



## NEWS RELEASE

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# OBAC Releases Minerals & Mining Strategy

**Prince George, BC** – The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) today released its Minerals and Mining Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to identify what actions need to be taken by the provincial and federal governments to support responsible and sustainable growth in the region's mineral exploration and mining sectors. The strategy also identifies actions that local governments, First Nations and industry leaders can take together to achieve this goal. The strategy contains 8 objectives, 7 recommendations and 24 proposed action items aimed at supporting the goal of responsible and sustainable growth in the region's mineral exploration and mining sectors.

The recommendations include:

- OBAC, local governments, and First Nations governments work together to identify regional and local expectations and needs.
- Maintain and improve regional infrastructure to help mining activity and to strengthen the OBAC region overall.
- Build upon existing expertise to become a centre of excellence for minerals and mining post-secondary education.
- Increase public education and raise awareness of mineral exploration and mining sector activities and their benefits.
- Achieve excellence in safe and sustainable mining practice, knowledge and expertise.
- Improve and streamline provincial and federal permitting processes and procedures.
- Encourage and support geoscience activities to further identify viable resources in the region.

In releasing the OBAC Minerals & Mining Strategy on behalf of the Board, OBAC Vice-Chair Don Bassermann stated "the Minerals & Mining Strategy lays out clear objectives, recommendations and proposed actions that if supported by the federal and provincial governments could help drive more growth in this important economic sector in our region. When we saw that of all the provinces in Canada, BC showed the strongest growth in exploration and appraisal expenditure between the years 2003 and 2007, the Board felt it was important for OBAC to place a high priority on this sector". Exploration expenditures in the OBAC region has grown from \$15 million in 2004 (11% of BC total) to \$100 million in 2007 which was 24% of the BC total. The communities look forward to working with the minerals and mining sector to welcome the growth of this robust and responsive sector in our region.

OBAC proposes to work with implementation partners to quickly develop a Minerals & Mining Action Plan based on the objectives, recommendations and proposed action items contained in the strategy.

***For more information contact:***

Elizabeth Andersen, General Manager

O: 250-563-7005

E: [eandersen@ominecacoalition.ca](mailto:eandersen@ominecacoalition.ca)