

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Mempr
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**TASEKO MINES AND BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT SIGN
COOPERATIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOL**

December 15, 1998 - Taseko Mines Limited announced today that it has signed a Cooperative Resource Development Protocol with the Government of British Columbia to facilitate the advancement of the Prosperity Gold-Copper Project located in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region of B.C.

The Protocol provides a framework for the Company and the Province to develop terms and conditions for the potential provision of electrical power at a preferred rate to the Prosperity Project, pursuant to the British Columbia Power for Jobs Development Act. 'Power for Jobs' is a provincial government initiative to utilize surplus hydroelectric power, made available by the downstream benefits of the Columbia River Treaty, to encourage investment, job creation and regional economic development in B.C.

The Prosperity Project is a Taseko Mines proposal to develop a world-class open-pit gold and copper mine, 125 km southwest of Williams Lake, B.C. The Prosperity Deposit is the largest known gold reserve in Canada, and has the potential to generate 9.5 million ounces of gold, 3.5 billion pounds of copper, \$1 billion in capital investment and up to 700 direct mining jobs and 1,900 indirect jobs over a period of 25 years.

"We are working in partnership with industry through 'Power for Jobs' to attract investment and create jobs for British Columbians", said Dan Miller, Minister of Energy and Mines. "The potential Prosperity mine could be a tremendous boost to the Province's mining industry and the provincial economy."

"This Protocol is tangible evidence of the B.C. Government's commitment to support responsible mineral resource development in the Province of British Columbia," said Taseko President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert A. Dickinson. "The government has clearly indicated its willingness to work in partnership with mining companies to attract quantum growth in B.C. investment."

"The electrical power requirements for a modern mining operation are substantial, and represent a significant proportion of total operating costs," Dickinson said. "In the case of Prosperity, peak power demand will exceed 140 megawatts, while power requirements over the life of the mine will comprise as much as 16 per cent of total operating costs."

Dickinson said Taseko will immediately begin discussions with the B.C. Government toward a preferred power rate for the Prosperity Project, with the goal of concluding an arrangement by March 31, 1999. For its part, Taseko has committed to share project financial modelling information with the government, to identify optimum production and environmental technologies in the development of the mine, and to utilize qualified B.C. contractors and suppliers whenever commercially possible.

Taseko has commissioned Kilborn-SNC Lavalin to undertake a \$5 million engineering Feasibility Study of the Prosperity Project. Part of the SNC-Lavalin Group, Kilborn-SNC Lavalin is one of North America's oldest and most respected mining and mineral processing consultants, and has earned a reputation with financial institutions around the world for its excellence in preparing bankable feasibility studies.

The Prosperity Project is currently being reviewed by the federal and provincial governments under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act. Taseko plans to submit its comprehensive Project Report for stakeholder review during the first half of 1999. The Protocol will not affect the review process.

Taseko Mines Limited is a British Columbia public company with 16.3 million common shares outstanding and shareholders located in Canada, Europe, United States and Australia. Taseko shares are quoted in the United States on the NASDAQ National Market System (TKOCF) and trade in Canada on the Vancouver Stock Exchange (TKO).

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