

1710 - 609 GRANVILLE ST  
PO BOX 10363  
VANCOUVER BC  
CANADA V7Y 1G5  
(604) 683-7265 FAX 683-5306

# George Cross News Letter

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## PRINCETON MINING CORP.

[PMC-T] 109,660,033 SHS.

FAVOURABLE COURT RULING RECEIVED - William Myckatyn,  
*president*,  
Princeton Mining Corp., reports a favourable ruling has been handed down by the Supreme Court of BC in the case brought before it by the Cheslatta and Wet'suwet'en First Nations Indian Bands in the matter of the Environmental Assessment of its 60% owned Huckleberry Copper Mine Project located 86 km southwest of Houston, BC.

The Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Williams released his Reasons for Judgment in the Judicial Review Hearing of the petitions on 29Jan98. The petitions, which were filed against the B.C. Government, alleged a lack of due process under the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act and sought to have the Project Approval Certificate and various decisions made by representatives of the B.C. Government and the Environmental Assessment Office, quashed and set aside.

Chief Justice Williams declined to issue such orders as sought by the petitioners. The Project Approval Certificate as well as the various permits, licences and approvals subsequently issued in support of mine operations continue in good standing. A total of 200 people, most of whom are residents of the Bulkley Valley area in west-central BC, continue to work at the Huckleberry mine. Development and operation of the mine have continued uninterrupted throughout the period in which the case was being heard.

Since the start of operations at Huckleberry, the focus of operating crews has been on reaching feasibility production levels. Mine ore grades have been slightly higher than expected. Mill throughput and recoveries have been lower than planned. Work is being done on the process facilities to improve both throughput and recoveries. Results of these improvements should impact mill performance in the first quarter of 1998. In the fourth quarter of 1997, about 13,900,000 pounds of copper were produced.

Huckleberry will ship its fourth load of copper concentrate from the port of Stewart, BC early in February. This shipment will contain about 8,300 wet metric tonnes of copper concentrate. Upon reaching full production shipments of 10,000 to 12,000 wet metric tonnes are expected to occur on a monthly basis.

Commissioning of the molybdenum circuit has been delayed with priority being given to achieving higher throughput and copper recovery rates. Commissioning is expected to resume mid February.

Huckleberry has implemented a copper and foreign currency hedging program to offset the impact of the current low metal price. The hedging program together with the changes to the process facilities underway and the start-up of the molybdenum circuit should allow the operation to continue during this period. A submission is being prepared for presentation to the B.C. Job Protection Commission to support the operation. In addition, discussions have commenced with the Japanese partners to provide additional support to the project.

The ability of Huckleberry to generate limited cash flow will impact on Princeton. The company continues to seek funding options to cover corporate operating costs and to repay the \$2,700,000 loan due in late April, 1998. The Huckleberry mine is owned 60% by Princeton and 40% by four Japanese partners. (SEE GCNL NO.242, 17Dec97. P.1 FOR PREVIOUS HUCKLEBERRY PROJECT INFORMATION)

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