

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **Williams Lake named BC's Mining Community of the Year**

**May 13, 1996** -- British Columbia's mining establishment paid tribute to political and business leaders from Williams Lake today, naming the Cariboo town British Columbia's Mining Community of the Year for 1996.

Williams Lake Mayor Walter Cobb attended the annual Mining Awards Luncheon Banquet at the Hotel Vancouver to accept the prestigious Mining Association of BC (MABC) designation. Williams Lake resident and Gibraltar Mines President and CEO Bill Myckatyn was also honoured as 'Mining Industry Person of the Year'.

"In supporting responsible mineral exploration and mining development in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, the people and institutions of Williams Lake have clearly stated their preference for a strong and diverse local economy," MABC President and CEO Gary Livingstone said "Based on the support our industry has received, its clear that the mining sector - along with forestry, ranching and tourism - will provide a solid cornerstone for economic and community stability in Williams Lake well into the next century."

The Williams Lake region currently has two operating mines (Gibraltar Mines' McLease Operation and Kinross Gold's QR Project), one project under construction (Imperial Metal Corporation's Mt. Polley Project) and one of Canada's brightest mine development prospects (Taseko Mines Limited's Prosperity Project). With the potential for four simultaneously operating mines, Williams Lake could soon overtake the east Kootenays and northeastern B.C. as the province's dominant mining district.

"Political and business leaders in Williams Lake have been extremely supportive of the Prosperity Project and Taseko's efforts to have a harmonized review under the provincial and federal environmental assessment acts," Livingstone said. "But it won't just be the people of Williams Lake who benefit from a project as significant as Prosperity, it'll be the whole province".

Located just 125 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake, the Prosperity site contains one of B.C.'s most significant gold-copper orebodies and the largest known gold deposit in Canada. The Prosperity mine would create about 600 direct and 620 indirect jobs over its 32 year productive life, while attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign investment to B.C. In total, the Prosperity Project would generate \$6.3 billion in new wealth for the provincial economy.

**For more information:  
Mining Association of B.C. (604)681-4321**