

Stepping Stone

Issue 7 • Spring 2009

Where the Rivers Meet, so do the People

By Mikelle Sasakamoose

Mineral exploration and mining are part of the Secwepemc culture and the practices date back thousands of years, according to representatives of the Stk'emlupsemc Division.

The Division, formed by the Tk'emlups re Secwepemc (formerly known as the Kamloops Indian Band) and the Skeetchestn Indian Band, reflects the bands' shared interests with regard to their shared traditional territory.

"We were one band at one time. We're closely related and we're better off working together," said Skeetchestn Chief Rick Deneault. "Together we can accomplish more for our communities."

Both located near Kamloops, at the convergence of the North and South Thompson rivers, the two bands share a traditional territory spanning much of the Central Interior. Individually, neither band could prove exclusivity of their title to the land, but together, it was undeniable.

To strengthen their claim for title and rights in their traditional territory, the two bands signed a protocol agreement to work together - 50/50 - in pursuing economic development for their respective community members through collectively collaborating with industry and government.

In an effort to limit the liability of the First Nations, a limited partnership



Tk'emlups re Secwepemc (formerly known as the Kamloops Indian Band) band member Celestine Camille works as a materials handler at the New Gold New Afton Mine. Photo: Mikelle Sasakamoose

company was created that would have a managing partner - Stk'emlupsemc Enterprises Inc. (SEI), which in turn is managed by a board of directors that includes one appointee from each band and one jointly appointed.

In a historic partnership, the two Secwepemc bands are forcing the issues raised more than a decade ago by the

Degamuukw Decision, ones that have largely been ignored otherwise.

"Nobody was doing it," said the jointly-appointed SEI director Don Ryan, referring to why the consultation and accommodation of BC First Nations outlined in the Decision, has been so slow to catch on. "No one is forcing the issue. The First Nations have to do that. The government isn't going to do that. The companies aren't going to do anything and so, if you're silent, if you're not doing anything - no one else is," Ryan added.

As the former chief negotiator of the Gitksan Treaty Office, Ryan knows a thing or two about forcing issues and was brought on by Tk'emlups re Secwepemc (TS) and Skeetchestn (SIB) because that's exactly what they wanted to do.

"We're always walking down paths that nobody else really wants to walk down," said TS Chief Shane Gottfriedson.

Readership Survey Win an 8GB iPod

The Stepping Stone Editorial Board is conducting a quick survey to guide the direction of future Stepping Stone issues. We ask that you take 5 minutes of your time and complete the 6 question survey on page 11 and return it to us using the prepaid postage provided by August 15, 2009

Stepping Stone is produced
in cooperation with

AMEBC



The old open-pit mine at the New Afton site.

Photo: Mikelle Sasakamoose

At the same time, he added, "we've always had a good history of looking at negotiated strategies towards implementing action plans that will benefit our people instead of looking at litigation, instead of being positional towards title and rights. We feel if we can work together strategically, we can get better results."

The first example of this is a partnership agreement made between the Division and New Gold Inc.

The mining company is working on a project to make the non-operational New Afton Copper Mine near Kamloops, operational again by 2012. Originally mined as an open-pit by Teck Resources Ltd. (formerly Teck Cominco), New Gold plans to switch to a block cave method to extract a new ore body.

Currently in the development stage, New Gold has entered into the agreement with Stk'emlupsemc and plans to work closely with the Division through all of its mining phases at the New Afton property.

"It's all part of the license to do business in this day and

age," said New Gold Canada vice president of operations, Ron Allum. "You have to have the support of the local stakeholders."

In addition, peace of mind doesn't hurt, which is what the Division offers up most.

"One of the biggest things with working with us is we provide certainty," said Gottfriedson. "And we provide certainty in so many different ways that benefit not just our own financial well being, but the local economy as well."

In return, through the New Gold participation agreement, the bands receive, among other things, economic opportunities and social and financial benefits, including employment, training and business opportunities.

Paving the way for future opportunities, another agreement signed recently between the Division and the provincial government applies to the management of all mining activity on or in the Stk'emlupsemc traditional territory for the next five to 15 years.

The Mining and Minerals Agreement also precedes a companion Economic Benefit Agreement that will be signed at a later date.

"With both bands working together, we've accomplished more for both communities," said Deneault. "And if we didn't do what we did, we wouldn't have what we have now."

Although this is all new, within the past year, Ryan added, it's not exactly a foreign concept to the Stk'emlupsemc people. "They've been mining industrial and non-industrial metals in their traditional territory for thousands of years," he said.

"It's been a part of the process for a long time... now, they're simply modernizing that process."

For more information, visit www.stkemlupsemc.com.



A sign at the entrance to the New Gold New Afton Mine near Kamloops, illustrating the participation agreement between New Gold and the Stk'emlupsemc Division. Photo: Mikelle Sasakamoose

Spring Growth

By the Editorial Board, Stepping Stone

We hope this issue of *Stepping Stone* finds you and your families enjoying Spring, the traditional indigenous new year.

Spring, the season of new growth, holds the promise of a sustainable economy for First Nations groups, local communities, and businesses that have developed the necessary survival skills to meet today's economic challenges

We believe these survival skills include open, honest dialogue with individuals, organizations, and First Nations who recognize the value of partnering with the mining industry in the development of mineral resources.



Devil's Club leaf silhouette near Bob Quinn Lake, BC.

Photo: Christine Kent

Partnership agreements between First Nations, local communities, and the mining industry are dependent on positive, progressive, and equitable relationships that can survive difficult financial times, and build the trust and transparency needed to share the benefits of the strong mineral and metal demands to come.

Progressive companies, both First-Nations owned and those involved in partnerships with First Nations, are using this time to confirm their existing relations and chart a progressive plan for the future. A long-term, shared vision is essential during the course of this journey toward economic independence (see: *Journey to Economic Independence: BC First Nations Perspectives* in this issue).

One of the *Stepping Stone* Editorial Board Members recently mentioned a bumper sticker that he saw: "Sorry that we will not participate in your recession; we are too busy developing our business and servicing customers." This is the kind of spirit that is essential for the social, environmental, and economic well-being of our communities and the future of the mineral exploration and mining industry in BC.

The recent Mining and Minerals Agreement between the Stk'emlup-semc of the Secwepemc Nation and the province of British Columbia, discussed in this issue, is an excellent example of this spirit. Another example is found in Dr. Jim Morin's article on the Aboriginal Minerals Training Program, delivered through the Mining Technology Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Stepping Stone's Board congratulates these groups for their efforts and progress.

We hope that you find inspiration in these pages.

Best Wishes to You and Your Families.

Stepping Stone Editorial Board

Stepping Stone's Editorial Board wishes to thank and acknowledge the Office of the Wet'suwet'en for their input and suggestions on this issue's editorial.

In Conversation with Chief Shane Gottfriedson

By Mikelle Sasakamoose

One of the largest bands in the Secwepemc Nation, the Tk'emlups re Secwepemc (TS), formerly known as the Kamloops Indian Band, has recently added 20,000 acres of fee simple land and crown leases used for resource development and other economic opportunities, to its existing 33,000-acre reserve.

The TS currently has approximately 1,000 members living on reserve located east of the North Thompson River and north of the South Thompson River, adjacent to the city of Kamloops.

TS Chief Shane Gottfriedson took some time to talk with *Stepping Stone* about the band's rich history and lucrative future.

Q. How would you describe the modern TS compared to 50 years ago?

A. Fifty-years ago, they had an idea that we wanted to look at developing the land... and today we are looking at creating more opportunities for our members through corporations and businesses related to developing our lands. Our land is very marketable and our greatest strength is developing our lands in an environmentally sustainable way.

Q. Specifically, what is the TS doing with regards to exploration and mining in its traditional territory?

A. We partnered with the Skeetchestn Indian Band to form the Stk'emlupsemc Division [a development corporation], which has made a working partnership agreement with New Gold in relation to the New Afton Mine near Kamloops.

And we've signed a resource sharing agreement [Mining and Minerals Agreement] with the Province.

There are also about four other mines that are in the exploration phases in our traditional territory and we're looking at partnership agreements with them as well.

Q. Explain the Mining and Minerals Agreement?

A. It's a unique agreement. We figure it's breaking new ground for First Nations and building a relationship on resource/revenue sharing that benefits financially for the [Stk'emlupsemc] Division.

And it's a commitment from the Premier and it's a commitment from the Division to look at the sharing of the natural resources that are being extracted from our traditional territory.

Q. What is the overall mentality of your band members towards mining and exploration in your traditional territory?



Chief Shane Gottfriedson Photo: Tk'emlups re Secwepemc

A. I think the meetings that we've held with our people have been very encouraging, very positive and very productive, and very supportive.

Q. What does the future look like for the TS with regards to natural resource development, in specific mining and exploration, in your traditional territory?

A. No longer will industry or government come into our traditional territory performing any extraction of any natural resources without consultation or accommodation with the TS.

Q. Do you have any advice for other First Nations in BC with regards to making similar investments, not only in economic development, but also in partnerships with regards to asserting their title and rights?

A. The advice I could give other First Nations is that they have to go into negotiations with an open mind and, also, the ability to not be afraid to sit down and talk, whether it's with industry or government.

It takes a collaborative effort to advance any title and rights issues.

Journey to Economic Independence: BC First Nations Perspectives *By Julie Domville*

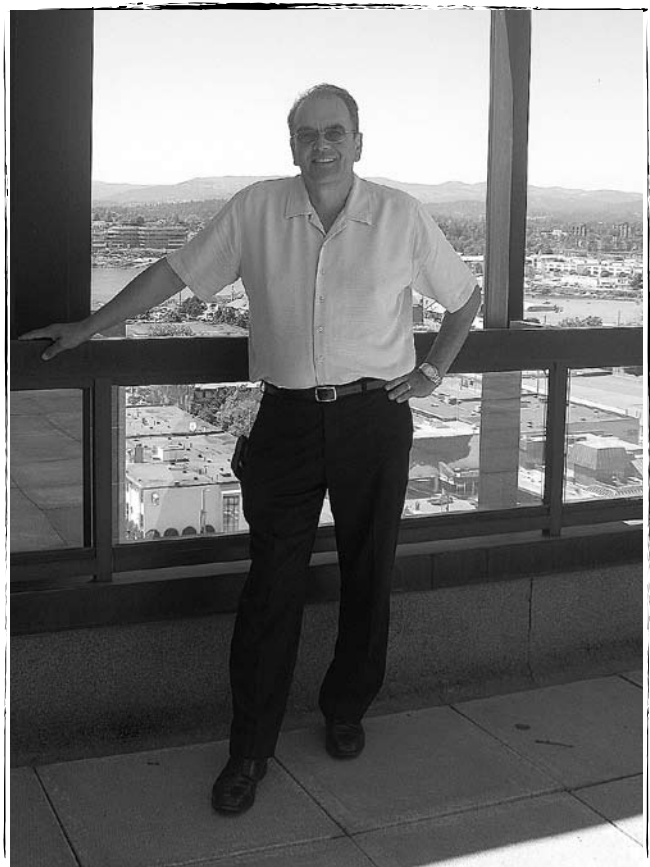
For thousands of years, First Nations in BC maintained a self-sustaining way of life based on harvesting local resources and trading with other First Nations. Tragically, their ability and freedom to maintain their economy and develop new ones has been severely eroded by society's ongoing incursion, and debilitating government policies. While the past cannot be rewritten, there is movement to better ensure that First Nations are equipped to steer their own course into the future. Significant progress, such as the signing of the New Relationship Trust Agreement, is being made towards recognition and reconciliation of First Nations issues in BC and to close the gaps that exist between First Nations and other British Columbians. Digging out from decades of economic despondency is not going to happen overnight, but at least some process has begun.

Other studies have been done and other reports have been written but the "Journey to Economic Independence" is unique in its depth, approach, and resulting conclusions.

In order for lasting, substantive change to occur, a real understanding of the current barriers that deter First Nations in their struggles to achieve economic independence is needed. In late 2007, a First Nations Economic Development Project was launched by the Ministry of Economic Development in partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council. The purpose of the project was to gain an inside perspective of the struggles and successes in economic development from a cross-section of First Nation communities that have established themselves as a strong economic presence in BC. Other studies have been done and other reports have been written but the "Journey to Economic Independence" is unique in its depth, approach, and resulting conclusions. The best practices approaches presented in the report were identified by economic development leaders in First Nation communities based on their experiences and ratified by First Nation participants. "It's by the people for the people."

Ted Williams, a member of the Cowichan Tribes of Vancouver Island, was identified by the First Nations Leadership Council as the person most suitable to lead the project. Williams is a man with a strong entrepreneurial drive who started his first business at the age of six. Through this initial venture he learned that he was an entrepreneur at heart, and went on to own and operate many businesses. When an opportunity arose for him to return to school, he took a combined program in Business Management and Aboriginal Community Economic Development. His combination of business experience, education, and understanding of how elected leadership interacts between governance and economic development, and his personal commitment to the project made him the ideal leader for this project.

The word "journey" in the title denotes more than the path taken by First Nations in BC as they strive for economic independence; it also denotes the deeply emotional path of discovery that Ted Williams experienced in the course



Ted Williams, Project Manager, Journey to Economic Independence: B.C. First Nations' Perspectives

of compiling the information and writing the report. He believes time and a tremendous amount of effort and commitment for change would overcome the deeply entrenched emotional, political, and financial barriers faced by First Nations in BC in their efforts to achieve the holy grail of economic independence. In the introductory pages he writes: "My deep involvement in this project has clearly revealed to me the barriers to First Nations economic development. But I believe we now know how to overcome these barriers with the joint participation and commitment of First Nation leaders, governments, and the private sector."

Letters were sent to Chiefs of First Nations throughout the province, asking for the opportunity to visit their communities and listen to their experiences. There was an overwhelming response to the request. This was hugely encouraging but, due to time constraints, not all respondents could be included. In the selection process, it was critical that the group chosen represent a wide range of issues and circumstances. Groups must include those rich in resources and those with limited access, rural and urban communities, and some that were hugely successful and others that currently have minimal economic development.

These eleven First Nations were selected:

Beecher Bay First Nation	McLeod Lake Indian Band
Fort Nelson First Nation	Osoyoos Indian Band
Hupacasath First Nation	Squamish Nation
Kamloops Indian Band	Tsleil Waututh Nation
Ktunaxa Tribal Council	Westbank First Nation
Lake Babine Nation	

A questionnaire was prepared. Representatives, Chiefs, Council members or economic development officers from each community were asked to answer the questions. Williams and Terry Bootsman then visited each community and had in-depth discussions regarding economic development successes, missed opportunities, lessons learned, corporate structures, and approaches to governance.

"The report has opened up many new avenues for further action towards economic independence. It's pretty exciting - exhausting, but exciting."

Following the visits, each community was asked to send one or two representatives to a roundtable forum in Vancouver to discuss the findings of the interviews and identify a potential BC First Nations best-practice business model. The forum included representatives from the First Nations Leadership Council, BC government, federal

government, and the Assembly of First Nations. Similarities and differences in the First Nation governance and corporate structure were examined, and the findings of the community visits were discussed.

The community visits and forum discussions revealed seven key issues that participant First Nations communities deal with in varying degrees in their journey toward economic independence:

- Understanding the First Nations
- Understanding the Lands, Resources and Water Opportunities
- Planning
- Leadership, Corporate Governance and Capacity
- Benefit and Revenue Sharing Agreements
- Partnerships
- Access to Capital

The information gathered identified two approaches to economic development. One is the creation of an economy through support for local entrepreneurs and the development of their individual enterprises (e.g. Westbank First Nation). The other is creation of an economy through development of First Nation community owned and operated business enterprises that in turn provide for the training and capacity building of individual First Nation members (e.g. Osoyoos Indian Band).

Williams wants to take the findings of the report one step further by drawing up a BC First Nations Best Practices set of guidelines. "I want to recall the participant First Nations and include some others to examine current practices and identify the ultimate best practices because there are so many variations in the way First Nations are conducting business. I then want to bring in accounting and legal experts, as well as some consultants from organizations such as KPMG and have them offer their input regarding the proposed best practices. This way, the BC First Nations Best Practices will have been formed from the input of the best minds in the province. We would then like to take those guidelines and transplant them into three communities and work with the communities to create an economy. By doing this we can demonstrate that as long as you conduct business this way you will succeed. I also want to work towards forming a Business Advisory Council for each community, such as the Osoyoos Indian Band has done. The bank manager and business consultants sit on the council and offer wonderful, practical advice to the Osoyoos Band, basically for an honorarium. My goal is to bring great technical advice to every First Nation. I then want to bring together all of these experts to form an association so that we would have a BC First Nations Economic Development Officers Association. The report has opened up many new avenues for further action towards economic independence. It's pretty exciting - exhausting, but exciting."

To read the complete report, visit <http://www.tted.gov.bc.ca/Publications/Pages/default.aspx>.

NOW, (during the economic downturn) is the time for training!

BCIT Aboriginal Minerals Training Program *By Dr. James Morin*

With all signs pointing towards the fact that more people will be leaving Canada's workforce than entering it by 2016, now is the time to be thinking towards the future. Training is an opportunity to take advantage of this economic downturn and become prepared and ready for the upside when it comes.



Field trip at Scotch Creek with Adams Lake Band class; BC Gov't Kamloops Resident Geologist Bruce Madu explaining schists. Photo: Jim Morin

The schools are there, the community opportunities are there. Let's take advantage of them and use them! One of these available programs is the BCIT Aboriginal Minerals Training Program (AMTP).

What is the BCIT Aboriginal Minerals Training Program all about? Training can mean different things to different people. Some see it as an opportunity to gain new skills that will be useful in everyday life and/or in the general workplace.

So what are the basic or essential skills that students learn in the AMTP? Students learn everything from how to identify minerals, how to do basic surveys, read maps, the importance of geologic time, and much more. The courses within this program provide essential information on what is happening in the student's local area and help community members feel more comfortable with their decision making when it comes to mineral exploration and mining.

Students learn using the life cycle of a mine as a background. Students are encouraged to take notes which help them remember the material, but they also take away a

pile of printed reference material to help them out in the future if they ever forget.

And what do these things look like outside the classroom? Field trips are a vital part of this program. Words and pictures are one thing, but actually getting outside to see and understand minerals and rocks, and possibly visit a mine, can be an awesome experience!

Our students are mainly drawn from Aboriginal communities throughout BC. The average age of students who took MINE 1001 in 2008 was 36 years old, the oldest being 61 and the youngest, 17. This reflects the community as a whole; there is need at all ages for training and the benefits that it can provide for people. In 2008, there were five deliveries of the two-week course (MINE 1001) to 97 students in the following BC communities: Chase, Switsemalph Reserve; Adams Lake Band, Anahim Lake, Skeetchestn Reserve, and Campbell River.

In the Beginning - The Start of the AMTP

The Aboriginal Minerals Training Program started in 2005 and has its roots within the School of Construction and the Environment. A comprehensive plan of engagement evolved into the current program that exists today. Through it, Aboriginal people have the opportunity to view the many different facets of the minerals sector. This helps in their search for employment, choice of career paths, general understanding of natural resources, and community decisions facing them.



View of heavy equipment from bus generates excited interest. Students from class at Skeetchestn Reserve. Photo: Jim Morin



Open pit at New Afton site of New Gold Inc. Students from class at Skeetchestn Reserve. Photo: Jim Morin

Since its conception, many people have been involved with the program. Community awareness of mining, a two-day basic element of the AMTP, has been delivered to 20 communities in BC and the Yukon, and about 250 Aboriginal people have participated. In addition, the two-week basic mineral exploration and mining course has been delivered to about 250 people in 11 communities since June 2006; demand is high for this course. Significantly, BCIT has developed a 15-week Associate Certificate in Minerals Discovery that consists of pre-employment training courses within a minerals context. So far, this has involved about 115 students in Prince George, Vanderhoof, and Kamloops.

The British Columbia Institute of Technology is dedicated to education and training in technology and trades,

including the mineral exploration and mining sector. It is in partnership with The Association for Mineral Exploration in British Columbia (AME BC), and both are advocates for progressive change. BCIT has a history of partnering with other groups, most recently regarding trades with VanASEP and the Native Education Centre in Vancouver. BCIT embraces its Aboriginal students and maintains a learner support for them. Most recently, plans are being developed for the "Aboriginal Gathering Place" at the BCIT Burnaby Campus.

A Deeper Look Inside the AMTP Curriculum:

*** *What if you want to know more about mineral exploration and mining in case your community is consulted?***

Information about what is happening in your area can help community members feel more comfortable with their decision making when it comes to mineral exploration and mining. Our courses help give more assurance that understanding is as complete as it can be. The courses also provide a forum where topics of interest to the community can be discussed.

*** *Dealing with maps***

Finding out where you are on a map and figuring out where to go is important. Just the use of direction on a map can help at the most unforeseen moment. How much does a distance on the ground translate into a measurable distance on the map? Can it be done by walking? Is a car more appropriate? Are there any streams in the way? Can they be crossed? Where can you obtain maps? Are computer maps different than paper maps? How does GPS (Global Positioning System) work together with a map? What about scale? How are maps different from each other?



Students doing rock and mineral identification test on Switsemalph Reserve, Adams Lake Band. Photo: Jim Morin

* **How to do Basic Surveys**

How do you survey an area using a compass and measuring tape, using your own pace and integrating this with GPS? What do we need to know about magnetic declination?

* **How to plot field surveys on paper**

Using a scale, protractor and measurements, students plot areas that they have walked out onto grid paper. Any area of houses, trees, lots, etc. can be graphically recorded and documented in this way.

* **How the Earth works**

Yes, the Earth is actually moving! Through the study of plate tectonics, students find out how different parts of the Earth move in relation to each other. Why are there earthquakes and volcanoes?



First Community Awareness Session held through George Manuel Centre, April 2006. Martha Manuel at right is now the Aboriginal Training Coordinator with New Gold Inc.

Why Training and Why Now?

What people are saying:

**Kevin Evans, Chief Executive Officer
of the Industry Training Authority, 2009**

*Excerpt from CEO Message,
ITA Winter 2009 e-Newsletter*

"It's all too clear that BC will not escape the impact of the economic recession taking its toll across Canada and around the world. In the face of layoffs and downsizing, should we still be focused on labour shortages? Counter-intuitive though it may seem in the short run, the answer is a resounding yes. Now is not the time to take our eyes off the ball. This is a critical opportunity to focus on the long term and take advantage of this phase of the economic cycle to ramp up training and work towards closing the future skills shortage gap."

"When it comes to industry training we have got to look at this recession as a 'glass half full' proposition. Employers and the industry training community urgently need to work together to get the word out that now is the time to invest in training. For employers that means protecting your investment in training by hanging on to your apprentices through a downturn. For apprentices that means taking that technical training you may have deferred when there was no shortage of work, enabling you to build up your on-the-job training hours."

**Kelly Lendsay, President and Chief Executive Officer
of the Aboriginal Human Resources Council.**

*Excerpts from the Vancouver Sun Article
on March 27, 2009*

The aboriginal solution to our labour shortage; getting more first nations people into the workforce is a home grown answer to potential shortfalls.

"...it's [Inclusion WORKS '09 national recruitment fair] about meeting the current needs of employers to build effective diversity strategies that build on their business case for aboriginal inclusion. It's also about a longer-term initiative that is designed to prepare us for the skills shortages Canadian employers' currently face, and will face as we emerge from the current recession and with the retirement of the baby boomers."

"Our research shows that increasingly innovative and socially responsible companies are looking to build business relationships with aboriginal communities. They see not only a potential source of skilled labour, but they also see an increased and rapidly-growing labour market, the benefits of a diverse workplace, a warm client group that believes in corporate social responsibility and a stronger socio-economic country. That's a good combination for any economy."

"We want employers to look ahead to what their needs will be after the recession and we want them to meet the talented young aboriginal people who can meet those needs. That's what inclusion is all about and it's how we should be using diversity to build Canada's economic strength and future prosperity."

* **Are we in earthquake country?**

Common questions are answered as students view and inspect maps that give them the relevant answers and explain why.

* **How every place on Earth is special**

There are so many different stories about each place on Earth, yet they all fit together in the theory of Plate Tectonics. This background understanding of the Earth is important for anyone interested in working with minerals.

* **Why time is so important**

Students learn the importance of a special kind of time – geologic time that covers thousands to millions of years. Everything we see around us was different in the past – very, very different. Geological processes are responsible for a lot of what we see now in the mountains, rivers and seas.

* **How can a three-kilometre-thick sheet of ice change things?**

Drastic changes occurred over all of BC since 15,000 years ago. Mountains and their peaks were sculpted, huge deposits of mud, sand and gravel were deposited and large lakes formed here and there. Students learn how to recognize the changes that occurred on the land.

* **How to identify minerals**

The actual bedrock that we walk on is made up of minerals that are in turn made up of elements like silicon, oxygen, iron, magnesium, sodium, potassium, carbon and calcium. What do these look like? How can we identify them when we see them?

* **Economic minerals in mines**

Copper, lead, zinc, iron, gold, silver, etc. are the metallic elements contained in economic minerals.

* **Why are there mines here but not there?**

The underlying reason for a mine is the geology and that differs drastically from place to place. Some places are very similar, whereas some are very, very different from each other.

* **How special is a mine?**

A mine is a rare occurrence of a high concentration of economic minerals, high enough and large enough to allow for digging out of the ground and selling at a profit. For example, in BC there has been no new major metal mine starting up since well over 10 years ago.

* **What is the most important factor in mining?**

Safety! Mining is one of the safest industrial activities in Canada.

* **How do you find mines?**

You look for indications of the metals that may be there. It could be colour, weight, magnetism, electricity, chemistry, alteration or a host of other things. These indications are explored for over and over again throughout all accessible parts of British Columbia.

* **How are mineral claims staked and recorded in BC?**

Through a computer online with the Internet. In BC since

2005, individuals can stake and record mineral claims through a process called Mineral Titles Online, a very straightforward system that is inexpensive and totally open to public consultation.

* **How do prospectors make money?**

By exploring the land for economic minerals – and actually finding something or a geological situation that might have potential to host economic minerals. After a successful “find”, they commonly sell part or all of it to a mineral exploration company that has more resources with which



Students doing tape and compass work on Switsemalch Reserve, Adams Lake Band. Photo: Jim Morin

they can further explore and evaluate the property.

* **How can Aboriginal communities benefit from mineral exploration?**

There may be employment opportunities working with the company and/or contracting services that the community might engage in. Acquired skills help increase community capacity for future opportunities.

* **What is an Impact Benefit Agreement?**

An IBA is a legal agreement between a mineral exploration or mining company and a community. Through the IBA, the potential impact of the company’s activity on the community is considered and potential benefits for the community are addressed.

* **How can Aboriginal communities benefit from mining?**

Several ways exist and include some or all of the following: help building infrastructure, training for community members, employment of community members, engagement of community-based contracting services, and royalties and/or cash payments.

* **Who do you contact? Want to learn more?**

The Aboriginal Minerals Training Program is delivered in communities. If there is interest in your community, please contact the **Aboriginal Minerals Training Program** at 604.456.1096 or **email: jmorin@bcit.ca**.

1. How do you receive your copy of Stepping Stone?
 - a. It is directly mailed to me
 - b. Pick up at Band Office or place of business
 - c. Read electronic version from www.amebc.ca
2. When Stepping Stone becomes available, do you:
 - a. Read it cover to cover
 - b. Skim through the articles
 - c. Do not look further than the front cover
3. What do you like the most about Stepping Stone?
4. What do you least like about Stepping Stone?
5. What types of articles would you like to see printed?
6. What types of articles do you find most useful and informative?



Stepping Stone Readership Survey

Win an iPod!
Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Company or School: _____

Band: (if applicable) _____

All entries must be returned to AME BC by August 15, 2009.

You may also submit the survey electronically by emailing your answers to mhughes@amebc.ca



Calling all Creative BC Aboriginal Writers

Want to earn \$200 and a printed byline?

Do you have a story to tell that promotes respect and cooperation between First Nations and the mineral exploration and mining sector?

Stepping Stone is on the lookout for creative minds and flowing pens. Stepping Stone is produced twice a year through the Stepping Stone Editorial Board and the Association for Mineral Exploration BC. It provides the opportunity to share traditional forms of knowledge, and increase understanding between First Nations and the minerals sector.

For more information and past issues, please visit www.amebc.ca/steppingstone.htm

All authors of articles selected for printing will be awarded \$200.

Not all submitted articles will be printed; the Stepping Stone Editorial Board reserves the right to select only those that fit with the issue theme. All submitted articles will be kept on file to be considered for future issues.

Article Submission Requirements:

Fall 2009 Submission Deadline: All articles must be submitted before September 1, 2009 in electronic form. Discussion of ideas for potential articles is always welcome.

Length: Articles can range from 300 – 1500 words

Photos: If possible, please submit at least one photo to accompany article.

Topics: Subjects related to First Nations involvement in mineral exploration and mining in any way will be considered. Some examples include:

- Cooperation, respect, and relationship building real life stories
- Personal, community, or business profiles of those contributing to the awareness of the mineral exploration and mining
- Success stories of any kind, educational, corporate or personal
- Special projects or interests related to the link between First Nations culture, heritage, and the minerals sector
- Timely issues and current events
- Opinion and editorial style features
- Inspirational and encouraging stories
- The environment and development
- Sustainability and the future
- Traditional Knowledge and modern day use

Submit your articles and ideas to:

Mary Hughes

Editor, Stepping Stone

Association for Mineral Exploration BC

Email: mhughes@amebc.ca Fax: 604.681.2363

Mail: 800-889 West Pender St.

Vancouver, BC V6C 3B2



1000071785-V6C3B2-BR01



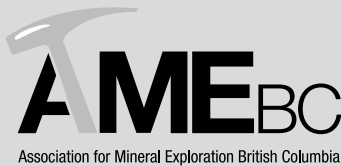
AME BC
800-889 PENDER ST W
VANCOUVER BC V6C 9Z9



Readership Survey – Win an 8GB iPod!

Each survey will be entered in a draw to win an 8GB Apple iPod!

All entries must be returned to AME BC by August 15, 2009.



Stepping Stone is produced in cooperation with AME BC. ISSN 1911-2793

Stepping Stone is printed on 100% recycled stock

*We welcome your letters
to the Editorial Board!*

*Please send your comments to:
Editorial Board - Stepping Stone, c/o AME BC
800 - 889 West Pender Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6C 3B2
info@amebc.ca (please use subject line: Stepping Stone)*

Stepping Stone has an independent and voluntary Editorial Board:

Jerry Asp, Vice-President, Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association
and President and Owner, PJ Asp Management Services

Gordon Loverin, Tsenaglobe Media Inc.

Jim Morin, Director, Aboriginal Minerals Training Program,
BC Institute of Technology

Craig R. Noordmans, Senior Consultant,
Stratagem Pacific Consulting Ltd.

AME BC Staff Support:

Mary Hughes, Editor, Association for Mineral Exploration BC
Jonathan Buchanan, Managing Editor, Association for Mineral
Exploration BC

The Goals of Stepping Stone are to:

- Increase respect and cooperation between First Nations and the mining sector.
- Share traditional forms of knowledge.
- Increase cultural understanding between First Nations and the mining sector.
- Increase First Nations awareness of mining.

The statements and points of view expressed in Stepping Stone are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia or the editors.