Regulatory Excellence in Mining

**Mining Regulatory Excellence**

ADM-level separation of accountabilities for competitiveness AND oversight

$20M in new funding – up to 65 new FTEs

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**Deputy Minister, EMPR**

**Assistant Deputy Minister – Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations Division**

155 + 22 (new) = 177 FTEs

- Public Geoscience
- Policy and Competitiveness
- Indigenous Engagement
- Tenure process
- Fair, effective, transparent authorizations
- Regional operations
- Mineral Development Office

**Assistant Deputy Minister – Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division**

46 + 43 (new) = 89 FTEs

- Health and Safety
- Compliance Audits and Effectiveness
- Indigenous Engagement
- Mines Investigation Unit
- Compliance Management
- Standing Code Review
- Orphaned and Abandoned Mines

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**Highlights**

Ensures clear separation between Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations and Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement to address mandate letter commitments and the Auditor General’s concerns with compliance and enforcement. *Budget 2019* invests $20 million in mining over three years.

- Achieves properly resourced authorizations process with up to 22 new FTEs, 10 in 2019/20:
  - Client-centred division with accountability for industry competitiveness and authorizations
  - Expanded project management approach across operations, strengthened Indigenous engagement, and opportunity to integrate tenure and permitting processes

- Achieves independent oversight with new audit function and up to 43 new FTEs, 20 in 2019/20:
  - Health, safety, compliance management, and enforcement activities in a new division with ADM-level accountability to focus on industry safety
  - Establishes an independent compliance audit and effectiveness monitoring unit, connected to continuous regulatory improvement

These changes are aligned with other provincial regulators, including the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, with enforcement and authorizations separated under different Assistant Deputy Ministers. In addition, in other sectors health and safety is managed separately from authorizations.
EMPR budget lift for regulatory excellence and attracting investment

Premier John Horgan’s mandate letter direction to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources includes:

- Develop an improved and properly resourced approvals process to assess mining applications;
- Increase industry safety by establishing an independent oversight unit;
- Establish a B.C. Mining Jobs Task Force to create and sustain good jobs in this important industry; and

Following the Mount Polley disaster and considering the Auditor General and professional reliance reports, expectations are high for improved oversight of the mining sector. In Budget 2019, this government is making a significant investment and substantial changes in the regulation of mining.

The funding provided in Budget 2019 also responds to the recommendations of the B.C. Mining Jobs Task Force, made up of representatives from Indigenous groups, labour, environmental non-governmental organizations, post-secondary institutions, the financial sector, municipal government, and industry. The Task Force established a vision that “British Columbians are proud of our growing mining industry as the backbone of an inclusive, progressive and low carbon economy.” The Task Force’s Final Report included an unanimous recommendation for a significant lift in the mining budget for the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR).

Budget 2019 reframes mining oversight along the primary goals of regulatory excellence and attracting investment. It does this by establishing two separate divisions: 1) Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations, and 2) Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement. This separation acknowledges the importance of both functions in supporting a robust, safe, and thriving mining sector in B.C. This model also aligns with other natural resource ministries in B.C. and best-practices across other mining jurisdictions.

The funding and restructuring will:

- Separate and enhance competitiveness, with a mandate to attract investment in mining and create jobs;
- Improve EMPR’s health and safety capacity and effectiveness to protect workers and the public;
- Enhance Indigenous engagement to implement the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples;
- Establish independent compliance auditing of mines and effectiveness monitoring to ensure requirements are protecting workers, the public, and the environment; and
- Establish a standing Code Review Committee, with membership from labour unions, Indigenous communities, and the mining industry. This committee will ensure B.C.’s regulations meet current standards and continue to address the needs of workers, the environment, industry, Indigenous groups, and the public.