



June 1, 2010

File: F19

Hon. Randy Hawes
Minister of State for Mining
PO Box 9070 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Hawes,

Re: AME BC Support for Geoscience BC QUEST-Northwest Proposal

On behalf of the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC), I am pleased to provide our support for Geoscience BC's QUEST-Northwest proposal as outlined in Dr. 'Lyn Anglin's letter of May 26, 2010. Over the past five years, Geoscience BC has proven its capability to produce and disseminate a vast body of geoscientific knowledge to encourage exploration throughout the province. Members of AME BC have used this knowledge to start new projects and move older projects from the grassroots to advanced exploration stage.

Geoscience BC has developed partnerships with industry, academia, government, First Nations and communities. It has fully utilized government funding to create benefits throughout the province. For example, over one million hectares of mineral tenure have been acquired through their efforts, and more significantly, Geoscience BC's contractors and proponents have spent 10 to 15 percent of their project budgets directly into communities and have hired locally. Advanced exploration as a result of Geoscience BC's work has provided tangible benefits to communities in all areas where it has conducted work, particularly in areas hard hit by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. As you are aware, however, Geoscience BC has not received any new funding from government since 2008, and requires such funding to initiate any work in new areas of the province.

Last week, the B.C. Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution at its Annual General Meeting recommending that the provincial government annually invest into Geoscience BC, as well as the Geological Survey Branch. Members also passed a motion to make seeking this investment a priority for the B.C. Chamber of Commerce in 2010. Support for Geoscience BC clearly resonates through the mineral exploration and mining sector, as well as the greater provincial business community.

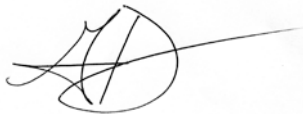
AME BC is particularly supportive of Geoscience BC's proposal to launch a QUEST-Northwest program. Northwestern B.C. has historically attracted large exploration programs that have made world-class discoveries and developed mines that have produced a wide range of metals and minerals, most notably some of Canada's richest gold, silver and molybdenum deposits. As such, the area has a comparatively large workforce familiar with mineral exploration and mining. In addition, the area hosts programs such as the Northwest Community School of Exploration and Mining, which can tap into training opportunities for the next generation of mineral explorers and miners, particularly aboriginal youth. To date, however, mines have been located in several relatively small and easy to access areas. Grassroots on-the-ground geological research is expensive due to the area's challenging topography and often

inclement weather. The QUEST-Northwest proposal would provide the means to investigate the mineral potential of a vast area thoroughly by reanalyzing historical data and providing new baseline data for mineral explorers. Geoscience BC has initiated discussion with the BC Geological Survey, UBC's Mineral Deposits Research Unit, and some companies, about the potential for a multi-partner, multidisciplinary geoscience research program in this region.

Furthermore, the development of the Northwest Transmission Line presents an opportunity to combine the increased geoscience knowledge of our shared land resources with the construction of a power transmission line that will open up a large area of the province to potential development. A commitment of \$6 to \$8 million to Geoscience BC will be a minor part of the province's investment in northwestern BC, but will go a long way towards realizing the injection of \$10 to \$15 billion into the province's economy through capital investments made to develop new mines in the region.

The economic vitality of the northwest, and British Columbia as a whole, depend on ongoing geoscientific research to help find new discoveries and develop new mines in BC. AME BC strongly recommends that the government of BC consider the QUEST-Northwest proposal presented by Geoscience BC as a cost-effective program that when funded, will bring both immediate and long-term benefits to the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Gavin C. Dirom, M.Sc., P.Ag.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia

cc: Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Greg Reimer, Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
John Cavanagh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Janine North, CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust and Co-Chair of the Northwest Powerline Coalition
'Lyn Anglin, President & CEO, Geoscience BC
Pierre Gratton, President and CEO, Mining Association of BC
Margo Van der Touw, Dean, Northwest Community College - School of Exploration and Mining
Christine Ogryzlo, Smithers Exploration Group
Craig Hart, Director, Mineral Deposits Research Unit, University of British Columbia
John Thompson, Vice-President, Teck Resources Ltd and Chair of the Board of Geoscience BC