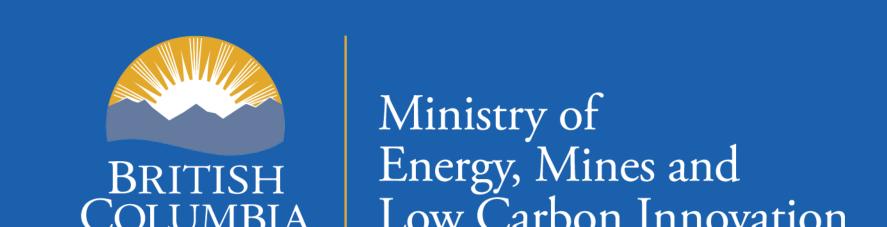
Exploration and mining highlights, North Central and Northeast regions, 2020

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Overview

The Northeast Region is prospective for coal and industrial minerals and, at present, has two producing coal mines, Conuma Coal Resources Limited's **Brule** and **Wolverine** operations. Conuma's **Willow Creek** operation shut down in July. In the far north of the region, Fireside Minerals Ltd. produces barite from its Fireside mine to supply the oil and gas drilling industry.

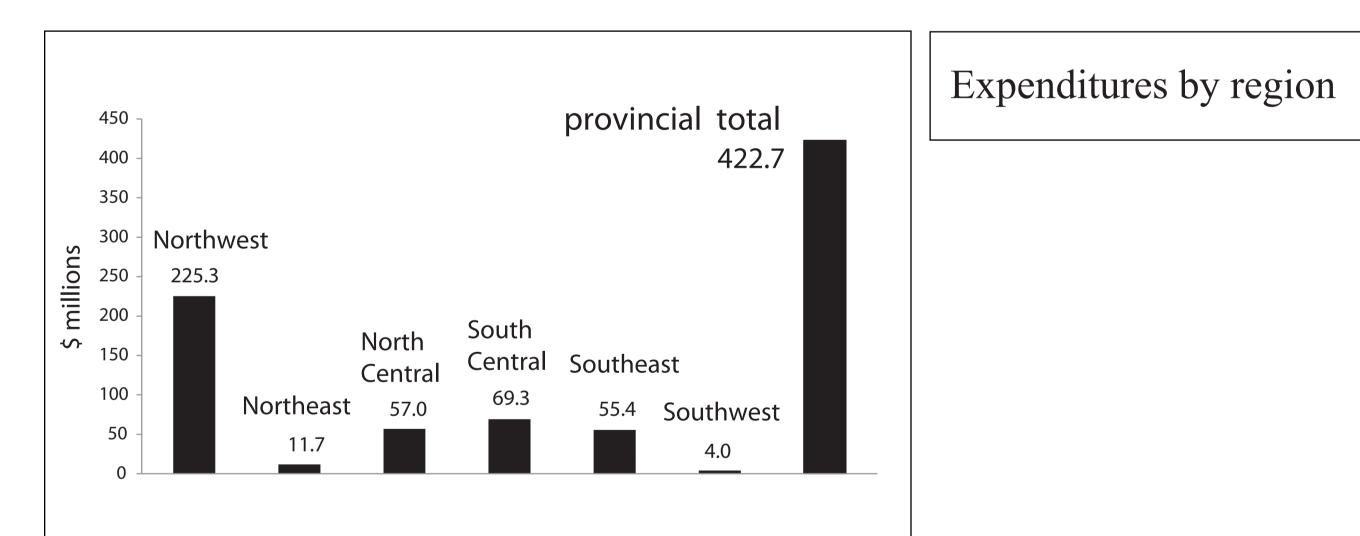
The North Central Region is prospective for copper, gold, silver, zinc, lead, specialty metals, and rare earth elements, mostly in porphyry, vein and stockwork, SEDEX, and carbonatite settings. The **Mt. Milligan** copper-gold operation (Centerra Gold Inc.) is the only producing mine in the region.

Companies in both regions quickly adapted with appropriate protocols after initial disruptions due to Covid-19 and numerous exploration programs were carried out.

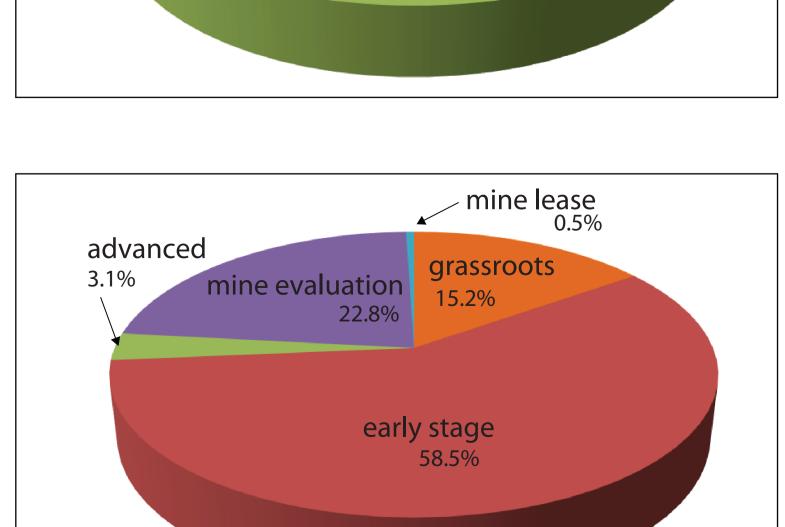
Exploration and drilling estimates

For the North Central Region, exploration expenditures were estimated at \$57.0 million and exploration drilling was estimated at approximately 168,960 m.

For the Northeast Region exploration expenditures were estimated at \$11.7 million and exploration drilling was estimated at approximately 14,380 m (Clarke G., 2021; EY LLP, 2021).



North Central Region, expenditures by category



mine evaluation mine lease grassroots

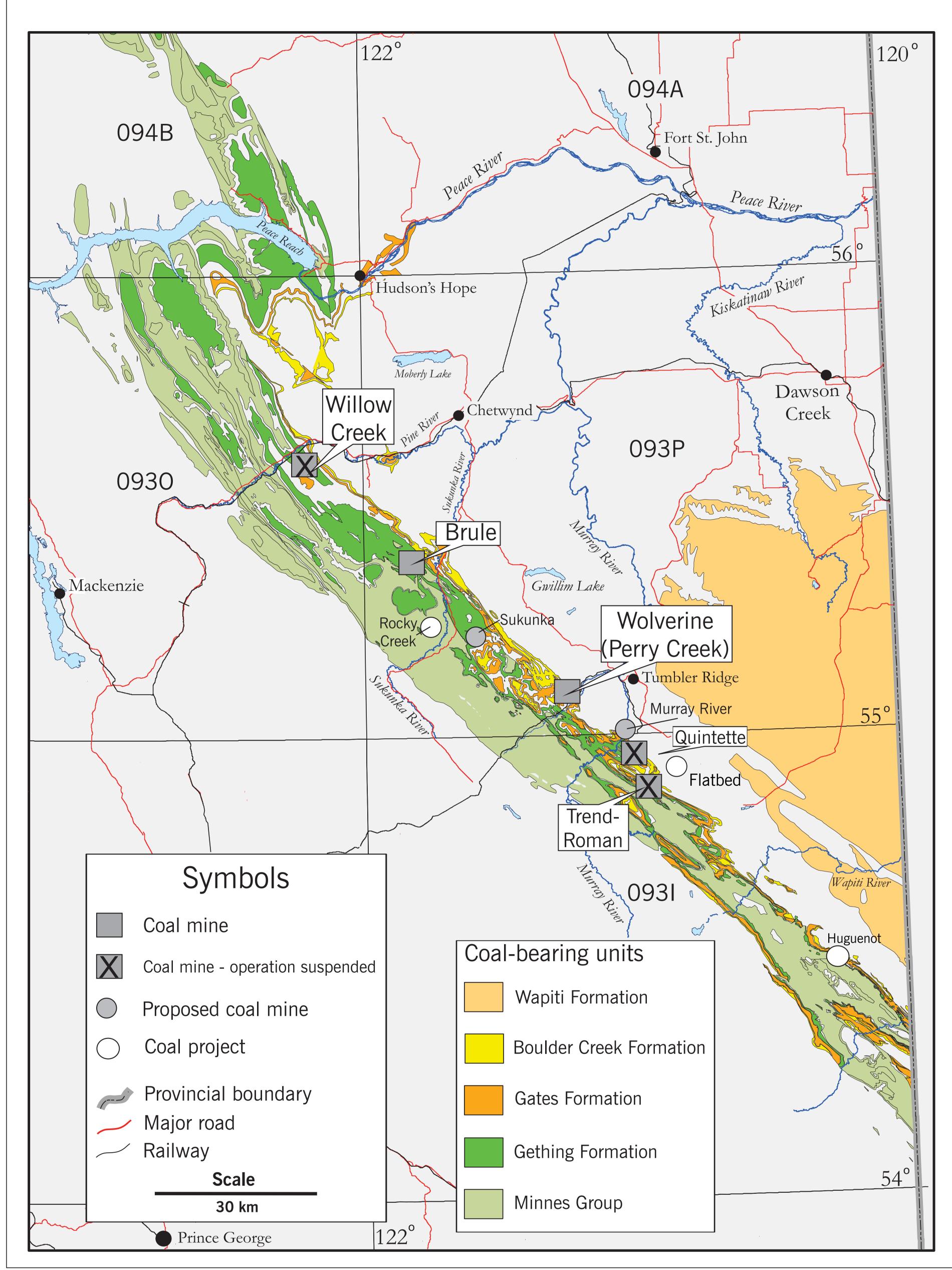
Northeast Region, expenditures by category

Mines and selected projects, North Central and Northeast regions Fort Nelson ALBERTA Pink Mountair **Property status** coloured by project type Operating Mine* Mine in Care and Maintenance** Exploration Project operated in, or for a portion of 20<mark>20</mark> Operated within the last 3 years Project type Cu-Mo, Cu-Au-Ag, Mo (porphyry) Fraser Lake Vanderhoof Precious metal Base and precious metal Cobalt, base and precious metal Ni-Cu-Co-precious metal Specialty metal Jade Industrial mineral Geology Post accretionary assemblages Supracrustal Neogene to Quaternary volcanics Cache Creek and affiliates Slide Mountain Quesnellia Stikinia Yukon-Tanana Ancestral North America Platformal strata Cassiar Craton and cover Basinal strata — Major faults Transportation +-⊢ Rail line



A drill setup at the Lawers Project. Photo Courtesy of Benchmark Metals Inc.

Northeast coal fields





The Willow Creek mine wash plant.

Exploration highlights

North Central Region

Blackwater Gold (Artemis Gold Inc.) Epithermal Au-Ag

Artemis Gold Inc. acquired the **Blackwater Gold** project from New Gold Inc. for approximately \$210 million. The project has both provincial and federal environmental assessment approval. At a 0.20 g/t AuEq cut-off, the total Measured and Indicated mineral resource is estimated at 597 Mt at 0.65 g/t AuEq, 0.61 g/t Au, and 6.4 g/t Ag for a total of 12.4 million AuEq oz. In the fall Artemis began a planned 35,000 m reverse circulation grade control drill program and continued with metallurgical test work.

Kwanika and Stardust (Serengeti Resources Inc. and Sun Metals Corp.) Porphyry Cu-Au, Cu Skarn

Serengeti Resources Inc. and Sun Metals Corp. entered into an agreement whereby Serengeti would acquire all issued shares of Sun Metals. The transaction would consolidate the contiguous copper-gold exploration and development assets of the **Kwanika** and **Stardust** projects. At **Kwanika** a nine-hole 4350 m diamond drilling program returned results including 698 m grading 0.40% Cu, 0.65 g/t Au, and 1.9 g/t Ag. At **Stardust** a 17 hole 11,988 m diamond drilling program returned results including 44 m grading 1.57% Cu, 1.08 g/t Au, and 28.2 g/t Ag.

Lawyers (Benchmark Metals Inc.) Epithermal Au-Ag

Benchmark Metals Inc. planned to complete up to 100,000 m of diamond drilling in 2020 at their **Lawyers** project. The project has four discrete zones (Cliff Creek, Duke's Ridge, Phoenix and AGB) targeted for their bulk tonnage potential. Highlight results included: 57.91 m grading 1.90 g/t Au and 91.96 g/t Ag; 31 m grading 2.98 g/t Au and 72.77 g/t Ag; 128.10 m grading 1.65 g/t Au and 110.02 g/t Ag; and 15 m grading 7.01 g/t Au and 307.9 g/t Ag. Results will be used to prepare a global resource estimate and a preliminary economic assessment in early 2021.

Northeast Region

Rocky Creek (CTI Plus Resources Ltd.) Bituminous Coal

At their **Rocky Creek** project, CTI Plus Resources Ltd. drilled 50 diamond drill holes totalling 818 m and 19 reverse circulation holes totalling 3154 m. Diamond drilling included both HQ and PQ core. Coal seams were sampled and sent for testing. Also, ten trenches were geologically mapped and sampled. Data will be used for a feasibility study.

Mining highlights

North Central Region

Mt Milligan (Centerra Gold Inc.) Porphyry Cu-Au-Ag

Forecast production for Centerra's Mt. Milligan mine was 83.2 Mlbs Cu and 159 Koz Au. A 69-hole 32,671 m diamond drilling program was carried out.

Northeast Region

Brule (Conuma Coal Resources Limited) Bituminous Coal

Forecast production for Conuma's **Brule** mine was 2.1 Mt of pulverized coal injection (PCI) coal. The coal product is moved by rail to the wash plant at the **Willow Creek** mine site before being shipped by rail for export at Ridley Terminal in Prince Rupert.

Willow Creek (Conuma Coal Resources Limited) Bituminous Coal

Conuma's Willow Creek mine produced 700,000 t of hard coking coal (HCC) and pulverized coal injection (PCI) product before suspending operations in July due to low prices.

Wolverine (Conuma Coal Resources Limited) Bituminous Coal

Forecast production Conuma's **Wolverine** mine was 2.1 Mt of HCC. Coal from the mine is trucked to Conuma's rail facility at the **Brule** mine, where it is loaded for rail transport to the company's wash plant at **Willow Creek**.

Fireside (Fireside Minerals Ltd.) Barite

Barite is mined from veins with a combined true thickness of 6.5 m. Barite concentrations in the veins range from 96.0 to 99.4% BaSO4. The product is bagged and trucked to Fort St. John and to Alberta, where it is used to produce high-density drilling mud.

Further information

British Columbia Geological Survey, 2021. British Columbia Coal Industry Overview 2020. British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2021-02, 13 p.

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EY LLP, 2021. British Columbia Mineral and Coal Exploration Survey 2020 Report.

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