

# Mining Matters

## PROSPERITY MINE DENIED

You can't predict, with any real certainty, where you will find an ore deposit. You can't move an ore deposit. And you can't deny that our demand for metal far outstrips what we here in British Columbia produce.

We have the ability here in British Columbia to encourage an exploration and mining industry that is safe, environmentally sensitive, and which strengthens our economy through jobs and sales.

Gavin C. Dirom, President & CEO of the Association for Mineral Exploration of BC declared, "Following the initial mineral discovery, the best indicator of success for both mineral explorers and the province is the construction and development of new mines. Responsible mineral explorers understand that there will always be impacts when developing such rare and valuable deposits and agree that these need to be soundly assessed and properly mitigated. With this decision (rejecting the Prosperity Mine), however, the federal government has essentially determined that the significant socio-economic benefits to all British Columbians were not sufficient enough to offset the overall impacts of the project."

The Prosperity decision is in sharp contrast to recent developments pointing to a positive path forward for other large mine projects in BC. For instance, the Province recently signed economic and community development agreements with the Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band that provide local First Nations with a share of BC government's mineral tax revenues. Both these bands are in the region of soon-to-be-producing New Afton and Mt. Milligan mines respectively. These nations will move forward with training and employment in both mines.

Taseko Mines is now suggesting it will review the Prosperity Mine to determine if there is another approach to handling the mine's tailings and still maintaining the project's economic feasibility. The minerals industry encourages the Tsilhqot'in First Nations to accept the company's move as a first step to building a new relationship.

*"Mining Matters" is a bi-monthly column written by Anastasia Ledwon, P.Geo., and welcomes your feedback and questions at [general@smithers.ca](mailto:general@smithers.ca).*

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