



## NEWS RELEASE

### **AME BC Thanks Lekstrom for Service as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; Welcomes Bennett**

**Vancouver, BC – June 11, 2010** – The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) thanked Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom for his service as BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and welcomes his successor in the provincial cabinet, Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett.

"We thank Blair Lekstrom for his strong support of the mineral exploration and development sector in his role as Minister," said Gavin C. Dirom, President and CEO of AME BC. "We wish him continued success as MLA for Peace River South."

"We welcome Minister Bill Bennett to his new role and look forward to working with him and Minister Randy Hawes on key issues such as exploration project permitting, access to lands open for mineral exploration, support of geoscience, and having a ministry well resourced to serve the growing mineral exploration and mine development sector," added Lena Brommeland, Chair of AME BC.

Bill Bennett was previously Minister of Community and Rural Development, and also served as Minister of State for Mining from 2005 to 2007. Randy Hawes continues to serve as Minister of State for Mining.

#### **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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