

# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO MINING SECTOR PROFILE



SMITHERS | TELKWA | HOUSTON | GRANISLE | BURNS LAKE  
FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF







## Opportunities at a Glance

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is attracting significant investment in the mining sector and is well positioned for more mining support services, exploration, and new mining operations. With two regions (Omineca and Skeena) the geology of the area within the RDBN lends itself to prospecting for a wide range of metals including magnesium, niobium, rare-earth elements, molybdenum, nickel, copper, zinc, lead, silver, and gold.

The RDBN supports the mining sector through its mining portal, [www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca), and projects that identify mineral potential and exploration opportunities (for example GeoScience BC's QUEST-West project). Strong industrial infrastructure and regional transportation linkages further position the RDBN for an increasing development in the mining sector.

## Location and Access

**Rail:** CN Rail has made significant investments in the Northern Corridor rail line; RDBN's rail access allows delivery to Asian markets through the Port of Prince Rupert

**Air:** Smithers Regional Airport provides scheduled flights from Vancouver and Prince George to the region via three major airlines: Air Canada, Central Mountain Air, and Hawkair. Community-based airports support charter services to industry

**Road:** The northern branch of the Trans-Canada Highway, the Yellowhead Highway, bisects the RDBN and provides direct access to major trucking routes

**Port:** Close proximity to BC's ports in Prince Rupert, and Kitimat; Asia's closest ports of entry on the west coast of North America

**Utilities:** The completion of the Northwest Transmission Line has increased accessibility to Hydro

# Assets and Supports

- Regional workforce with a long history of manufacturing experience
- Northwest Community College School of Exploration and Mining offers hands on training programs in applied earth and environmental studies to support workforce development for the local mining industry
- The College of New Caledonia offers a MINE Industry Certificate, an entry-level surface mineral/mining education program. Mining applicable programs include industrial mechanics, mineral processing operator, welding, electrical, and pipe trades training.
- Community interest in mining and organizations for example Smithers Exploration Group
- Geoscience BC surveys and regional geologists demonstrate the commitment of the Provincial government towards expanding mining in northwest British Columbia.
- RDBN mining portal – [www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca)

## Quick Facts

- Exploration expenditure for Omineca Region in 2013 was \$102.5 million and in Skeena Region \$201 million
- Mount Milligan is the newest operational mine in the RDBN and has a 22 year life span; Huckleberry Mine's 2012 expansion extended mine life to 2021
- Mining related employment in RDBN is projected to increase from 805 jobs in 2011 to almost 2,225 jobs by 2021 in the growth scenario.
- The three major operational mines in RDBN currently employ 1060 workers
- Mineral exploration in 2013 was focused on copper, gold, silver and zinc

## Major Employers

- Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling (Smithers)
- Imperial Metals Huckleberry Mine (Houston)
- Thompson Creek Metals - Endako Mine (Fraser Lake)
- Thompson Creek Metals - Mount Milligan (Fort St. James)



*"The availability and support of local industry suppliers is superb, saving us time and money. Local business support within the region is vital to the success of a project and I've found the majority go out of their way to help you. Community members have been supportive and provided the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue. The RDBN is a great place to work in mine development and mineral exploration. We are hopeful our mineral exploration investment will be fruitful and look forward to providing many employment/supplier opportunities."*

**Ellen Clements**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
New Nadina Explorations Limited

*"New Gold is committed to accessing local suppliers and labour wherever possible. During our peak exploration activity in 2013 the region was able to supply over 65% of our workforce. Communities are welcoming and are committed to being active and engaged participants in industry/community conversations. We look forward to continuing our relationships with stakeholders and communities within the Regional District as we move our project forward into next phase in its development."*

**Claudette Gouger**, Community Manager  
New Gold Inc. - Blackwater Project

[www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca)  
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