

**ELEVEN GROUPS/
ORGANIZATIONS
WERE NOMINATED
FOR THE 2006 MINING
AND SUSTAINABILITY
AWARD, INCLUDING:**

- ▶ AMEBC (Aboriginal Community Engagement)
- ▶ District of Mackenzie
- ▶ Elk Valley Coal (Fording River Operations)
- ▶ Highland Valley Copper (2005 recipient)
- ▶ Northwest Community College School of Exploration & Mining
- ▶ NovaGold Resources Inc. and Tahltan Central Council
- ▶ Clement A. Pelletier, Rescan Environmental Services Ltd.
- ▶ Polaris Minerals (Orca Project)
- ▶ Quinsam Coal (Hillsborough)
- ▶ Teck Cominco/Trail partnership
- ▶ Upper Similkameen Indian Band (Hedley Project)

886257 → Orca



Polaris Minerals Corporation representatives and community partners celebrate after receiving the 2006 Mining and Sustainability Award. Polaris was recognized for creating positive, mutually productive relationships with local communities and First Nations during the development of the Orca Quarry near Port McNeill. Pictured are: (front, from left to right) Chief Bill Cranmer, Namgis First Nation; Marco Romero, Polaris Minerals president and CEO; Chief Judith Sayers, Hupacasath First Nation; Tyson Touchie, chair of Eagle Rock Aggregates and director of Eagle Rock Materials (Ucluelet First Nation); (rear, from left to right) Roman Shklanka, chairman, Polaris Minerals; Michael Beley, director of Orca Sand and Gravel and Eagle Rock Materials; Garry Ullstrom, senior financial officer, Namgis First Nation; Gary Nordin, director, Polaris Minerals.

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION: POLARIS MINERALS CORPORATION RECOGNIZED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Representatives from Polaris Minerals Corporation were front and centre to take a well-deserved bow after winning this year's prestigious Mining and Sustainability Award for the company's efforts to promote sustainable development in the British Columbia mining sector.

Minister of State for Mining Bill Bennett was pleased to present the award to Polaris along with Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC) Chairman Pierre Lebel at a gala dinner at the Terminal City Club in Vancouver on Nov. 28.

Polaris was nominated for its engagement with local communities and its respect for the traditional rights of First Nations while balancing economic, social and environmental goals. The company and its partners, the Kwakiutl and Namgis First Nations, are developing the Orca Quarry near Port McNeill. Polaris also proposes to develop the Eagle Rock Quarry, near Port Alberni, with its partners, the Hupacasath and Ucluelet First Nations.

Bennett noted that Polaris has created positive, mutually productive relationships with local communities and First Nations, which serves as a model for others in the mining industry to follow. MABC president and CEO Michael McPhie, who emceed the event, congratulated the Polaris management team and their community and First Nation project partners, saying they deserve tremendous credit for the leadership and commitment to mining success.

The Mining and Sustainability Award was launched in 2005 by MABC to publicly recognize the diverse companies, communities, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and individuals committed to advancing and promoting sustainable development in the B.C. mining and minerals sector.

There were 11 nominees for the award this year, the first year it was presented jointly by the Mining Association of British Columbia and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. And while Polaris took home the award, all of the nominees have made impressive and noteworthy contributions to mining sustainability.

The overall diversity of the award nominees symbolizes the commitment of the B.C. mining and mineral exploration industry and key stakeholders to ensuring that mining and mineral development provides significant net benefits to society while preserving environmental integrity. This commitment is a pillar of mineral development in B.C. and proves that when it comes to mining, everyone in our province is a winner.