



School of Exploration & Mining

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Partnering to Build Capacity for Communities and Industry

a presentation to the
BC Miners and Educators Workshop

BC Miners and Educators
Workshop





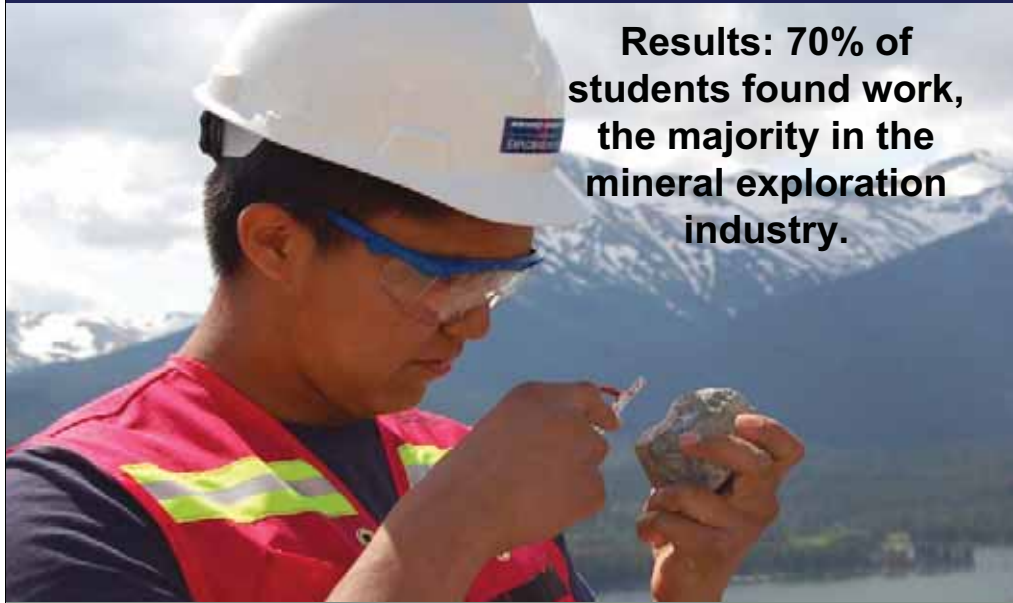
I like this slide because it shows a lot about the School of Exploration & Mining. A mix of First Nations and non-native students celebrating their learning where they will work – out of doors, celebrating FN culture backed by two lists of companies and associations that have contributed to their success.

SEM PARTNERSHIP AS A JOINT VENTURE

- Results
- Partners
- Video
- How joint venture started
- How joint venture works
- Future of joint venture

You called this workshop a joint venture....so we have translated our partnership into a JV. This morning we'll start at the back end and show you the results of our partnership...our students and their success. Then we'll run through the key partners. Then a six minute video that says some of that over again. Then we'll get into a bit of analysis – what unique circumstances led to the formation of SEM; how the partnership actually works; and where the partnership is going.

**Results: 70% of
students found work,
the majority in the
mineral exploration
industry.**



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**Results: 600 students trained
for entry-level employment in
the minerals industry**



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The focus is on entry level training for exploration field assistant and environmental monitoring. SEM also trains for drillers helper, camp manager, core technician and prospecting. Also all the usual safety certifications – OFA1 and 3, Bear aware, FoodsafeBC

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**Results: 70% of graduates
are First Nations**

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BC MINERS
EDUCATORS

NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Take a closer look.

Some programs have been all First Nations but most are a mixture with no attempt to integrate the numbers. The demographics of the north dictate that a large number of aboriginals will respond to our training offerings, especially with underemployment rates of 85% in some villages. But as you will see in the video, there is a strong element of cultural appreciation in all our programs. We employ First Nation team leaders and an elder in our longer programs.

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**Partners:
Northwest
Community
College President
Stephanie Forsyth
celebrates success
of Melanie
Sampson from
Gitanmaax in 2008.**

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Take a closer look.

Partners are what has made this school work. NWCC has a tradition of serving First Nations. NWCC has the largest First Nation student population in the province.



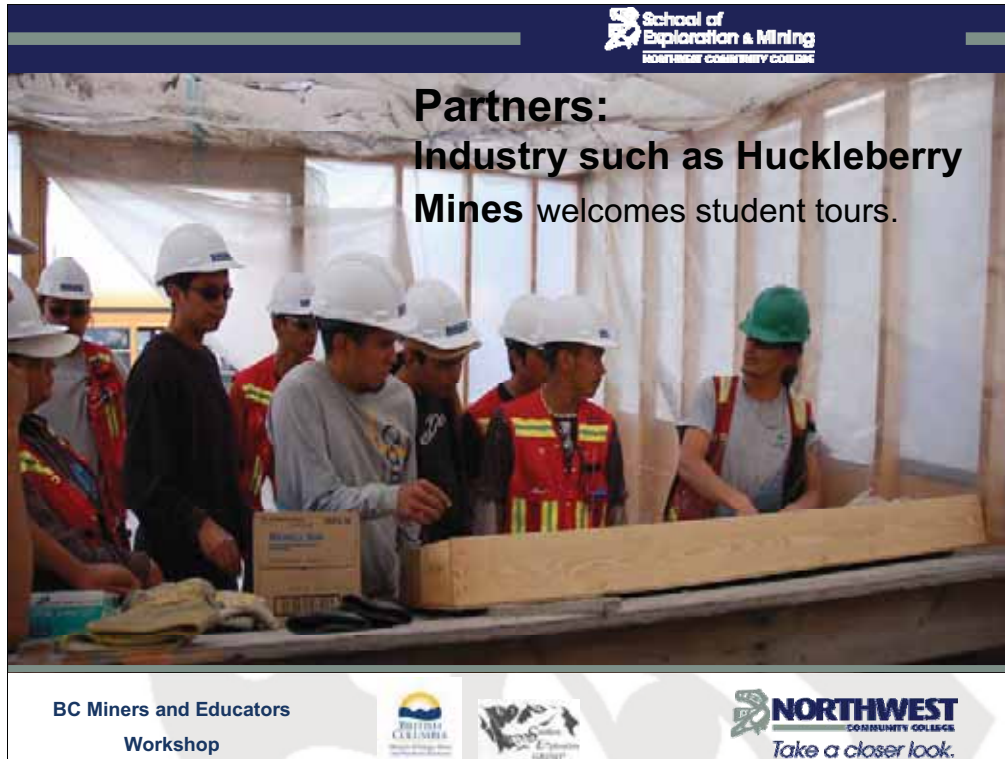
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**Partner:
Smithers
Exploration
Group president Rob
Boyce discusses
interesting rock finds
with students.**

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The other founding partner is Smithers Exploration Group. SEG has represented the minerals industry in northwestern BC since 1971 and has a lot of credibility among the industry and government across BC.



Besides the founding partners, there have been on-going relationships with companies such as Imperial Metals and Huckleberry Mines where successive groups have students have been welcomed on tours. This group is being show core logging by Huckleberry core tech Wet'suwet'en Mike Vincent.



Ministry of Education and Labour Market Development -
Linda Kaivanto, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum
Resources - Karina Brino, SEG – Christine Ogryzlo
welcome graduates from 2008 program.



This is the Ganokwa field camp where most of our training takes place. The camp is owned and maintained by SEG; NWCC handles the education side. You'll see the large teaching tent in the clear. Four person sleeping tents accommodate up to 40 people. Two cook tents, a cultural tent, washing facilities and a first aid tent complete the layout.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: *THE START*

- NWCC and SEG had a definite need for a joint venture
- NWCC needed new training stream with forestry in decline
- SEG members needed employees

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The slide features a dark blue header with the text 'National of Employment in Mining and Metallurgy' and 'Resource Communities'. The main content area is white with a blue border. The footer contains the text 'BC Miners and Educators Workshop' and three logos: 'BC Forestry Centre', 'BC Miners and Educators', and 'NORTHWEST FORESTRY CENTRE'.

I think you have a picture of what we do. Now the secret of how we did it.....Both partners in this joint venture came to the table with equal needs. With forestry in decline, NWCC needed a new stream of programs. We did a needs assessment in the exploration industry and found an opportunity. At the same time SEG members recognized they needed younger blood in the industry. They also realized they had a critical mass of industry specialists who could pass on their knowledge.

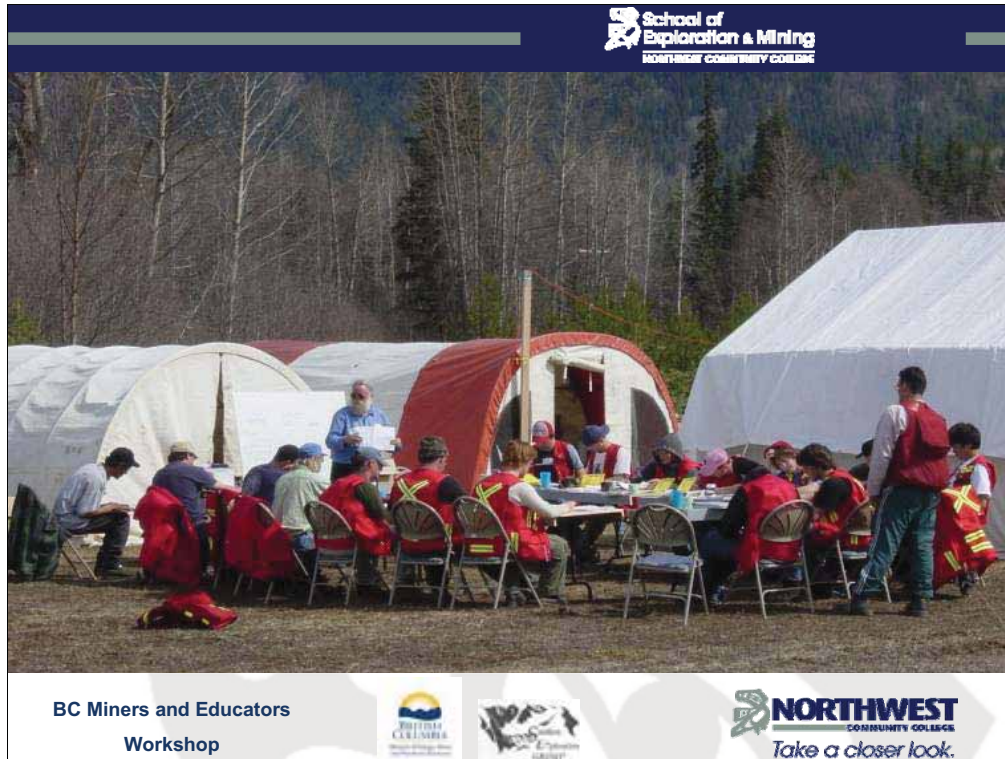
SEM JOINT VENTURE: *THE START*

- JV allowed each partner to focus on expertise
- JV spread the risk
- Governed by protocol agreement laying out responsibilities
- Early recognition that a traditional school would not work

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The slide features a dark blue header with the text 'School of Exploration & Mining' and 'Business Community'. The main content is a white box with a blue border containing the title and a bulleted list. The footer is a dark blue bar with white text and logos.

The joint venture – NWCC School of Exploration & Mining requires each partner to focus on its expertise. Responsibilities are stated clearly in a Protocol Agreement. That spreads the risk for both partners –Courses are driven by industry request, and then by industry Program Advisory Committees. There was also an early recognition that a traditional school would not work...in fact we were warned by an industry leader that the industry did NOT need another bricks and mortar school...there were already existing classroom-based schools that were failing.



Our first course – Mining Exploration Field Assistant (MEFA), 6 days long, thank goodness it was sunny because we had no option to setting up outside. We had one and a half trainers and one cook – and one flip chart. From a risk management point of view, it was scary.



Now we train in a large tent, which we will replace this year with an even larger tent. We now have a digital TV for the laptop and projector, we have a stereo digital microscope that hooks up to the laptop, We offer two month courses.... and several flip charts.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: *HOW IT WORKS*

PEOPLE

- Entrepreneurial, hard-working, goal-oriented crew
- School is based in Smithers & administration in Terrace
- SEG contracts 3 people to run camp, fund-raise and industry outreach

We often wonder how it works...but it boils down to people and money. People – most of you have been involved in some kind of start-up – a company or a project. You live and breath it. That's the case here. I think the key adjective is entrepreneurial...many of us come from some kind of business background. That shows in our responsiveness to requests. But the credibility for the school is based in it being about education for a demographic who have been away from school for a while or come to class with some hurdles to overcome. We have found in our First Nations team leaders and in Katie Ludwig our Gitksan elder a support system that bridges between those challenges and the academic requirements.

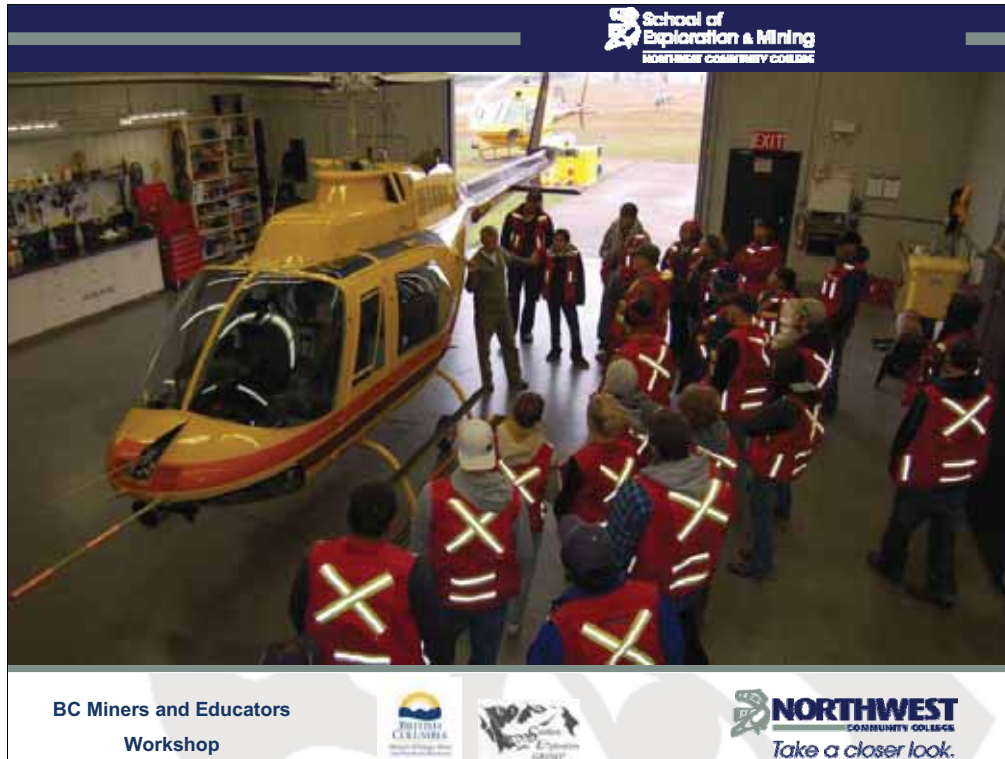
SEM JOINT VENTURE: *HOW IT WORKS*

PEOPLE

- Staff meets once a week, management twice a month
- First Nations important members of staff from start
- Steering committee drawn from industry, government, community and First Nations



Important people – Judi L’Orsa SEG, Katie Ludwig elder
and Stephanie Forsyth NWCC



Highland Helicopters is an example of important industry partner that drives a chopper safety program.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: *HOW IT WORKS*

MONEY

- No core funding – proposal writing is on-going
- Budget covers use of SEG camp and SEG contractors
- Government saw potential and provided seed financing

What we do and the way we do it is not cheap. We have no core funding, so it's lucky we're entrepreneurial. Proposal writing is us...As you've seen we have a different approach which brings the SEG side of the venture into very active participation which needs to be funded.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: *HOW IT WORKS*

MONEY

- Federal & provincial governments provided major program funding – currently Labour Market Agreement funds
- 60 companies and associations contributed
- Northern Development Initiative Trust early contributor
- Since 2005, SEM pumped \$12 million into local economy

I can't say enough about the Province of BC, the Government of Canada and the minerals industry. All have played important roles with seed funding, large program support through various ministries, HRSDC and now Labour Market Agreement. We have also leveraged the government and industry funds with sources such as the Northern Trust and some other foundations. In all SEM has put more \$12 million into the local economy.



We have had a number of cheque presentation ceremonies over the years



We are very proud and grateful to our donors, so we boast about them all the time. The Northern Initiatives Trust funded six portable heavy equipment operator simulators, microscopes, stereoscopes etc.



The Western Economic Development's Community Economic Development Initiative funded this mobile first aid training unit.



And as we said earlier industry partners who offer us tours of their projects and properties



In all this discussion about the partners, let's not lose sight of the important part of this joint venture – our graduates who are looking to this industry for a future.



Who take it all in, with their shiny clean cruiser vests, learning what for some may be their first opportunity to connect what they learn in class with what they will do on the job.



The slide features a dark blue header with the SEM logo and the text 'School of Engineering & Mining' and 'University of British Columbia'. Below the header, the title 'SEM JOINT VENTURE: THE FUTURE' is displayed in bold. A bulleted list follows, detailing the steering committee's role in strategic planning, seeking industry best practices for e3 Plus training through PDAC, and participating in national guidelines for MiHR's Ready to Mine committee. The footer contains logos for 'BC Miners and Educators Workshop', 'e3 Plus', 'MiHR', and 'NORTHWEST'.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: THE FUTURE

- Steering committee driving strategic planning process
- Continue to seek out industry best practices to guide training – e3 Plus through partnership with PDAC
- Play role in developing national guidelines for best practices – MiHR Ready to Mine committee

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The future of the joint venture that is SEM will be driven by the partners – through the steering committee chaired by MABC’s Pierre Gratton. A strategic plan will point the way. But we think we can safely say we’ll continue to look for ways of leveraging our current partnerships, thus continuing to reduce risk. Best practices are a key factor in what we teach our students. We were the first training institution in Canada licensed to deliver the e3 Plus toolkits for Excellence in Environment, Excellence in Health and Safety and Excellence in Social responsibility. Those three high level goals form the basis of what we do. The minerals industry is seeking best practices and we’re participating on MiHR’s Ready to Mine committee that will determine national standards for training people to work in mines.

SEM JOINT VENTURE: *THE FUTURE*

- Aggressively seek out partnering opportunities – 2 Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnerships (ASEP)
- Develop new training opportunities for bush camp
- Bring new partners to the education table where capacity building takes place for everyone

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We are partners in two ASEP's and we're always looking for new partnerships. There may be new ways to use our camps. It's exciting to be doing what we do at this time – the education table is a positive place that everyone can gather around, each benefiting and each contributing.



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**Northwest Community
College School of
Exploration & Mining
welcomes you to be part of
its Partnership to Build
Capacity for Communities
and Industry.**

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