

The Road To Prosperity: B.C. Seeks To Restore Its Image As A Mining-Friendly Province

British Columbia's reputation as a jurisdiction that supports mineral development has been in free-fall for much of the 1990's, due to land alienation, excessive regulation and a lack of security for mineral tenures. More recently, the poor performance of the provincial economy has caused the B.C. government to re-think its policies and to seek new partnerships with the mining sector. The result has been new, mining-friendly legislation, power-rate incentives for major project development and a cooperative effort between industry and government to create 22,000 new mining jobs within 10 years.

The litmus test for this renewed commitment to mining may well be the certification of Taseko Mines Limited's Prosperity Gold-Copper Project. Not only is Prosperity the most advanced project in B.C., it is the most significant development proposal the province has seen in two decades. The 633 million tonne Prosperity deposit can generate:

- 9.5 million ounces of gold;
- 3.5 billion pounds of copper;
- \$1 billion in capital investment;
- 700 direct and 1,900 indirect jobs, and
- 25 years of economic development.

The Prosperity Project may well dictate the future of mining in British Columbia. How will the Prosperity story end? Can large-scale porphyry deposits be developed profitably in B.C.? What will success mean for the B.C. mining sector?

Taseko's Director of Project Development, Bruce W. Jenkins, will address these questions and discuss the technical, environmental and socio-political feasibility of the Prosperity Project in his address to the 1999 PDAC Conference.

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