it.

Along with the Ports of Vancouver, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and other cargo-handling facilities on B.C.'s coast, the growth in international shipping activity validates British Columbians' ability to compete in a global marketplace. Our collective role as Canada's Pacific Gateway should be celebrated and acknowledged for its significant contributions to B.C.'s economy and quality of life.

In northern B.C., this impact has been transformational. From a trade perspective, it has facilitated the opportunity for businesses to



competitively access new markets for both traditional and new products, especially in growing Asian markets such as China, Japan, and Korea. From an economic development perspective, it has brought not just new jobs, but diversification that has helped to stabilize a region that often lives through the ups and down of global resource price cycles.

But the Port's growth is also notable for both its sustainability and widespread benefit. It has represented economic opportunity for workers transitioning from depressed regional industries such as commercial fishing and pulp manufacturing. It has also represented employment and business opportunities for local First Nations. In Prince Rupert, approximately 35

per cent of port-related workers are of First Nations heritage – a mirror of our regional population demographics.

Port growth has also improved our collective ability to invest in public infrastructure, environmental monitoring and improvement programs, and world-class navigational safety technology. By minimizing our footprint and maximizing public benefit, we have built a foundation for long-term success that will pay dividends in British Columbia and across Canada.



The Port of Prince Rupert is on track for another record year of trade volume in 2017, and is seeing economic, employment, environmental, and social opportunities continuing to increase with it. Senior government efforts to continue to open Asian markets for trade and invest in trade-related gateway infrastructure promise an even brighter future. With a collective confidence and commitment, our ability to sail the course to the Port of Prince Rupert's full potential has never been stronger than it is today. ●



Joe Rektor is the interim president and CEO of the Port of Prince Rupert. A chartered professional accountant, Joe joined the Port in 1992 and prior to taking on the interim role as president & CEO, he led the teams responsible for financing, financial control and reporting, business analysis, risk management, and human resources.

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY

By Michelle Roberge and
June Wood of the Nechako
White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative



A hatchery-raised juvenile Nechako White Sturgeon being released into the Nechako River during the Juvenile Release Event held each year in the spring.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY INITIATIVE.

Dwelling in the waters of Nechako River watershed is a survivor from the age of the dinosaurs – white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*). This magnificent animal is the largest freshwater fish in Canada, and has existed relatively unchanged for millions of years. It is likely that White Sturgeon arrived to the Nechako watershed from the Upper Columbia River system when the two were connected over 10,000 years ago after the last ice age. Since that time, the white sturgeon in the Nechako River appear to have remained almost exclusively within its waters, using the deep waters of the river and lakes

for winter refuge and, in late spring, congregating to spawn in the river. Research to date indicates the Upper Fraser designation unit of white sturgeon (Upper Fraser, Middle Fraser, and Nechako River populations) is genetically distinct from other populations and within that designation unit, the Nechako River White Sturgeon is a unique group.

It is unknown how many adult sturgeon historically inhabited the Nechako watershed. Dakelh Elders share that for centuries their people caught white sturgeon, and a record from the Hudson Bay Company from 1818 reports 21 sturgeon measuring 2.2 to 3.6 metres in length being caught in Stuart Lake.

The most recent estimates suggest there are 630 adult



Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC operate the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre, and here Mike Manky (left) and Cory Williamson (right) work together fertilizing Nechako white sturgeon eggs with milt, both of which are collected from wild adult sturgeon caught using set-lines in the Nechako River during April and May. Photo courtesy of NWSRI.



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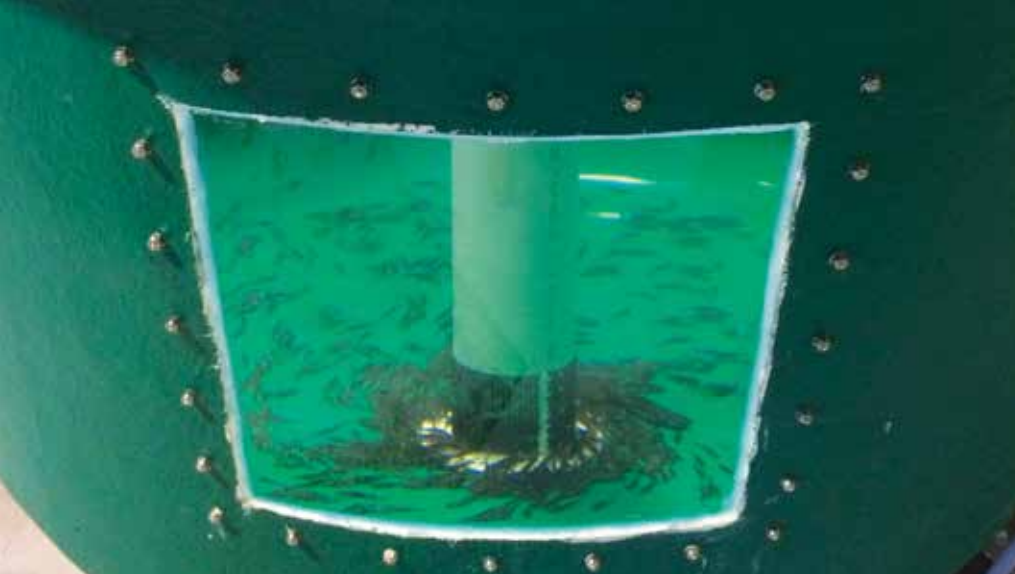


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Juvenile Nechako white sturgeon in one of the tanks at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre. Tours of the facility are available everyday during the summer months, and once a week during the fall to spring.

sturgeon and very few naturally-spawned young sturgeon in the Nechako River. Since sturgeon do not begin spawning until 20 to 40 years of age, the lack of young sturgeon means that an entire generation is missing. If nothing changes, there may be too few mature animals to sustain the population and Nechako White Sturgeon could become extirpated. This has led to Nechako White Sturgeon being listed as critically imperiled by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre, as endangered according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and as an endangered species under the Species at Risk Act.

Many factors influence the successful spawning of adults, and the survival and growth of young Nechako White Sturgeon. The building of Kenney Dam in 1952 dramatically changed the flow rate, hydrograph, and sediment transport through the river. These changes in river condition along with changes in food sources (recent recommendations are to list sockeye salmon as an endangered species); habitat alteration from human development and water



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use; predation on young sturgeon; loss of adults from fishing (prior to the fishery closing) and bi-catch in First Nations salmon nets, may cumulatively impact the population.

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) was formed in 2000 with the goal of returning the Nechako White Sturgeon to a self-sustaining population. The NWSRI has a recovery plan that guides projects and further research. To most effectively and quickly replenish the lost generation of sturgeon in the watershed, the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre was built in Vanderhoof and started operation in 2014. Here, young sturgeon are reared through a conservation-based aquaculture program that prioritizes genetic diversity, natural river conditions, and fish health. Sturgeon are raised to one-year of age from eggs and milt collected from Nechako White Sturgeon adults, and then released. These young sturgeon are monitored to determine their movement patterns and survival to better understand their interaction with neighbouring populations and to inform future recovery planning.

The NWSRI engages stakeholders, such as industry, governments and First Nations on the importance of Nechako White Sturgeon both ecologically and socially. To reduce harm to fish, First Nations fishing families participate in a program to safely release adult sturgeon caught in salmon nets and, to create future stewards, the NWSRI has developed a sturgeon-specific school curriculum. ●

For more information about Nechako White Sturgeon and the NWSRI, please visit www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org.



Adult Nechako White Sturgeon caught during the brood capture program. The crew inspects the fish to see if it is close to spawning condition. If so, the fish is brought back to the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre for breeding.



The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre had two tour guides this past summer that also travelled to communities to raise public awareness and education about Nechako white sturgeon.



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Dawson Creek, a pretty community in north eastern British Columbia of approximately 13,000 people, can no longer remain a quaint little secret as it is set to become a hub for the Peace River region. Not only does it boast a continuously-diversifying economy and various resource projects nearby, but there's actually something to DO here.

"We are focussing on quality of life," says Dale Bumstead, Mayor of Dawson Creek. "If someone is going to move to Dawson Creek for the opportunity of a great career, the spouse and family must be able to see themselves living and thriving in these rural communities. So it's about enhancing and building upon that quality of life – arts, culture, recreation, retail, and transportation needs."



Ready to board the Spirit of Dawson Creek, Mayor Dale Bumstead with Councillor Terry McFadyen.

Founded at the turn of the century, Dawson Creek was an agricultural prairie with rich farmland which became the foundation of its economy. In 1931, the Northern Alberta Railway came into the Peace River region with the end of the line stopping in Dawson Creek, making it a distribution point for agricultural products across North America.

In 1941, at the beginning of World War II, the US needed an overland route to Alaska – a plan that included bringing 10,000 troops through the region by rail. Dawson Creek became Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway and became a transportation hub providing a link between B.C. and Alberta and to Alaska.

Bring on the evolution of the forestry industry in the second half of the century, and mining taking off at Tumbler Ridge in the early 80s, Dawson Creek became a service point as it was the largest service centre in the area.

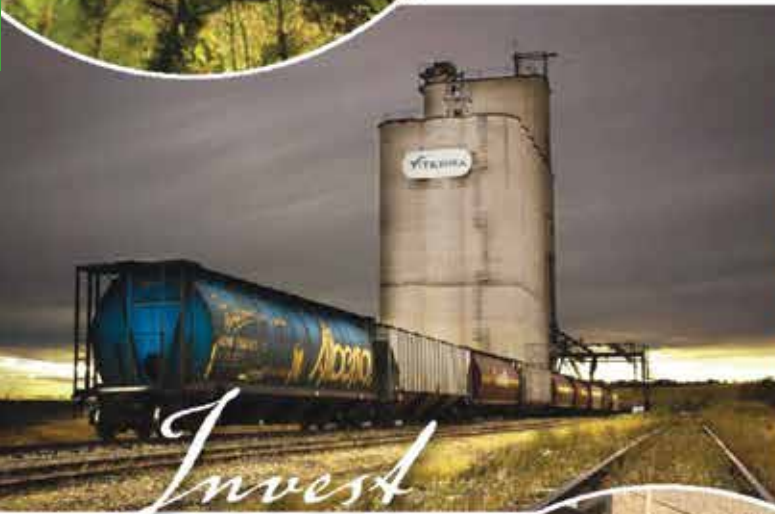
In the early 2000s, the natural gas sector was discovered. "Over the last 15 or 20 years The Montney Formation has been developing into one of the key natural gas fields in North America," says Bumstead. "This is transforming our community again. It is such a huge resource with such significant potential for the future and the amount of investment in and around our community as a result of that is unbelievable."

And with Site C, the largest capital project in the history of B.C. at \$8.8 billion, receiving the green light from

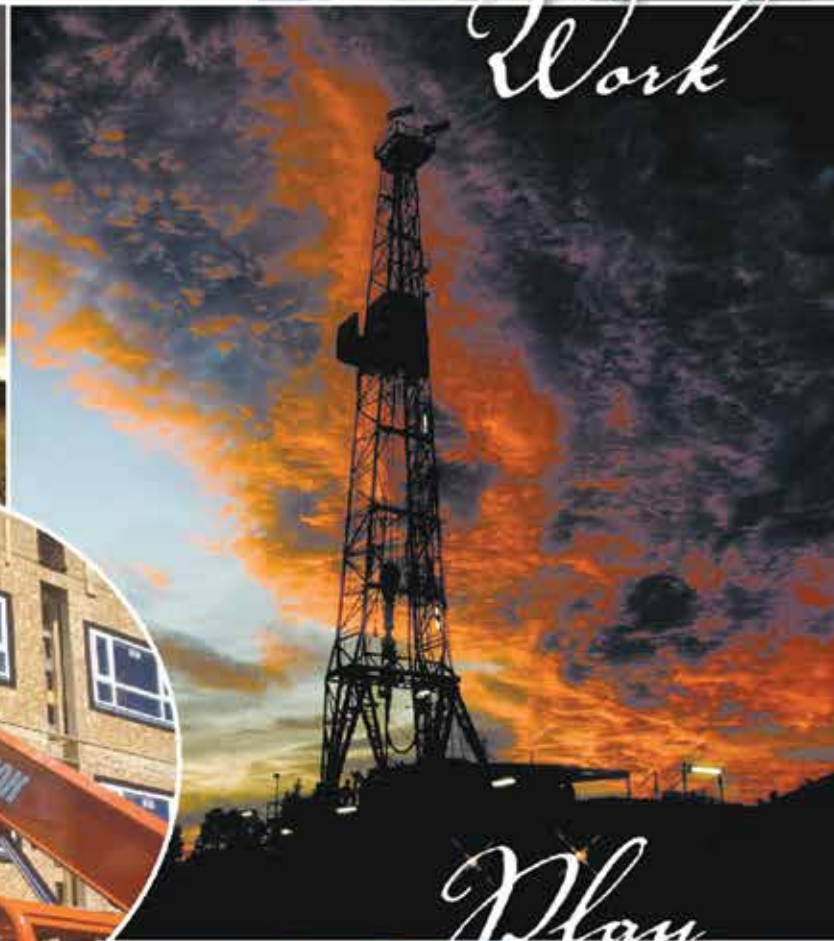
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Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway in downtown Dawson Creek.

Premier Horgan, Dawson Creek is transforming once again. With Encana Corporation and Veresen Inc. building three processing facilities all within 30 minutes from Dawson Creek – a total capital project for the three plants being \$2.5 billion – the city is now becoming known as an energy-sector community.

“Because we are hidden in the northeastern part of the province, we are somewhat invisible to the rest of B.C.,” says Bumstead. “But all of the activity, development, and investment going on in our community to support these projects is unbelievable.”

Bumstead says that a lot of investment is going into building infrastructure and the impact to the community has been huge. “We have 950 hotel rooms in our community, and over the last year, you could not rent one room. Now that these plants are beginning operations and hiring

full-time employees that will be in the community for the next 30 – 40 years, real estate will begin to catch up. So it is a bit of cycle.”

He says that in anticipation of the boom, the town is focussing on core infrastructure such as water, sewer, pipelines, processing facilities, and protective services such as police and fire safety. “When the building does begin, the infrastructure will be in place to support the growth.”

Future projects include Louisiana Pacific, which has an OSB plant in Dawson Creek, announcing they will be transforming the plant to produce SmartSide residential siding for distribution across the northwest. The \$130-million project will add another 70-80 jobs to their current employee base and is another positive project that will help diversify the economic drivers in the community.

But, with an economy that seems reinforced several times over, what else will attract people to set up shop in Dawson Creek? A good quality of life must include its share of sports, recreation, and culture, and Dawson Creek delivers.

The Bear Mountain Ski Hill is a 10-minute drive from Dawson Creek offering skiing, snowboarding, and Nordic cross-country ski trails, plus skating and curling areas. Facilities includes as an indoor equestrian centre, aquatics centre, and The Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. Plus, an 18-hole golf course, excellent fishing, hiking, and camping will cure your need for nature all year long.

And Dawson Creek has another ace up its sleeve. “What gives us an advantage over communities such as Grande Prairie, Fort St. John, and even Prince George is our multi-plex and events centre.”

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The Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, based at the Calvin Kruk Centre for the Arts building is located in the heart of downtown Dawson Creek and offers music, dance, theatre, and art-making programs.



Encana Events Centre hosts a sold-out rock concert.

The Encana Events Centre, a 4,500-seat venue, has given Dawson Creek the ability to attract entertainment such as Jason Aldean, KISS, and Motley Crue, and it just hosted the 2017 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in November.

“We have really locked into attracting world-class entertainment because of our geography and our facility,” says Bumstead. “It also allows us to leverage sports and entertainment tourism as a strategic component of our economy.”

With daily direct service to Calgary, Vancouver, and Prince George, the Dawson Creek Regional Airport continues to upgrade its facilities in order to add more capacity, additional charter flight services for industry, and increased customer service.

So with infrastructure, economy, and lifestyle on par in Dawson Creek, living there and thriving there is more than a possibility, it’s an opportunity.

“The accessibility to quality of life amenities is what you have to build in order to entice people to come live and work in the community. That’s what we focus on as we continue to push and build.” ●



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When we think about mitigating the impacts of resource development, we often consider features on the landscape that we can see, touch, and feel. Features such as the rivers, lakes, trees, and wildlife that make British Columbia unique.

What is less apparent – but increasingly important, according to Canadian law – is accommodating the unique cultures that have thrived on that landscape for countless generations. First Nations’ cultures are intricately interwoven with the physical features, such as caribou, salmon, and geological aspects; however, often the cultural aspects that most need consideration are invisible, intangible, require input from the community, and a professional cultural resource management professional to adequately protect.

Never has there been a more interesting time to work within the realm of B.C.’s diverse Indigenous cultures. Since the Supreme Court of Canada’s *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* decision recognized First Nations’ oral histories as signifying rights to the land in 1997, the requirement to consult and accommodate Aboriginal interests has changed the face of resource development.

More recently, in 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada awarded Aboriginal title of more than 1,700 square kilometres of land to the Tsilhqot’in First Nation near Williams Lake. The decision was hailed as a game changer for the province, solidifying the need for proponents to consult and accommodate First Nations before moving ahead with projects. What that means on the ground for resource development initiatives is still being assessed and discussed.

For some, the requirement to consult and accommodate First Nations prior to going ahead with a project might sound like a daunting task. But it doesn’t need to be: it is an opportunity to better understand the concerns of the local community and incorporate local interests into resource development. When local voices are involved in projects moving forward, everyone benefits.

Cultural resource management does exactly that: it marks the intersection of local knowledge and big business. It’s where past traditions meet future development. It’s where

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people of differing knowledge bases come together to create a stronger, more resilient, and more diverse future for the region.

Practising true cultural resource management means involving the local community in the planning and implementing of a project. Regulatory processes are impersonal, bureaucratic, and alienating to local voices. Working with a cultural resource management specialist who has existing relationships in the community will help a project gain social licence through social trust. Cultural resource management creates a context for trust by bridging differences in stakeholder perspectives and motivations, which is necessary for fair and balanced processes that produce sustainable projects with integrity and community benefit.

There is much to be gained from working alongside local stakeholders: a better understanding of local interests and traditional knowledge of the community all contribute to a win-win scenario. Working with a cultural resource management professional helps to bridge the gap and unravel the complexities of community engagement.

When we work together, we all benefit. ●



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BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE AT NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE

By Deb Smith

Construction has passed the halfway mark on the new Trades Training Centre of Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, B.C. Funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and private contributions from Canbriam Energy Inc., Encana Corporation., Shell Canada Ltd., and TransCanada Corporation, the facility will play an important part in meeting

predicted labour market outlooks and supporting the surrounding communities.

At a total cost of \$33.02 million, the 50,000-square-foot building will house trades programs currently scattered across the 60-acre campus in numerous 1950s-era buildings that were part of a military base monitoring the Distant Early

Warning system during the Cold War era after World War II.

“The original buildings have outlived their lives, and it was a less expensive option to replace them altogether rather than try to renovate,” says Anndra Graff, vice-president finance and corporate services for Northern Lights College.

Vancouver-based McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. designed the new facility for LEED Gold certification, incorporating community needs and adhering to the Wood First Act with such features as structural laminated wood beams and demonstration roof-top green space that will play a part in the heating and air conditioning within the building.

As the general contractor on the project, Leducor Group is pursuing an aggressive timeline, breaking ground in October 2016, anticipating lock-up by January 2018 and substantial completion in May.

Graff explains how most of the landscaping and expansion of parking lots, was done through the summer so that little will be left to finish come

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Brucejack Mine begins production in 2017, and has applied to increase production rate to 3,800 tonnes per day.

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF NORTHERN B.C. RESOURCE SECTORS IN 2017

By Kylie Williams

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Mike.Morris.MLA@leg.bc.ca
www.MikeMorrisMLA.bc.ca

Last year was certainly a mixed bag for northern British Columbia's resource sectors. Commodity prices continued to recover, including BC's second-largest export, metallurgical coal, which was good news for coal miners. In June, Pretium Resources poured its first gold bar at the new Brucejack gold mine, and Site C was approved to continue construction, albeit reluctantly, by newly-appointed Premier John Horgan, representing an NDP minority B.C. government supported by the Green Party. But, there was also heartbreak, particularly for the forestry sector, with forest fires wiping out vast swaths of unharvested timber and softwood lumber tariffs imposed by the United States. On the energy side, several Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects were cancelled or remain in limbo as investors take their money elsewhere.

ENERGY

The brakes have been firmly applied to what was previously referred to as B.C.'s burgeoning LNG industry. Plans for numerous refineries and pipelines intended to transport natural gas extracted from the northeast of the province to the coast and onto ships bound for Asian markets are on hold or no longer viable.

B.C.'s 'policy perception' score dropped significantly in 2017 and, according to the Fraser Institute's 11th annual survey of petroleum industry executives and managers, investors now view this province as Canada's least attractive jurisdiction for oil and gas exploration and production investment. The province's rating dropped in contrast with various jurisdictions around the globe, comparing barriers to investment such as high tax rates, costly regulatory obligations, and uncertainty over environmental regulations.

In July, B.C.'s largest proposed LNG project, the \$36-billion Pacific



Shell Canada-led LNG Canada project in Kitimat received an extra five-year lease from the National Energy Board (NEB) in September, but it's still unsure whether the project will move ahead.



BC wildfires near Williams Lake, taken Thursday, July 13, 2017. Over 1.2 million hectares of the province burned in an unprecedented wildfire season during summer 2017. Photo courtesy of JASON PAYNE/PNG.

NorthWest LNG facility near Prince Rupert, was cancelled by project operator, PETRONAS, despite receiving the green light from the federal government in September 2016. “We are disappointed that the extremely challenging environment brought about by the prolonged depressed prices and shifts in the energy industry have led us to this decision,” said Anuar Taib, executive vice-president and CEO (Upstream), PETRONAS, in a press release dated July 2017.

Although preliminary site preparation work continued during the year in Kitimat at Chevron Corp.’s Kitimat LNG project and the Shell Canada-led LNG Canada project, residents are still waiting to hear if they will go ahead. Encouragingly, Shell’s Kitimat project received an extra five-year lease from the National Energy Board (NEB) in September.

The future of Site C, the third hydroelectric dam to be built on the Peace River, hung in the balance from mid- to late-2017 as the new B.C. government reassessed the project – a project that BC Hydro says will produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours of electricity each year, or enough to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C. On December 11, 2017, Premier Horgan delivered his party’s decision. “At the end of the

day, we’ve come to a conclusion that, although Site C is not the project we would have favoured or would have started, it must be completed.”

MINING

Northern B.C.’s mining sector fared slightly better in 2017, the Pretium Resources’ underground Brucejack mine, north of Stewart, stealing the headlines when it began production in July. Initially producing 2,700 tonnes per day, the company has since applied to the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to increase the Brucejack Mine production rate to 3,800 tonnes per day.

Further north, near the Yukon border, construction of JDS Silver Inc.’s high-grade silver-zinc-lead Silvertip mine is well underway. In September, Debbam Capital, a global private equity firm, bought the mine for consideration of up to US \$250 million. The deal is expected to expedite the construction and development of the Silvertip Mine into production.

The September 2017 budget update also brought good news for mineral explorers in the province. “Specifically, the BC Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit for individuals has been maintained and the expansion of the expenses

eligible for the Mining Exploration Tax Credit to include environmental studies and community consultation costs to align with the federal tax rules is encouraging,” said Diane Nicolson, chair of the AME board, in a statement issued by the association.

Rising metallurgical coal prices in 2016 continued to rise in 2017. Prince Rupert’s Ridley coal terminal is exporting over 1,000 per cent more metallurgical coal than one year earlier, according to the Prince Rupert Port Authority. As reported by the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia in September, the value of coal exports reached \$3.6 billion at the end of June, or 163 per cent over the value achieved during the same time last year.

Further south, however, the B.C. government opted not to issue an environmental assessment certificate to KGHM’s proposed open-pit copper and gold mine near Kamloops in December. The decision could have reverberations for northern projects.

FORESTRY

What was feared in late 2016 came true in April 2017, when U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he would be putting a 20 per cent tariff on softwood lumber entering the U.S. from Canada – a key ingredient for affordable housing in the U.S. The

previous softwood lumber agreement between the two countries expired in late 2015, and despite intense negotiations in late 2017 between the two nations, Trump determined that the imports were “unfairly subsidized

and dumped into the U.S. market.” Canada responded at the federal level with the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Jim

Carr, Minister of Natural Resources issuing a joint statement in response on November 2, 2017. “The U.S. Department of Commerce’s decision on punitive countervailing and anti-dumping duties against Canada’s softwood lumber producers is unfair, unwarranted, and deeply troubling.”

The U.S. is British Columbia’s largest market for softwood lumber products, so B.C. Premier Horgan also responded. “We will continue to fight for the 60,000 British Columbians who depend on 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.

Over 1.2 million hectares of the province burned in an unprecedented wildfire season during summer 2017, including an estimated 53-million cubic metres of timber, equivalent to about one year’s interior allowable annual cut, said Forests Minister Doug Donaldson. Mills and harvesting operations in undamaged areas were also halted by ongoing evacuations and restrictions to prevent new outbreaks. The forestry sector will take some time to recover from the damage.

WHAT ABOUT NAFTA?

The B.C. economy has enjoyed several strong years, and the B.C. Business Council (BCBC) expects the positive momentum will carry forward into 2018. However, quite a lot is riding on NAFTA (North America Free Trade Agreement) negotiations. The BCBC views NAFTA as “the most worrisome near-term downside risk” for both Canada and B.C. “Failure to secure a favourable trade deal with the US that maintains Canada’s access to the vital American market would have negative implications across the Canadian industrial economy, leading to job losses and diminished business investment.” ●




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NEW REPORT EXAMINES THE HR CHALLENGES AND CHANGES UNIQUE TO CANADA'S EXPLORATION SECTOR

By Lindsay Coffin, Senior Research Associate, MiHR



Canada's Mining Labour Market Outlook allows for a more refined and accurate reflection of the labour market realities and challenges facing mineral exploration in Canada.

Mineral exploration is the first stage of the mining process and requires collaboration between multiple stakeholders to be successful. The mineral exploration industry consists of a myriad of different organizations that come together to discover potential areas for economic mineral resource development. The industry is both highly volatile and poorly understood, prompting the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) to partner with The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) in early 2017; to investigate the particular experiences and perspectives of the wide variety of people working in Canada's mineral exploration sector. This research

offers a new look at many topics in exploration from a broad and national lens, including topics such as women in exploration, work integrated learning and career awareness. These insights will support industry stakeholders in creating strategies to increase the sector's ability to engage new pools of talent in mineral exploration work.

By developing and deploying a robust research tool - a survey of individuals and organizations working in exploration - MiHR and PDAC were able to fill a gap in labour market information, allowing for a more refined and accurate reflection of the labour market realities and challenges facing

mineral exploration in Canada.

Responses from the 397 completed surveys represented six categories of people connected with the exploration industry; employers, contractors, workers, educators, students and affiliates. The key observations derived from information provided by respondents help foster a better understanding



Thor Lake Exploration Camp in the Northwest Territories. Photo courtesy of the Mining Industry Human Resources Council.



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of the exploration industry. Some issues contributing to the unpredictability cannot be mitigated; the exploration industry will always be cyclical as it is closely tied to commodity prices and stock market volatility. However, this survey identified key areas for improvement.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

Key observations include a need for increased collaboration between industry and educational institutions and better career awareness and attraction efforts - students reported the most negative career outlook. Results also illustrated an absence of a mid-career workforce.

One of the positive aspects highlighted in these findings is the mineral exploration industry's much higher proportion of women and immigrants compared to the mining industry. In an increasingly competitive market for talent, diversity in the workforce is becoming a prominent solution to address skill shortages. Diversifying the labour force requires an increase in participation, recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups. These results indicate the exploration industry is making progress in diversifying its labour force.

Looking more closely at the results, although the rate of female representation is lower than the total Canadian workforce, it appears to be much higher in mineral exploration than other Canadian resource sectors (Figure 1). Thirty per cent of survey respondents were female, represented across all categories of respondents (Figure 2). This is supported by employer responses indicating

Figure 1: Rate of female representation in the workforce for different industries compared to the survey response rate and headcount data provided by employers.

Source: Surveying the Canadian Exploration Sector: An industry description, 2017; Statistics Canada, 2016.

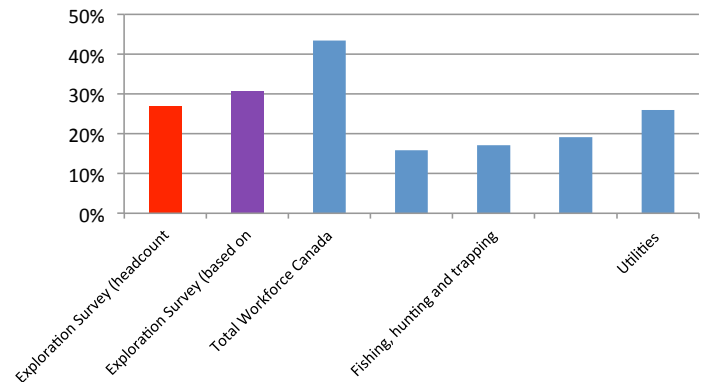
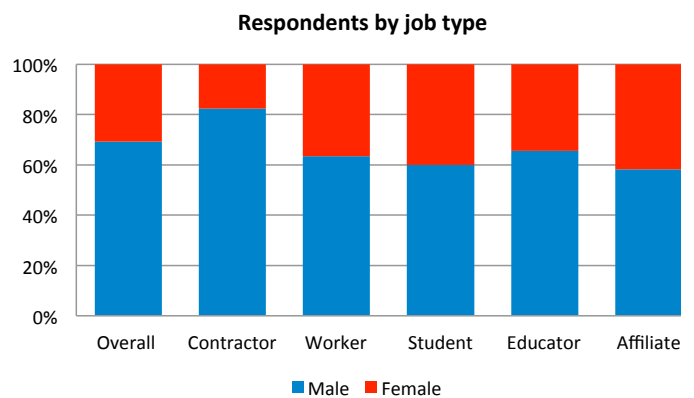


Figure 2: Number of male and female respondents by job category.

Source: Surveying the Canadian Exploration Sector: An industry description, 2017.





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that female representation is much higher in mineral exploration than in mining, and female representation rate of 27 per cent reported in employer-reported headcounts.

Eighty-seven per cent of female respondents indicated they have a Bachelor's degree, and 40 per cent indicated they have a graduate-level degree (Master's or PhD) meeting the high educational and technical demands of the exploration sector. The increased representation of women with higher education levels is also reflected in the enrolment numbers for Earth Science programs in Canada where women make up 52 per cent of Bachelor, 53 per cent of Master and 39 per cent of PhD programs (CCCESD, 2016). Furthermore, there is an increase in the number of women registering to become professional geoscientists (P.Ge). Currently only 20 per cent of P.Ge's registered in Canada are women, but they make up 37 per cent of registered Geoscientists in Training (G.I.T.) (Geoscientists Canada, 2017).

All mining stakeholders – employers, government, educators, associations, etc. – have a vested interest in optimizing the supply of labour, for today and tomorrow. A number of key observations were made using data collected from this survey that help increase our knowledge of the labour market realities and challenges

facing mineral exploration in Canada. This pilot study on the exploration industry provides valuable information about the least-understood labour market in the mining industry. This survey was the first step in a larger strategy that incorporates learning from all stakeholders in our sector – not just mining extraction – enabling us to better understand and address labour market issues related to the entire mining cycle. ●

Visit MiHR's website to read the full report at www.mihr.ca.



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As a leading gold producer with operations in the United States, Australia, Ghana, Peru and Suriname, Newmont Mining depends on positive community relationships.

THE OBJECTIVE

Newmont recognizes that its operations require support from the communities that host them and this support can only be earned. To this end, Newmont looks for development partners who provide community-centred services that proactively engage employees and community members alike.

DURING THE 2015-2017 BASEBALL SEASONS AND AS PART OF A STRIKEOUT FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE WITH THE COLORADO ROCKIES, NEWMONT MINING GENEROUSLY DONATED \$124,650 TO HELP DELIVER MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO MULTIPLE COUNTRIES. THE DONATIONS FROM THIS INITIATIVE ARE DISTRIBUTED TO PROJECTS IN NEED OF FUNDING AROUND THE WORLD WHERE SUPPLIES ARE SCARCE AND THE NEED IS REAL.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

The commitment to positive relationships with host communities is a core value for Newmont. "Our business involves much more than exploring for and producing gold. It's about understanding people's interests and aspirations for their communities," says Matt King, senior manager, social responsibility. "Project C.U.R.E. helps make this happen through their extensive needs assessments and approach to gaining agreement from the end users on every piece of medical equipment before it is shipped. They also provide great employee volunteer experiences to pack and deliver medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in communities close to where we operate."

WORKING TOGETHER

The Newmont and Project C.U.R.E. relationship extends far beyond providing employee volunteer opportunities or sponsoring a cargo container of medical equipment and supplies.

While these are cornerstones of the partnership, Newmont and Project C.U.R.E. take their responsibilities to local communities seriously:

- Newmont employees not only volunteer to sort and pack materials and Kits for Kids at Project C.U.R.E. distribution centres, they also pick up and deliver C.U.R.E. kits when they're traveling to most of the places where they work.
- Newmont partners with Project C.U.R.E. to bring medical teams to Ghana, Peru and Suriname. These medical teams comprise 12 to 20 volunteer medical personnel and have provided primary care clinics, patient education and provider education to more than 7,000 community members. They use the supplies and resources provided by Project C.U.R.E. and a traveling pharmacy to serve the local communities. Newmont's local staff and volunteers act as stewards, community liaisons, and translators during the clinics.





- For four years, Newmont has sponsored the Helping Babies Survive training program in Ghana. Through this program, they've trained more than 200 nurses and midwives in neonatal resuscitation and newborn care. The neonatal mortality rate in the regions of Ghana where Newmont operates has been reported at 0.79 while the national average is 8.7.
- During the 2015 to 2017 baseball seasons, and as part of a strike-out fundraising initiative with the Colorado Rockies, Newmont Mining generously donated a total of \$124,650 to help deliver medical supplies to multiple countries. The donations from this initiative are distributed to projects in need of funding around the world where supplies are scarce and the need is real.

OUR IMPACT

Since 2005, the Newmont-Project C.U.R.E. partnership has engaged Newmont employees, strengthened the infrastructure of Newmont's host communities and fulfilled Newmont's objective to serve as a catalyst for economic development in local communities. With Project C.U.R.E., Newmont has delivered more than \$8.8 million worth of medical supplies and equipment, which adds up to 19 40-foot shipping containers, benefitting nearly one million people. ●



“With a return on investment of 20:1, the work we do through our partnership with Project C.U.R.E. is one of the most impactful investments we make.”

– Matt King, senior manager, social responsibility



Snowy Reid Street in downtown Quesnel.
Credit: Dax Justin Photography

QUESNEL, BRITISH COLUMBIA: MOVING CONFIDENTLY INTO THE FUTURE

By Jake Rogger, City of Quesnel

There's a growing energy in Quesnel, now that the city has completed a re-branding initiative that is reinvigorating the sense of community pride and identity. The new 1,300-seat West Fraser Centre Arena was completed in September and many other projects are on the go, including a master trails plan, downtown revitalization project, skate park redesign, and the construction of a number of new playgrounds.

With that being said, Quesnel, like other rural communities, has faced its fair share of challenges. After the mountain pine beetle epidemic and the 2017 wildfire season, residents are more aware than ever of the need to come together and work towards a sustainable future. The fact that so many initiatives and community projects are being accomplished speaks to the resilience and the ingenuity of the community; Quesnel is full of people that can dig deep and make the best of things.

On that note, one of the more interesting projects happening right now is the professional and trades recruitment program. The city has worked diligently to successfully find ways to attract talented people to come to

town. It began with doctors and is expanding to the trades and other trained professionals.

Here's how it works: Major employers identify a potential new recruit. The Red Carpet Coordinator, contracted by the city, reaches out to identify needs. The coordinator connects with the new recruit and helps find appropriate short/long-term housing, provides a community tour, and helps to orient the whole family into the new community. This orientation includes networking events, finding activities for the kids, and helping spouses find employment. All of this is meant to provide a warm welcome to Quesnel in the hopes of making the decision to take a job and uproot an easier one.

The current program continues to build on the physician recruitment program that started it all, which has seen 15 new doctors come to Quesnel, as well as a speech pathologist, two physiotherapists, and a nurse practitioner, all while the community has strengthened its ties with medical students and recruiting agencies. As a result, the program has been recognized with three separate awards.

However, in the longer term, it isn't just about getting people here – it's also about living here. A major part of Quesnel's success in retaining physicians has been the lifestyle options that the area affords to new residents. Quesnel, it is often said, is a small town with big city amenities. It is small enough that residents have a strong sense of community and responsibility for one another – the type of people who smile and say hello when passing in the street, or lend a hand to a stranger. Yet, it is large enough to be able to provide unparalleled amenities like the indoor soccer facility, aquatic and recreation centre, and the new arena, not to mention the trail network that is on its way. The amount of fun and active options is only emphasized by the welcoming atmosphere that the citizens embody; the city's culture is rooted in getting outside with friends, enjoying the simple things in life, and cherishing the moment.



One of Quesnel's many parks and playgrounds.

With the success of the Health Care Red Carpet Recruitment Program – both the way the community has embraced the new physicians, and the way the new physicians have taken to the community – it only makes sense the city has made the jump to bring in other trained professionals. The expanded recruitment program is currently in its infancy, but residents are confident that it will continue in the same direction as the first award-winning program.

All of this is to say that Quesnel, even in the face of challenges, has proven adept at finding solutions – in this case, welcoming physicians and soon-to-be many other trained professionals, and making them feel like part of the family. In turn, new community members are feeling welcomed, wanted, healthy, and happy, and are finding the time to enjoy the simple things that residents of Quesnel have always known to be important. This only adds to the growing energy in the area; as Quesnel moves into the future with its uncertainty, the community does so confidently, knowing that the region has the unique qualities that allow it not just to tackle problems, but to turn them into opportunities to thrive. ●

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MINERALS NORTH CONFERENCE 2018

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

By Jim Timlick

A small town in the Bulkley Valley in British Columbia's northern interior region is getting ready to roll out the red carpet for members of the mining industry and other local groups.

The annual Minerals North Conference will take place April 25-27 in Houston, B.C., a town of about 3,000 people with a long history of involvement in the mining industry. Houston was selected as the successful bidder to host this year's conference by members of the not-for-profit Minerals North Conference Association (MNCA).



Houston 2018
MINERALS NORTH
 MINING - IT'S IN OUR VEINS

The Minerals North Conference was first held in 1989 in the town of Terrace, B.C., although the event didn't become officially known as Minerals North until two years later when it was hosted by the municipality of Stewart, B.C.

The conference serves as an

opportunity for members of the mineral industry and non-industry people to dialogue about issues affecting them, highlight economic opportunities the industry has to offer, and showcase services and products the sector can provide. Attendees include mining and exploration company representatives, service providers, First Nations communities, and elected officials.

While the event now regularly attracts hundreds of guests from across the province, it remains very much an intimate affair, says one organizer.

"The conference has grown exponentially over the years, and delegates tell us this is because of the



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amazing networking opportunities among industry, community, suppliers, and First Nations,” says Sue Clark of the MNCA. “The format used is unlike other conferences that focus entirely on the industry perspective.”

The schedule for this year’s Minerals North Conference will include a series of pre-conference activities, discussions on the state of the industry, guest speakers, and a trade show.

Organizing committee member Kevin Alles, who oversees marketing and communications, says Minerals North is an ideal opportunity for mining industry representatives and other community members to network.

“There are some larger conferences out there, but this is unique because it’s smaller. We’re expecting 300 to 350 people whereas other mining conferences have thousands and thousands of people,” he says. “It represents a unique opportunity. If you have a booth it makes it much easier to connect with people and it’s much more of an intimate networking opportunity.”

This is the second time Houston will host the conference, the first being in 1997. Other previous host communities include Prince George, Burns Lake, Terrace, and Smithers, and each host community is responsible for organizing the event.

Despite how the conference has grown over the years, Alles says Minerals North organizers have

made a deliberate effort to make sure it remains a community-led effort. Hosting duties typically rotate between both large and small communities.

In addition to highlighting the latest developments in the mineral sector, the conference also highlights what its host communities have to offer.

“A lot of times, the host committee will include tours of mines or pre-conference activities that are specific to the conference’s location,” say Alles. “Each conference has its own flavour.”

For a complete list of events for this year’s Minerals North Conference visit the MNCA website at www.mineralsnorth.ca. ●

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

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AL Sims Group.....	33	IRL Supplies Ltd.....	24
AMCO Wholesale.....	7	Janitors Warehouse.....	35
Association For Mineral Exploration B.C.....	5	Kitimat Work B.C.....	35
BK Two Way Radio Ltd.....	32	Mike Morris – MLA Prince George.....	38
Blue Collar Camps.....	11	Monster Industries Ltd.....	29
Brock White Canada.....	3	Moose Mountain Technical Services.....	41
Bulkley Valley Wholesale.....	28	Nelson Machinery & Equipment Ltd.....	48
Capri Motor Inn.....	36	Northern Lights College.....	4
CIF Construction.....	OBC	Polar Mobility Research Ltd.....	9, 13, 49
City of Dawson Creek.....	31	Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada.....	IBC
City of Quesnel.....	47	Silver King Helicopters Inc.....	40
Coast Mountain Wireless.....	15	Spotless Uniform.....	42
Crossroads Resource Management.....	35	Stewart Construction Ltd.....	34
District of Houston.....	19	Storm Mountain Technical Services, Inc.....	15
District of Kitimat.....	11	Sullivan Motor Products.....	13, 43
Dynamic Avalanche Consulting.....	27	TDB Consultants Inc.....	50
Eagle Valley Holdings Ltd.....	IFC	Timberspan Wood Products Inc.....	43
Excel Personnel Inc.....	47	Van Houtte Coffee Services.....	22
Fireweed Helicopters Ltd.....	9	Western Belting.....	11
Four Rivers.....	28		



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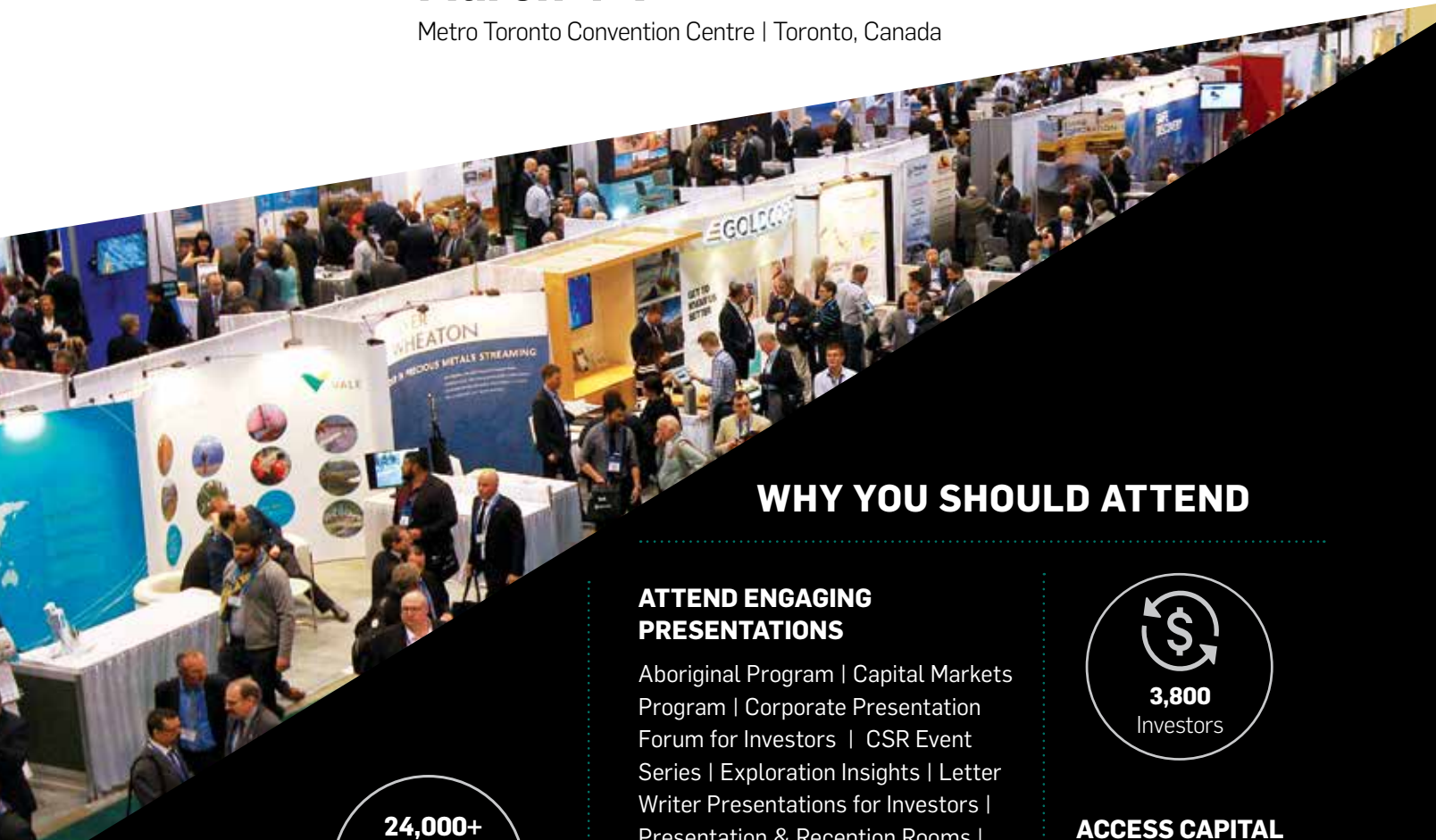
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