

1. Highland Bell - 82E/6E; 82E/SW-30; 03937
2. Northair - 93J/3E; 92J/W-12; 00421
3. Cassiar - 104P/4W; 104P-35; 04489
8. Mosquito Creek - 93N/10E; 93N-59; 06397
9. Gold Belt 82F/3E; 82F/SW-56; 01009.
10. Erickson Gold - 104N/11W
14. Table Mt. - 104N/12W; 104N-4; 01593



# British Columbia

## Incentive schemes are helping mining

Preliminary estimates of mineral production in British Columbia in 1978 appeared in WM Jan '79 p21-22. Total value was nearly \$1946-million, an increase of \$157.7-million over 1977, of which coal contributed an extra \$85-million and copper, despite adverse conditions, an increased contribution of \$33.4-million over 1977.

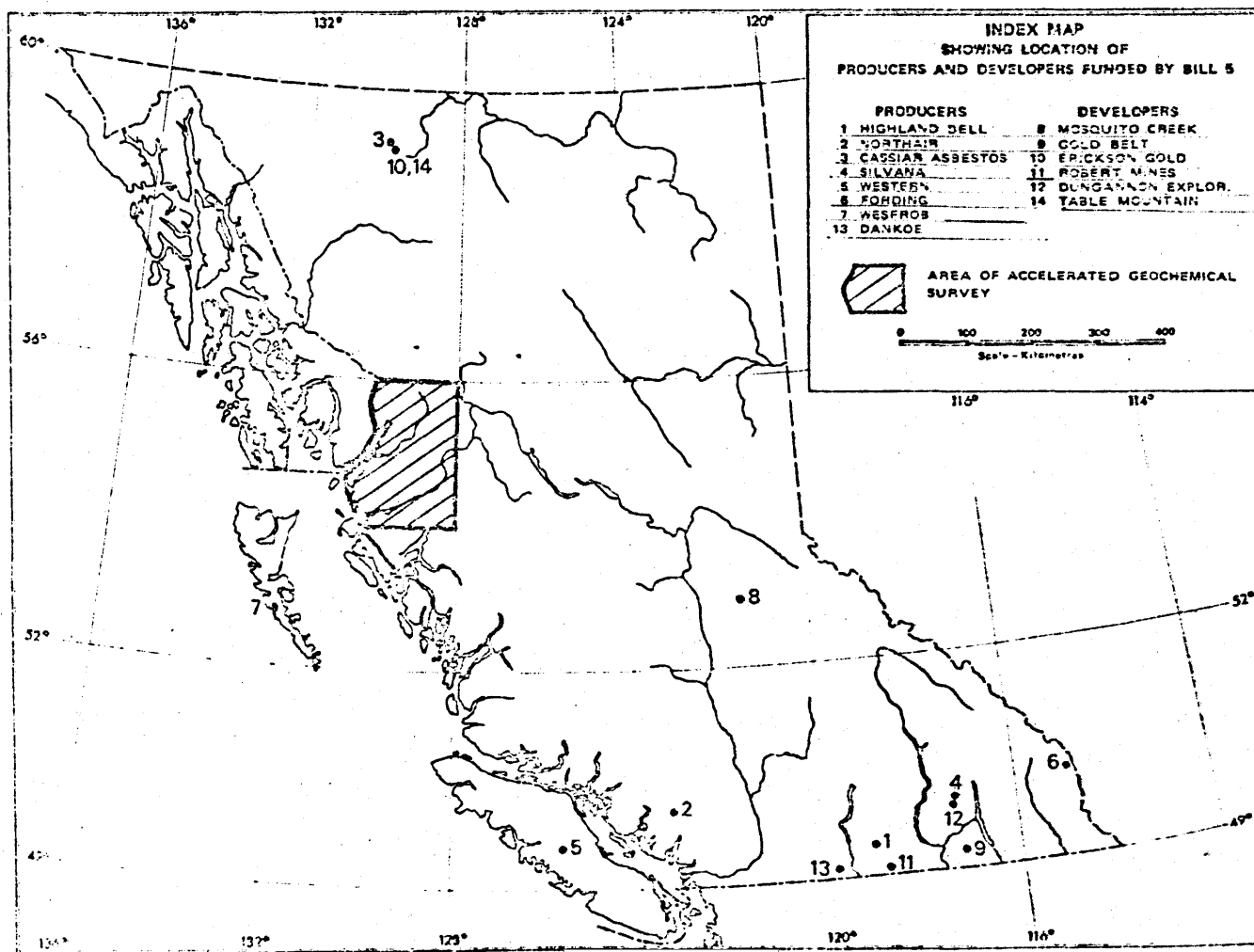
A comprehensive review of mineral exploration in British Columbia (by N C Carter) was presented in WM Feb '79 p14-19. A review of porphyry copper

exploration in BC is due to be published in the May 1979 issue, which will look at hopes for a resurgent copper industry in Canada.

In his exploration review, Dr Carter mentioned briefly some of the government programs to encourage exploration, including the Accelerated Mineral Development Program. W R Bacon, co-ordinator of this program, spoke about its structure and operation at the recent Prospectors and Developers Association meeting, in Toronto.

The program is funded through a special Act, Bill 5, approved in May 1978. The accompanying map shows the producers and developers funded under the Bill. The intention is to create jobs and assist the mineral industry in discovering and developing new mineral deposits; by paying labour costs in major programs, by sharing field expenditures, by assistance to prospectors, and through technical surveys and facilities.

About 80% of the \$5-million program is for the benefit of the BC mining



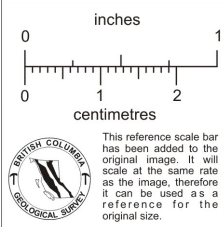
**INDEX MAP  
SHOWING LOCATION OF  
PRODUCERS AND DEVELOPERS FUNDED BY BILL 5**

PRODUCERS		DEVELOPERS	
1. HIGHLAND BELL	8. MOSQUITO CREEK	9. GOLD BELT	
2. NORTHAIR	10. ERICKSON GOLD	11. ROBERT AMES	
3. CASSIAR ASBESTOS	12. DUNGAHACH EXPLOR.	14. TABLE MOUNTAIN	
4. SILVANA			
5. WESTERN			
6. FORDING			
7. WESFROB			
13. DANKOE			

AREA OF ACCELERATED GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY

Scale - Kilometres

1. 82E/6E
2. 92J/3E
3. 104P/5W
4. 82F
5. 92F
6. 82S/SW
7. 103C
8. 93N/10E
9. 82F/3E
10. 104N/11W
11. 82E
12. 82F
13. 82E
14. 104N/12W



industry; less than 20% goes to mineral road assistance in the petroleum industry, which, unlike mining, is enjoying a boom.

A \$170,000 grant was made to help establish a neutron activation analysis facility at TRIUMF (cyclotron installation) at the University of BC. More information about this commercially-operated NAA facility is given in an article elsewhere in this issue.

Other programs within the AMDP include enhanced mine site reclamation, accelerated geochemical survey, expanded prospectors' assistance, and mineral exploration incentive program (MEIP).

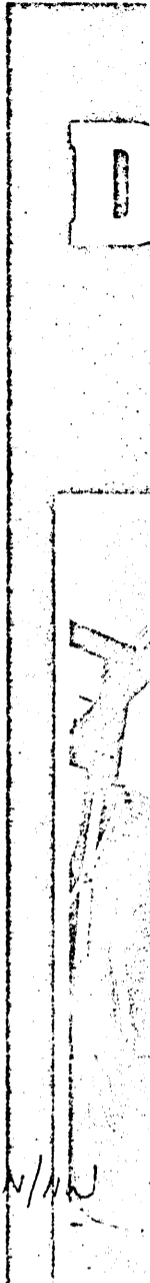
MEIP is designed as a 'bridge' between prospecting and advanced exploration: a successful applicant can get one-third of total field expenditures (maximum \$50,000) reimbursed by the Ministry. Of about 200 requests and enquiries received, 40 contracts (grantees) were ratified. Mineral properties involved are located throughout the province. Several show promise, including the Consolidated Cinola gold prospect on the Queen Charlotte Islands, and a tungsten prospect on the North Thompson River.

Because the Bill 5 program was not given Royal Assent until late May, when most exploration programs were already under way, response to the Accelerated Mineral Exploration program was limited. Funds were transferred from this (over \$400,000) to the Accelerated Mine Development program, and grants were made to most of the underground mineral producers in the province, and to some potential underground producers, including Erickson Gold and adjoining Table Mountain in the far north, and former producer Gold Belt in the Sheep Creek camp in southeastern BC (see map).

The short (10 month) AMD program ended 31 March '79, and difficulties were met, particularly by developers (potential producers), but these were commended for their ingenuity in coping with problems.

At Highland Bell, the famous old silver producer, 2.5-years reserves have been developed as a direct result of the AMD program, and this will allow the new work force of 25 people to keep their jobs for some time.

Road grants were given to several companies: Newmont Mines to help upgrade a 1.5-mile section on Wolfe Creek Hill into Copper Mountain; West Mines to build a short mountainside road in the Price section; Placer Development to aid the 23-mile road now bulldozing into the Sam Goosly deposit near Houston, in central BC. If permits are obtained, the latter project (copper) will come into production in 1980 at 4500 tonnes a day. W.M.



104 N/111

82 E/6E  
82 E/sw-30  
03937

924/7E.

934-1  
02449

Western Miner  
April 1979