

Craigmont and Chris James team up in Merritt

Christopher James Gold (CJG-V) and privately held Craigmont Mines Joint Venture recently teamed up to explore and develop their properties near Merritt in south-central B.C.

The properties include a magnetite resource on the Brassie claim and a potential resource of gold-copper-silver on the Big Kidd property. The companies are looking at using Craigmont's existing licenses and permitted lands for milling and processing potential ore.

Craigmont produced copper from its property from 1962 through 1982 when low copper prices forced the mine to shut down. Altogether Craigmont

recovered over 600,000 tonnes of media-grade magnetite product for the coal industry, from stockpiles left over from the copper mining operation. Some 450,000 tonnes remain in the tailings, a 7- to 8-year supply. Offshore iron purchasers have also expressed interest in the company's hematite resource in mill tailings.

The alliance allows Christopher James to cash in on the precious and base metals on its Brassie resource while Craigmont mines it for magnetite. The companies also want to process any economic material from the Big Kidd property for gold, silver and copper at Craigmont's facilities.

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in the province. Of these, access to land and security of mineral tenure were cited as "key policy flash points for investors."

Specifically, the main problem areas identified are as follows:

- government bureaucracy adhering to a "control-and-restrict" mentality;

- the revenue-generating Ministry of Mines losing power in government with respect to mine development;

- government's failure to protect the right of citizens to generate wealth from natural resources, for the benefit of all;

- problems with access to land and resources, and with the land-use planning process;

- unresolved native land-claims;

- lack of commitment to a 2-zone land-use policy for mining.

The industry points out that pre-

sent and past mining activities in the province cover just 280 sq. km, or less than 0.03% of the province's land base. Parklands, on the other hand, cover nearly 13% of the land base. This increases to almost 20% if the parkland category is expanded to include "Wildlands, Special Management Zones" and other restrictive zoning designations that most environmental groups tend to interpret as off-limits for resource development.

On a positive note, the industry is quick to praise the government when things are done right, such as new measures on the provincial sales tax, capital tax, flow-through shares, corporate tax, and the introduction of the Significant Projects Streamlining Act.

"For that, the mining industry is grateful," MABC President Gary Livingstone told the task force.

"However, despite these fiscal measures, the industry's decline continues.

Leadership on the more challenging issues of land use and security of mineral tenure has failed to materialize."

Recent statistics on claim-staking in the province bear out the gloomy forecast. While the numbers climbed last year to more than 36,600 claims from 27,766 in 2002, they are still far below the 97,000 claims staked in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the Eskay Creek discovery in northwestern British Columbia was still making front-page news. Most of the juniors active then have since been lured to more exotic and more favourable jurisdictions. The few companies that chose to stay are directing their efforts toward advanced projects, particularly in or near existing mining camps. Where the next generation of new mines will come from remains a multi-billion-dollar question, with no obvious answer.

Exploration may be at low levels, but several areas of the province are enjoying flurries of activity. Many of these hotspots are near existing mines — for example, a renewed effort to find possible extensions, or new deposits similar, to the grand old Sullivan mine, near

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Interview with Björn Rosengren, Business Area Executive, Atlas Copco Construction and Mining Technique



mining products. IRDS products have a stronger position in the USA and we will make good use of that to serve customers better. There is also a great fit on the markets - IRDS is a major player in the USA but not in some other markets where Atlas Copco has a stronger position.

3) What are your plans for the business? What changes will you make first?

After the acquisition, the important thing is that we continue as we have done, and take advantage of the market's current positive development. Then we will build upon IRDS's strengths and add our own to them where we can. The first action

6) The USA will be a major market for you after the acquisition - how are you going to handle the dramatic increase in business there?

It is an advantage that IRDS already has a very strong position in the USA with its distributor network, and we intend to maintain and develop the existing organization, and capitalize on it to handle Atlas Copco products too.

7) Which countries/regions do you predict the most growth in, both for underground and surface mining?

The whole of the mining industry is in an investment phase, driven by

Cross Lake secures QR mine ownership

VANCOUVER — Cross Lake Minerals (CRN-V) has acquired a 100% interest in the QR mine property from Kinross Gold. The company has accepted the transfer of the QR