

Exploration and mining highlights, North Central and Northeast regions, 2022

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BRITISH Energy, Mines and COLUMBIA Low Carbon Innovation

Overview

The Northeast Region is prospective for coal and industrial minerals and has three producing coal mines: Conuma Resources Limited's Brule, Wolverine, and Willow Creek operations. Conuma Resources Limited recently purchased the closed **Quintette** mine from Teck Resources for \$120 million.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, niobium, and rare earth elements. These minerals occur mainly in porphyry, pithermal or vein and stockwork, SEDEX, and carbonatite settings. The North Central Region has one producing mine, the Mount Milligan copper-gold operation (Centerra Gold Inc.).

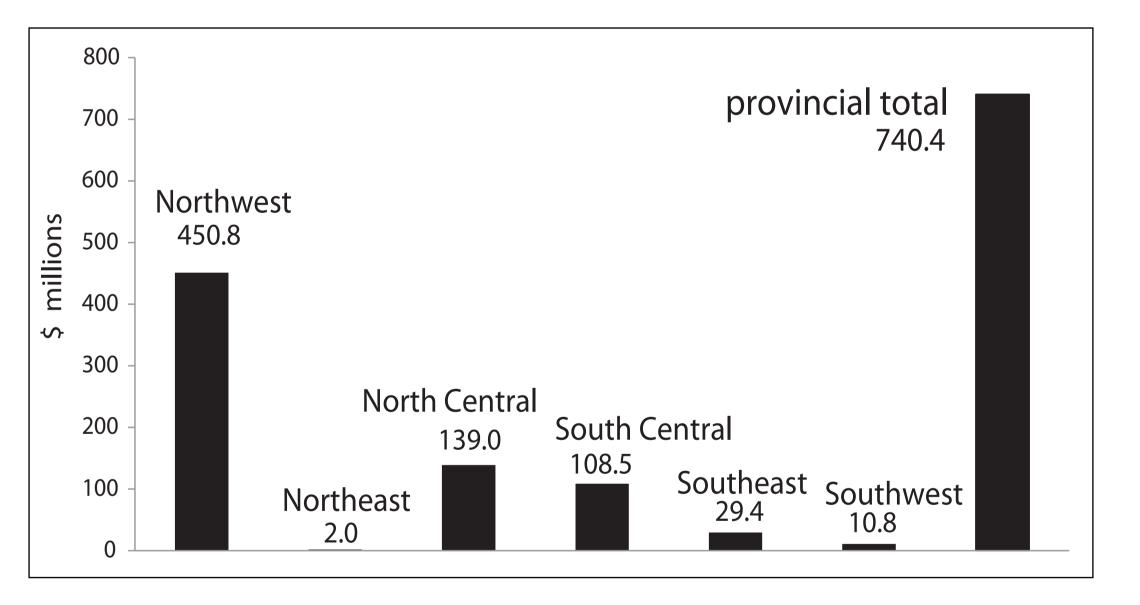
Exploration and drilling estimates

For the North Central Region, exploration expenditures were estimated at \$139.0 million and exploration drilling was estimated at 163,220 m.

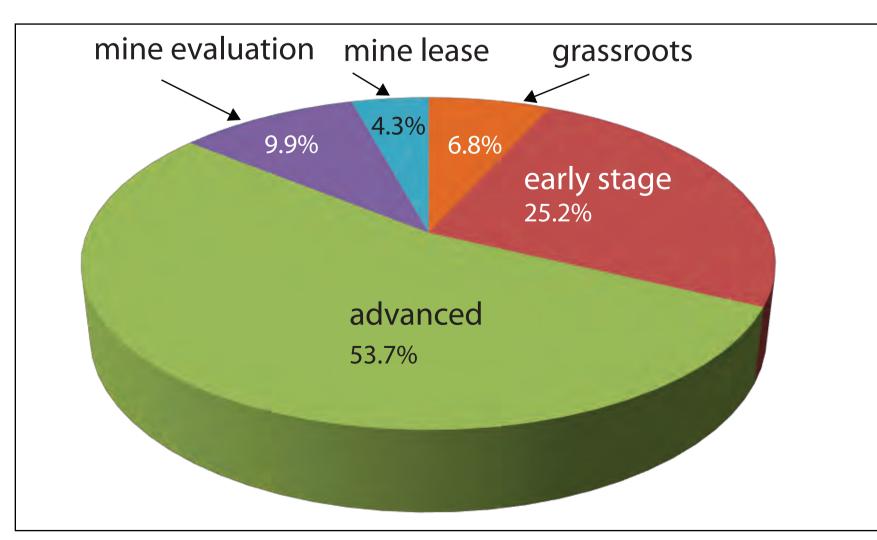
For the Northeast Region exploration expenditures were estimated at \$ 2.0 million and and no exploration drilling was reported.

Mineral exploration expenditures

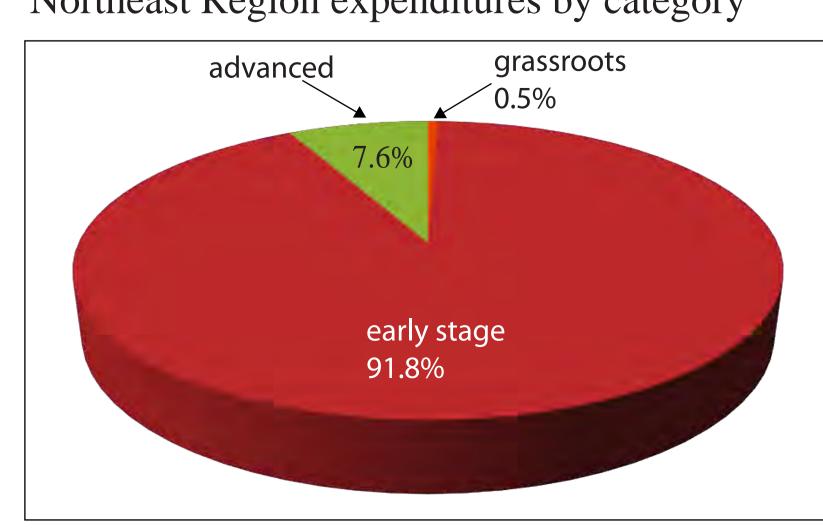
Provincial expenditures by region



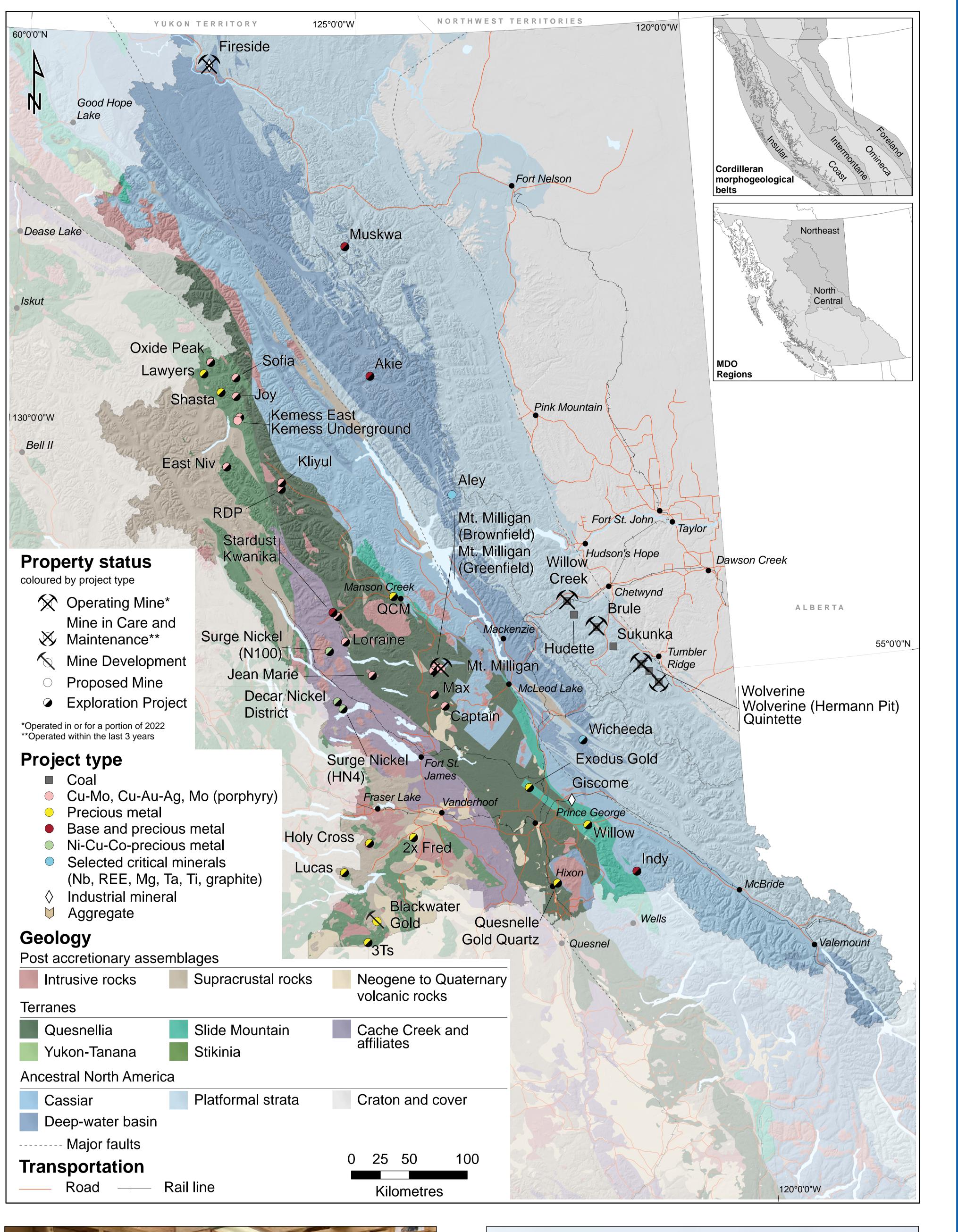
North Central Region expenditures by category



Northeast Region expenditures by category



Mines and selected projects, North Central and Northeast regions



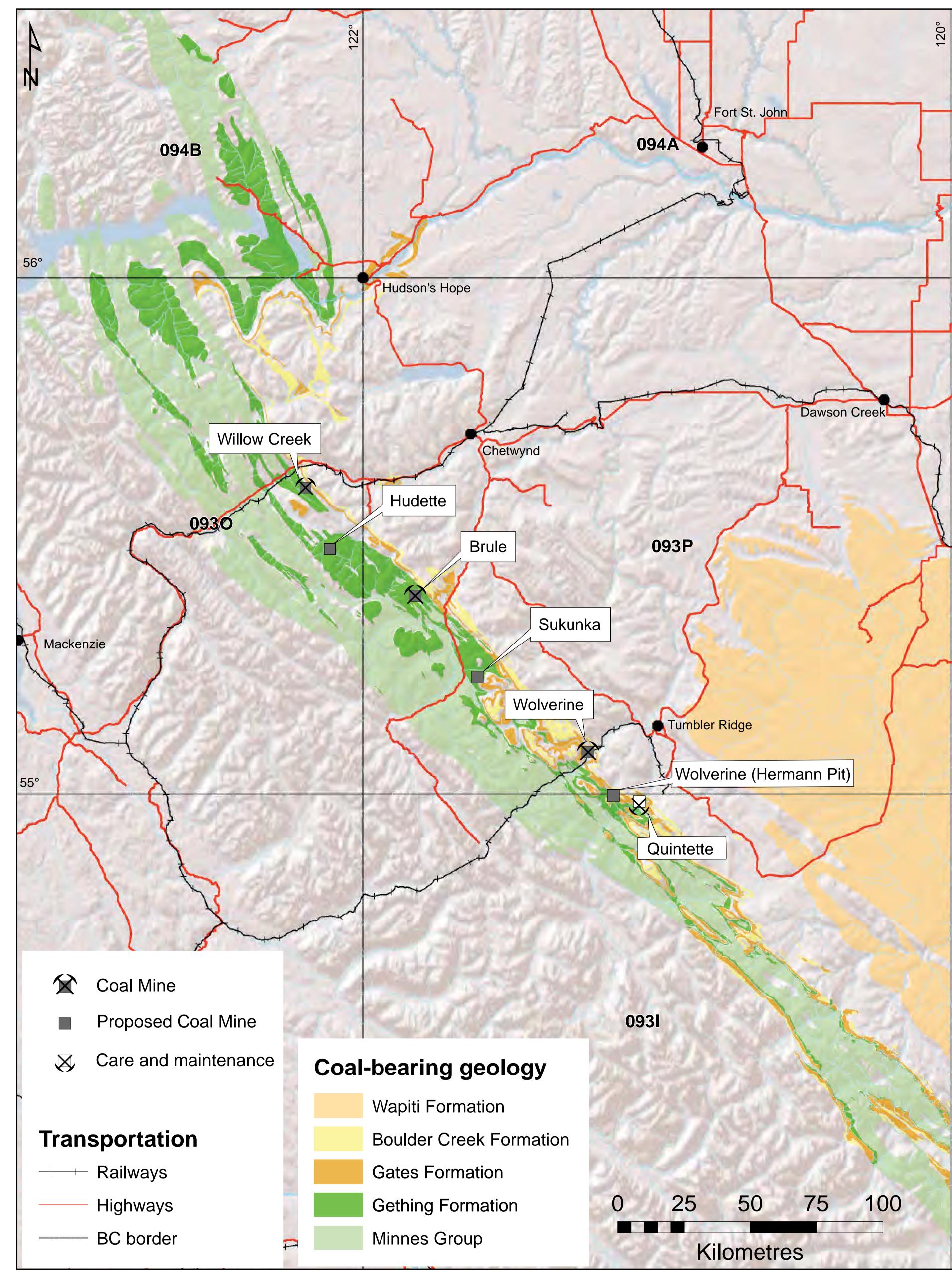


Logging core at the **Stardust** project (NorthWest Copper Corp.).



(Defense Metals Corp.).

Northeast coal fields





East-dipping thrusted and folded Gething Formation, Willow Creek mine, 4N2 pit.



Gething Formation coal seams interlayered with sandstone, siltstone, and shale, Brule mine, phase 3 pit.

Exploration highlights

North Central Region

3Ts (Independence Gold Corp.):

17 DDH (4185 m) at Ted- Mint, Tommy and Balrog. Results included 30.0 m grading 4.99 g/t Au, 53.3 g/t Ag.

Decar Nickel District (FPX NickelCorp.):

2504 m drilling (10 holes) at Van target. Ni in all holes; assays included 346.3 m grading 0.133% DTR Ni and 334.5 m grading 0.12% DTR Ni. Drilling expanded mineralization 1 km along strike; area of mineralization 2 km along strike and 1 km across. Mineralization is open laterally and at depth.

East Niv (NorthWest Copper Corp.):

8 DDH, 4390 m. Rock sample results included 11 grading from 1.08 to 6.55% Cu with Ag grades between 3.7 g/t and 262.0 g/t.

Indy (InZinc Mining Ltd.):

Drilling, 17 DDH (2616 m), 1100 line-km airborne geophysics. Highlight results included 3.0 m grading 2.8% Zn, 0.6% Pb, and 3.8 g/t Ag and 3.6 m grading 3.5% Zn, 0.6% Pb, and 6.4 g/t Ag.

Kliyul (Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.):

12 DDH (7015 m). Highlight results included: 588.0 m 0.12% Cu, 0.39 g/t Au, and 0.90 g/t Ag, and 527.8 m grading 0.19% Cu, 0.30 g/t Au, and 1.35 g/t Ag

Kwanika (NorthWest Copper Corp.):

Drilling, 29 DDH (11,871.80 m). Highlights included 304.20 m grading 0.47% Cu, 0.53 g/t Au, and 1.7 g/t Ag. 364.20 m grading 0.17% Cu, 0.17 g/t Au, and 0.8 g/t Ag.

Lawyers (Benchmark Metals Inc.): Drilling, 20,276 m. PEA and updated mineral resource assessment. The PEA results included a pre-tax NPV 5% of \$939 million, with IRR of 31.4%, and 2-year payback.

QCM (Kestrel Gold Inc.): Drilling, 14 RCD (1272 m). Highlight results included 2.33 g/t Au along 44.19 m and 2.39 g/t Au along 21.33 m.

RDP (Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.): Drilling, 6 DDH (1861 m). Highlight results included 497.2 m of 0.37% Cu, 0.40 g/t Au, and 1.6 g/t Ag,

107.2 m of 0.63% Cu, 1.10 g/t Au, and 2.91 g/t Ag.

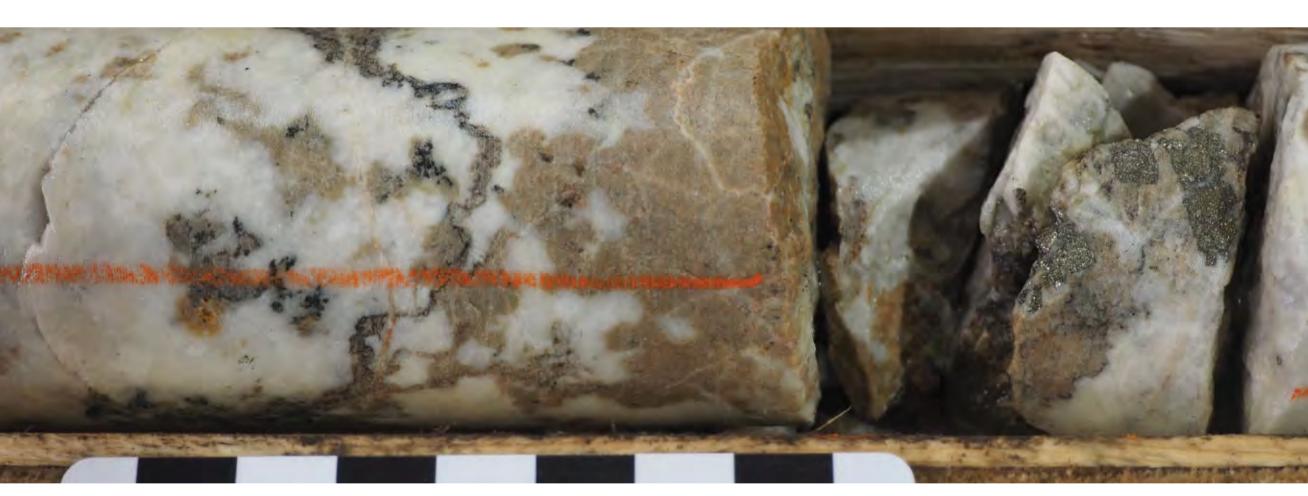
Shasta (TDG Gold Corp.): 5034 m of oriented HQ diamond drilling (21 holes). Filed a NI 43-101 Mineral Resource. Reported results for late 2021 drilling included 34 m grading 7.19 g/t Au and 105 g/t Ag.

Stardust (NorthWest Copper Corp.):

Drilling, 10 DDH (6698 m). Highlight results of 44.20 m grading 0.84% Cu,0.51 g/t Au, and 13.7 g/t Ag; 75.95 m grading 0.55% Cu, 0.50 g/t Au, and 10.9 g/t Ag.

Wicheeda (Defense Metals Corp.):

Drilling, 18 DDH (4357 m); results included 124 m grading 3.58% total rare earth oxides (TREO).



Bastnäsite LREE mineralization in carbonatite core, Wicheeda project.

Mining highlights

North Central Region

Metal mines Mt. Milligan (Centerra Gold Inc.):

Concentrator design capacity 60,000 tpd. Mine life extended by over four years.

Mine development

Blackwater (Artemis Gold Inc.):

Site preparation, began in 2022. Reserves (August 2020) are reported at 8 million oz Au and 62.2 million oz Ag, with a life-of- mine average annual gold production of 339,000 oz.

Proposed Mines and quarries

Aley (Taseko Mines Limited):

Open-pit minewith 10,000 tpd ore processing rate and average annual production of 9000 t Nb.

Giscome (Graymont Western Canada Inc.):

Environmental assessment in place. Proposed 600,000 tpy limestone quarry to feed a vertical lime kiln producing 198,000 t of lime annually during a 50+ year mine life.

Kemess Underground (Centerra Gold Inc.):

Permitted underground panel cave mine with 24,600 tpd ore processing rate and life-of mine average annual production of 106,000 oz Au and 47 Mlbs Cu over a 12-year life of mine.

Northeast Region

Coal mines

Brule (Conuma Resources Limited):

Forecast production for the Brule mine was 1.9 Mt of pulverized coal injection (PCI) coal.

Willow Creek (Conuma Resources Limited):

Mine forecasted production was 1.0 Mt of hard coking coal (HCC) and pulverized coal injection (PCI) product.

Wolverine (Conuma Resources Limited):

Forecast production for the Wolverine mine was 1.1 Mt of hard coking coal (HCC).

Industrial mineral mines and quarries

Fireside (Fireside Minerals Ltd.):

Fireside Minerals produces 4.1 API spec barite for sale into the western Canadian oil and gas markets.

Proposed Mines and quarries Hudette (Conuma Resources Limited):

Prefeasibility study completed, EA application started. Continued baseline monitoring.

Sukunka (Glencore Canada Corporation): The Government of Canada determined the project would have significant adverse environmental effects and declined to approve the project.

Wolverine (Hermann Pit):

Environmental Management Act Permits Amendments; continued baseline monitoring.



Construction activities at **Blackwater** mine development project.

Further information

Heidarian, H., 2023. Exploration and mining in the North Central and Northeast regions, British Columbia. In: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2022. British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2023-01, pp. 77-92.

EY LLP, 2023. British Columbia Mineral and Coal Exploration Survey 2022 Report.

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