

BC Mining Jobs Task Force

Terms of Reference

Background

BC's mining industry directly employs over 30,000 workers and thousands more through indirectly-related employment. In 2016, mining and mineral exploration contributed over \$6 billion to the BC economy while generating economic spin-offs in local communities and throughout BC, including expenditures by suppliers and mine employees. The sector also provides the minerals, metals and steelmaking coal needed for electric cars, wind turbines and transit systems to support a global movement towards a low carbon future.

One of the government's key commitments is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy and create good-paying jobs in every corner of the Province. To this end, the Minister's mandate letter includes a commitment to establish a BC Mining Jobs Task Force (Task Force) to create and sustain good jobs in this important industry. The Task Force will identify measures to make BC the most attractive jurisdiction for investment in Canada while ensuring a sustainable sector that provides training and employment opportunities for British Columbians along with fulfilling the government's commitment to lasting reconciliation and implementation of UNDRIP.

While commodity prices have started to show signs of a rebound in recent months, they had been trending downwards since reaching their peak in 2011/12, forcing BC's mineral exploration and development industry to find unique ways of cutting costs and in some cases, putting projects and job creation on hold until markets improve. The BC Mining Jobs Task Force mandate is to work with the mining industry, workers and mining communities to make jobs secure and mines viable as commodity prices fluctuate.

Scope

The Task Force will be responsible for providing the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources with recommendations on the following areas:

- Establish baseline metrics (e.g. cost of production, carbon intensity, employment statistics, expenditures and revenues, etc.) to measure the current state of the industry and provide an economic impact analysis of the mining sector in BC;
- Skills training and development so that British Columbians can enter and grow careers in the sector;
- A coordinated provincial approach to geoscience;
- Potential financial incentive programs and the Province's competitiveness and approach to attract mining investment into BC;
- Potential government actions to ensure the sustainability of existing mines and job protection during commodity cycles;
- Identify innovation and partnership opportunities that ensure an environmentally sustainable mining sector;
- Identify best practices in mining jobsite health and safety;

- Increasing public awareness of the importance of the mining sector to the Province and its role in a low-carbon future; and
- In consultation with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, any other matters arising over the course of the review that the Task Force considers significant.

The work of the Task Force will be parallel to other government reviews including Environmental Assessment Revitalization. Matters that arise related to environmental assessment, professional reliance, or other government reviews are not in scope of the Task Force.

Membership

The 12-member Task Force will be chaired by the MMRD ADM and include representatives from:

- Industry (one nomination each from AME and MABC and two company representatives);
- First Nation communities (two);
- Labour (two);
- Environmental non-governmental organization (one);
- Post-secondary/training (one);
- Financial sector (one); and
- Municipal governments (one).

Task Force Operations and Procedures

The Task Force will solicit input from First Nations, communities, and stakeholders with an interest in the matters contained within the Terms of Reference. While the Task Force has discretion over how it chooses to engage stakeholders, a consultation record is to be kept and will be made public unless input is explicitly requested to be kept confidential (subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*).

The Task Force will have access to technical expertise and secretariat support from MEMPR, and will have the discretion to create any consultative bodies and/or retain any independent technical advice it deems necessary to ensure it receives the information it requires to meet the objectives set out in these Terms of Reference, subject to available budget.

Reporting

The Task Force will report back to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources with the following:

- A summary of consultations with stakeholders on matters contained in these Terms of Reference;
- An interim report including suggestions for implementation to be submitted by August 31, 2018; and
- A final report to be submitted by November 21, 2018, including recommendations for legislative and/or regulatory amendments.