

→ Galore
Ck.**Planned mine to bring financial benefits, Terrace Standard, Oct.4, 2006**

Virtually every community in the northwest will feel an economic impact during construction of a massive copper and gold mine northwest of here should NovaGold Resources Ltd. get government approval for its Galore Creek project. With a construction timeline set to start next year and lasting until 2010-11, the project, at its height, will need more than 800 people and huge quantities of equipment and supplies. NovaGold estimates it'll spend more than (US) \$1.2 billion on the project which, when finished, has a projected life of 20 years. The work will begin with the construction of a road to Galore Creek stretching west of Hwy37 North and an intensive airlift operation will be needed. NovaGold already uses an airstrip at Bob Quinn on Hwy37 North but wants to build another one closer to the mine site. By road, the mine will be 200km from Iskut and 280km from Dease Lake. Aside from the main camp at the site, NovaGold will build a series of smaller ones along Hwy37 to support the main operation. As it is, the company has already spent tens of millions exploring and proving its ore body and in environmental and engineering work needed not only for the phase leading up to construction but for various government approvals since active work began in 2004. Terrace has already benefitted through the flow of equipment, supplies and people being flown to the location, first in fixed wing aircraft to Bob Quinn and then by helicopter to the mine site. NovaGold's official in charge of the project, Carl Gagnier, paints a picture of large proportions when talking about construction. The impacts on communities depends upon what they can offer and where they are located in proximity to the mine site. Gagnier envisions equipment arriving by ship and barge at Stewart before being hauled further north and fleets of large trucks turning north at the junction of Hwy16 and Hwy37 North at Kitwanga for equipment coming in from the east. Terrace's role in all of this will more than likely be focussed on the airport as a marshalling point for people arriving from the south and for those living in the immediate area before being flown up north. "With Terrace right now, we have a few more options because of the two airlines," said Gagnier in referring to Air Canada Jazz and to Hawkair. "Terrace will have a role as a staging area," he added. But the airport at Smithers will also see traffic. Organizing air support for construction is crucial until the road to the mine site is constructed. Air support will also be critical during the mine's operating life to transport in those workers who won't be living in the Dease Lake area. NovaGold's own airstrip close to the mine will be long enough and built to a standard to handle large Hercules aircraft to bring in, at the start of construction, equipment for road building. People will be flown to the location on Dash 8s of the size Hawkair now uses for its Vancouver-Terrace passenger runs. Twin Otters will also be used. Information filed by NovaGold as part of its government approval application forecasts between eight and 27 flights a day landing at its airstrip. If the weather is bad, aircraft will use the existing airstrip at Bob Quinn. NovaGold estimates it will need 550 people at four camp locations as construction starts. The majority, 450, will be based near the mine site. That workforce will increase to 850 people alone at the main location by August 2009 leading to the final construction phase. NovaGold has already signed deals with the Tahltan on whose traditional territory the mine is located to hire Tahltan workers and develop business opportunities for Tahltan-owned companies. In return the Tahltan receive a portion of the mine's income and a trust fund managed by the Tahltan. When in operation, the mine will need more than 500 people working on a two-week in and two-week out schedule. NovaGold expects to draw heavily from Tahltan workers now at the Eskay Creek goldmine, also on their territory, as it is scheduled to close within the next two years.