

Ministry of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review

MANDATE

The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) and Minister Responsible for Core Review is the provincial ministry responsible for British Columbia's energy and mining sectors, which comprise public and private interests that explore for, develop and use electricity, clean or renewable energy (biomass, biogas, geothermal, hydro, solar, ocean, wind or any other alternative energy resource), coal, minerals, and renewable and low carbon fuels.

Through teamwork and positive working relationships with its clients, the ministry facilitates B.C.'s thriving, safe, environmentally responsible and competitive energy and mining sectors to create jobs and economic growth in communities. In developing energy and mining sector policies, legislation and guidelines, the ministry consults with other ministries and levels of government, energy and mining companies, First Nations, communities, environmental and industry organizations, and the public.

I live multiculturalism by...

By making an effort to learn about cultures and countries around the globe.

The Mines and Mineral Resources Division (MMRD) manages and facilitates the responsible development of B.C.'s mineral resources. In order to achieve the Province's strategic goals and vision for the mineral exploration and mining sector, MMRD focuses on the following:

- » Ensuring strong, responsible and safe mineral and coal exploration and mine development, production, reclamation and closure;
- » Stimulating the development and growth of the B.C. mineral exploration and mining industry with globally competitive policies;
- » Developing, disseminating and acting as the custodian for provincial geoscience data, including delivering geoscience surveys, maps, databases, publications and technical reports;
- » Maintaining and administering a provincial registry of subsurface mineral, placer and coal rights;
- » Delivering responsible permit and tenure decisions;
- » Achieving the Province's strategic social, economic and environmental goals;
- » Advising on mineral resources and their potential both externally and in cross-agency initiatives;
- » Promoting B.C.'s many mineral opportunities; and
- » Developing and maintaining positive relationships with other government agencies, industry, First Nations and communities.

The Electricity and Alternative Energy Division's (EAED) vision is Energizing BC: Clean, sustainable and productive. EAED develops and oversees B.C.'s policies with regard to electrical power generation and transmission. It is responsible for initiatives that promote new energy technologies, energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy resources, including renewable and low carbon transportation fuels.

The Clean Energy Act builds upon B.C.'s unique wealth of clean, renewable energy resources and sets the foundation for significant investments in clean, renewable energy across the province, while keeping electricity rates affordable for British Columbians. Through the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, the ministry is helping to invest in new technologies to respond to global energy and environmental challenges. The ministry promotes leading-edge energy efficiency regulations for products and equipment to promote innovative technologies and help reduce energy costs for British Columbians.

GOALS

As stated in the ministry's Revised 2013/14 – 2015/16 Service Plan, published in June 2013, the ministry's two goals are:

- » **Goal 1:** Internationally competitive energy and mining and sectors that contribute to jobs and the economy.
- » **Goal 2:** Safe and environmentally responsible energy and mineral resource development and use.

WHO WE SERVE

The ministry's stakeholders are the citizens of B.C. and their representatives at all levels of government, First Nations, community groups, non-profit societies, schools, service organizations, businesses, industry and industry associations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITMENT TO MULTICULTURALISM

The MEM executive remains committed to respectful, honest, trustworthy and ethical behavior, and diversity in all its communications and actions.

Embracing diversity as part of our corporate culture is integral to our ability to meet citizens' needs and expectations. The Natural Resource Sector (NRS) ministries began work on this in January 2012 with the release of a Diversity and Inclusiveness Plan. This work continues in Natural Resource Sector Transformation Plan.

The purpose of the initiative is twofold; internally to achieve a more inclusive workplace culture and externally to ensure that our services meet the diverse needs of our communities.

Through a sector-wide online survey, the NRS established a baseline understanding of awareness of what diversity and inclusiveness is, perceived barriers and areas of opportunity. The contributions of our employees informed our plan on how to move forward.

Our current focus is on building awareness and accountability for all by focusing on communication, conversation and ongoing dialogue.

The Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector developed a toolkit with practical aids to build employee understanding and awareness; showcased diversity and inclusiveness on their employee learning and development site; and launched an inclusion tool to evaluate policies, programs and services to ensure it meets the diverse needs of the citizens we serve.

EMBRACING MULTICULTURALISM IN THE WORKPLACE

The ministry is comprised of staffs who speak the following languages: Cantonese, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Punjabi, Spanish, and Taiwanese.

The Chinese, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Indian, Namgis First Nation, Norwegian, Polish, Quebecois, Spanish, Taiwanese cultures are represented in the ministry.

An internal provincial diversity activity was the mentoring of an intern from the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program by the Electricity and Alternative Energy Division.

Articles/highlights/notices on ethnic holidays (e.g. Chinese New Year's; Aboriginal Day, etc.) were posted on the ministry intranet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INITIATIVES

- » EAED staff and executive engage on a regular basis with a number of First Nations. As part of their engagement, EAED:
 - Review available ethno-historical information to understand the historical movements and activities of particular First Nations;
 - Seek an understanding of their culture and spiritual beliefs and their integral connection with their territory;
 - Attend First Nations gatherings, and visit cultural and historic sites of particular importance; and
 - Learn a few words of their language.
- » MMRD translated key marketing materials such as the Opportunities Guide and slide presentations for investors into Chinese, and other documents into Korean to highlight B.C.'s rich mineral and coal resources.
- » The primary marketing webpage offers information in appropriate languages. www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/investors/Pages
- » The Mining Development Office has hosted delegations and communicated with clients from Germany, Japan, China, Philippines, Korea and Australia recently.
- » The Mining Development Office has employed an administrative staff member fluent in two Asian languages and has benefitted from those skills frequently in client interactions.
- » The regional geologists have been assigned back to the ministry and play a key role in explaining the mineral and coal industry and opportunities to area First Nations.

Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office

MANDATE

The Ministry of Environment's vision is a "Clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment". To realize this vision the ministry has five goals:

1. Effective action on climate change;
2. Clean and safe water, land and air;
3. Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems;
4. British Columbians share responsibility for the environment; and
5. Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources.

To achieve these goals, the ministry encourages and maintains the effective protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources. It administers the province's parks and protected areas and monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations. It is also responsible for providing leadership to minimize the effects of climate change and ensuring that British Columbians and industry are prepared to adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

The Environmental Assessment Office leads a neutral and respected environmental assessment process that is inclusive and transparent, and contributes to British Columbia's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

