



## NEWS RELEASE

### **B.C. Mineral Explorers Welcome Federal Budget**

*Renewed commitment to regulatory review, mineral exploration tax credit and geoscience are appreciated*

**Vancouver, B.C. - March 4, 2010** – The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) voiced its appreciation of the federal budget and commended the government for renewing its commitment to regulatory review, the mineral exploration tax credit, and geoscience.

“The federal government has announced its intention to remain fiscally prudent while continuing to support the world-class Canadian mineral exploration and development sector,” said Gavin C. Dirom, President and CEO of AME BC. Support for the sector comes in the form of extending the 15-per-cent Mineral Exploration Tax Credit by one year, renewed funding for the Targeted Geoscience Initiative to develop new ways for exploring for deep mineral deposits, and continued investment in modernizing the regulatory review process for major projects. The federal government also announced funding for a Red Tape Reduction Commission, which may provide some recommendations for reducing the “daunting maze of regulations” referred to in yesterday’s throne speech.

“The federal budget represents several steps in the right direction to ensure that safe and modern mineral exploration and mining continue to benefit all Canadians,” said Dirom. “We appreciate the leadership being demonstrated, and we look forward to working with the federal government to make the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit permanent and to ensure that mine proposals in this country are evaluated efficiently and effectively.”

#### **About AME BC:**

AME BC is the predominant voice of mineral exploration in British Columbia. Established in 1912, AME BC represents thousands of members including geoscientists, prospectors, engineers, entrepreneurs, exploration companies, suppliers, mineral producers, and associations who are engaged in mineral exploration in BC and throughout the world. Through leadership, advocacy, and partnerships, AME BC promotes a healthy environment and business climate for the mineral exploration industry.

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