

# Environmental Consulting Solutions for British Columbia's Extractive Industries

## Mining and Exploration is Big Business in BC

Currently, approximately 75% of the world's exploration companies are headquartered in Canada with the major hubs located in Vancouver and Toronto. In 2010, these companies contributed to spending over \$322 million on mineral exploration activities in BC. In addition, over \$1 billion was spent on expanding existing operations and developing new mines last year within BC.

## Where does Environmental Consulting fit in?

The environmental process starts at the exploration stage and, with successful projects, moves into the remaining stages involved in mining: development, operation, closure, and long-term maintenance activities. Some environmental consulting services include:

- ✓ Communication
  - First contact plus maintained communication with local groups
  - Mediation and provide solutions
- ✓ Regulatory Applications
  - Requires knowledge and active dialogues with scientists in various Federal and Provincial regulatory agencies
- ✓ Assessments
  - Includes social, environmental and ecological studies
- ✓ Management Plans
  - Includes mitigation, compensation and enhancement planning
- ✓ GIS Services
  - Includes analysis and cartography for reports and investor/community relations

## How will Environmental Consulting fill this niche?

The majority of mining and exploration companies are run by experienced prospectors, geologists and business administrators. Often, these corporate executives and their project managers are not familiar with the necessary regulations and environmental processes involved with all the activities involved in exploration and mining. Environmental consultants can fill this gap in knowledge by offering services, with foresight, to expanding projects and local interest groups:

- ✓ First contact with local communities
  - New claims require new contacts with local communities
- ✓ Mediation
  - Managing large areas can be overwhelming and a Mining, Oil and Gas Manager may be required. For example, the Tsiljgot'in National Government is seeking a Mining, Oil and Gas Manager for their lands
- ✓ Road development
  - Many resource roads allow access to various areas, but may not meet the requirements for transporting heavy loads and equipment
- ✓ Upgrading a minor exploration project to an advanced exploration project
  - The number of regulatory requirements grows exponentially from exploration to mine development
- ✓ Offering management plan services for companies operating in sensitive habitats
  - Initial exploration activities often neglect to consider their proximity to caribou over-wintering grounds and other sensitive habitats