

Mining Matters

REGIONAL MINES:

There are two major (Endako, Huckleberry) and three minor (Yellow Jacket, Fireside, Cassiar Gold) operating mines in the Northwest Region. These sites produce a variety of materials from molybdenum (Endako) and copper (Huckleberry) to barite (Fireside) and jade (Cassiar). Eleven proposed mines are in various stages of the development and approval process, including Dome Mountain locally.

Many of these mines and projects use Smithers as a base, particularly for air services. Whether transporting employees and supplies or utilizing Medivac services, the Smithers Airport is extremely important to the industry. As well, numerous employees, services, and even storefronts (the Jade Store) are based in Smithers.

MINING FACTOIDS:

Actual land usage for a mine is extremely small relative to the area explored – less than 28,000 hectares are currently being used by mining which is less than 0.03% of BC's total land base. *Source: Government of British Columbia*

Mine reclamation is a fundamental part of the mining life cycle in British Columbia. The Technical & Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) has been dedicated to excellence in mine reclamation in B.C. since 1977. *Source: Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation*

Major minerals produced in BC (as a percentage of Canada's production): Coal (66%); Copper (40%); Silver (50%); Gold, Lead, Molybdenum & Zinc. *Source: Mining Association of BC*

Over 3000 suppliers of specialized mining goods and services have been fostered by the activities of Canadian minerals and metals. *Source: Government of Canada*

Mining industry products help build highways, electrical and communications networks, housing, automobiles, consumer electronics and other products essential to modern life. *Source: Mining Association of Canada, Facts & Figures 2008*

Mining Matters is a bi-monthly column written by Anastasia Ledwon, P.Geo and welcomes your feedback and questions at general@smithers.ca.

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