



Resource Municipalities  
**COALITION**

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**Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister**

Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low-Carbon Innovation  
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

February 11, 2021

**RE: Attracting investment to British Columbia**

Minister Ralston,

The mining industry in British Columbia has become foundational to the Province and its global reputation as a leading jurisdiction for mining with rich, diverse mineral deposits in every corner of the province, and has provided a sustainable future to more than 10,000 British Columbians. The mining sector creates approximately 260 jobs across the province for every 100 jobs in the sector.

As British Columbia moves towards a net-zero carbon economy, the mining industry will become a critical element in this transition. Being Canada's largest producer of copper and metallurgical coal, places our mining sector not only as pivotal to the Province's transition, but that of Canada's as well. As Premier Horgan noted during the 2021 BC Natural Resource Forum, "BC must take its place as a leader...", the Resource Municipalities Coalition (RMC) agrees.

The development and advancement of mining activities within British Columbia must recognize the impacts to our natural environment and the RMC compliments the Province on their rigorous Environmental Assessment process to ensure that any potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health impacts that may occur during the lifetime of a major project are thoroughly assessed.

During the 2021 BC Natural Resources Forum, and during discussions with industry, the permitting process has been noted as unnecessarily long and often with additional components that are outside the regulations, making it difficult to attract investment and timely for production when projects hinge on an everchanging commodity market. The RMC recognizes that we must be diligent in our review process, however, investors loose interest and look for easier less environmentally savvy locations to mine and develop product. To some degree, with British Columbia's international mining exports growing and representing \$10.1 billion of total exports, the province should accept some social responsibility and work to prevent this type of thinking amongst investors by being efficient and effective in the permit review process.

In our conversations with industry, we have found that there are no objections to the regulatory requirements and likewise, applaud the province for taking the necessary steps to mitigate impacts to our natural environment, economy, social, heritage and health from projects within the province, however, the process appears to stray beyond the

regulatory framework adding additional costs and increasing the timelines surrounding permit approvals. The RMC is very hopeful the retooling comment that you made at the 2021 BC Natural Resources Forum - address this concern.

It is time for British Columbia to takes its place as a leader.

Sincerely,



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Mayor Lori Ackerman  
City of Fort St John



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Mayor Rob Fraser  
District of Taylor



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Mayor Keith Bertrand  
District of Tumbler Ridge



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Mayor Joan Atkinson  
District of Mackenzie



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Executive Director Mike Whalley  
Resource Municipalities Coalition

CC: Premier John Horgan  
Minister George Heyman  
Minister Selina Robinson