



*Message from the Honourable Josie Osborne  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation*



As B.C.'s new Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, I'm excited to be part of a responsible and thriving mining and mineral exploration sector.

Already a world-leading mining jurisdiction, over the past decade, B.C.'s mining sector has grown and evolved to be increasingly mindful of the environment, the value of working with Indigenous communities, and the direct connections between land stewardship, responsible development, and reconciliation. The results of this approach speak for themselves: In 2022, we saw record-breaking numbers – nearly \$750 million in exploration expenditures and a forecasted \$18 billion in production provincewide.

South-Central B.C. continues to be a strong region, with 48 mineral exploration permits issued last year, \$109 million spent on exploration, and a forecasted \$2.5 billion in production.

Numbers like these are important, because exploration and mining are a foundational part of British Columbia's economy. They provide jobs for more than 30,000 people and are key to supplying minerals that are crucial to our low-carbon future. B.C.'s exploration and mining sector provides the critical minerals and metals that are needed for the growth of emerging technologies, such as electric cars and wind turbines, that will help the world transition to a clean energy future, reducing pollution while creating good jobs for people and economic opportunities for communities. Further, with expanding electrification powered by hydroelectricity, we are among the cleanest mining jurisdictions in the world.

Canada-wide, mining and exploration are the largest private-sector employer of Indigenous peoples. In B.C., that dynamic of economic reconciliation was strengthened when we became the first province to share mineral tax revenue with First Nations. Our government is firmly committed to working in partnership with First Nations on the land, which is becoming deeply integrated in our approach to exploration and mining – and I hear these values, of collaboration and partnering on responsible development, regularly echoed in my conversations with mining and mineral exploration industry members. This is the way of the future.

Partnership and collaboration are essential to grow and build a natural resource sector that supports reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity. The members of the Kamloops Exploration Group and B.C.'s mining and exploration sector have demonstrated they are on side, through their partnership and vision. We can see by just looking at production and exploration numbers from last year. If we all start with reconciliation and sustainability, economic opportunity will follow. That is what makes British Columbia such a good place to invest in, as a thriving jurisdiction that is helping to build the clean, innovative economy of the future.

Sincerely,  
Josie Osborne  
Minister Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation