

# Exploration and Mining Highlights, North Central and Northeast regions, 2024

#### Overview

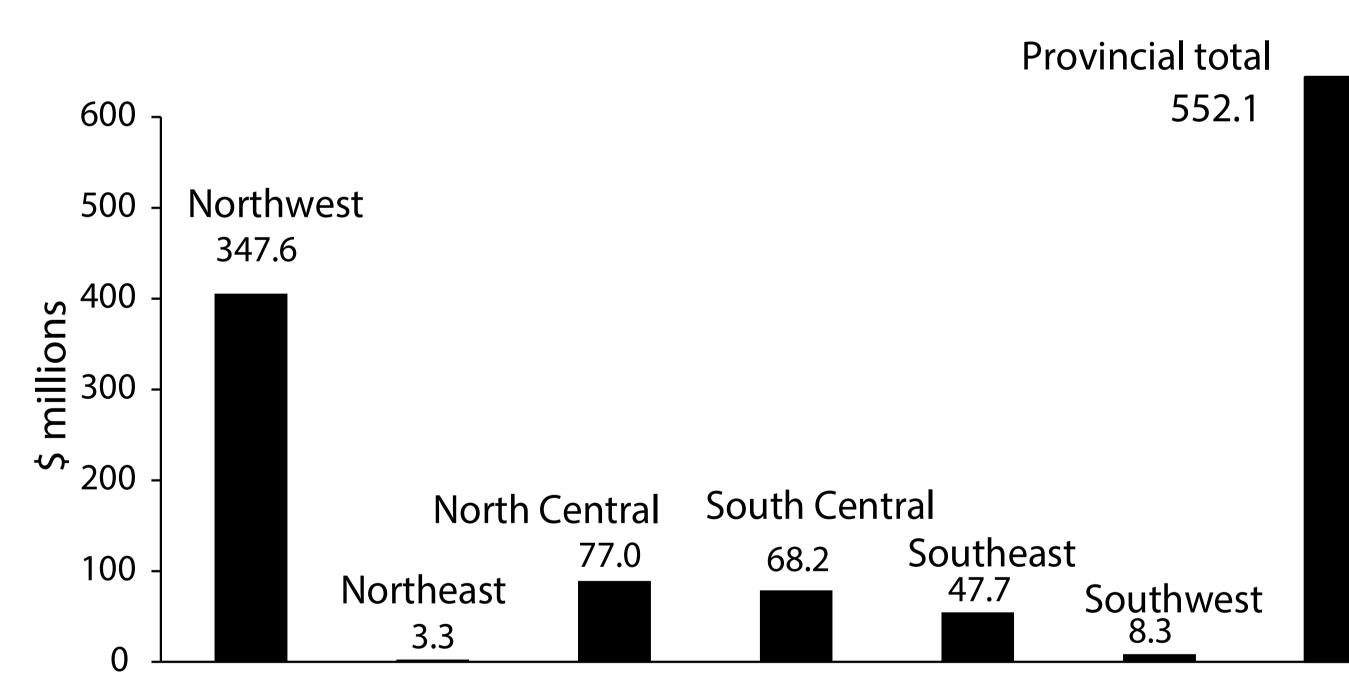
The North Central Region has one producing mine, the **Mount Milligan** copper-gold operation (Centerra Gold Inc.) and a mine development project, Artemis Gold Inc.'s, **Blackwater Gold** project. Significant work and results included those reported for Centerra Gold Inc.'s Mount Milligan Brownfield, Mount Milligan Greenfield, and Kemess North projects, FPX Nickel Corp.'s **Baptise Nickel** project, Amarc Resources Ltd.'s **JOY** project, Thesis Gold Inc.'s Lawyers-Ranch project, Independence Gold Corp.'s 3Ts project, Golden Cariboo Resources Ltd.'s Quesnelle Gold Quartz project, Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.'s Kliyul, Chuchi and Redton projects, Sun Summit Minerals Corp.'s **JD** project, and Quartz Mountain Resources Ltd.'s **Jake** project.

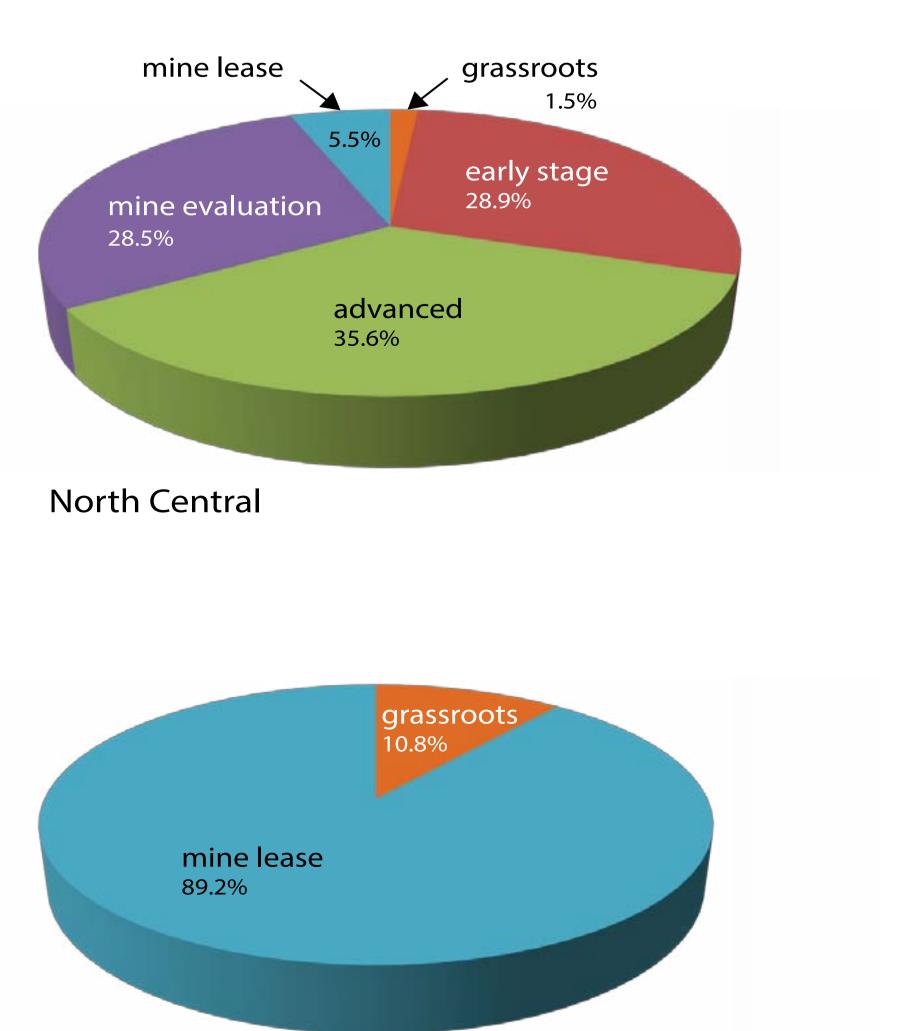
The Northeast Region is prospective for coal and industrial minerals and four mines produced coal in 2024: Conuma Resources Limited's Willow Creek, Quintette, Brule, and Wolverine operations. After 24 years, the company resumed mining operations at the **Quintette** mine in September. The Wolverine mine was shut down in April; plans were underway to place the Brule mine on care and maintenance in late December. Anglo American has proposed to sell its Peace River Coal operation **Trend-Roman** mine, which has been on care and maintenance since January 2015, to Conuma Resources Limited. In the far north of the region, Fireside Minerals Ltd. produces barite from its Fireside mine to supply the oil and gas drilling industry.

## **Exploration and drilling estimates**

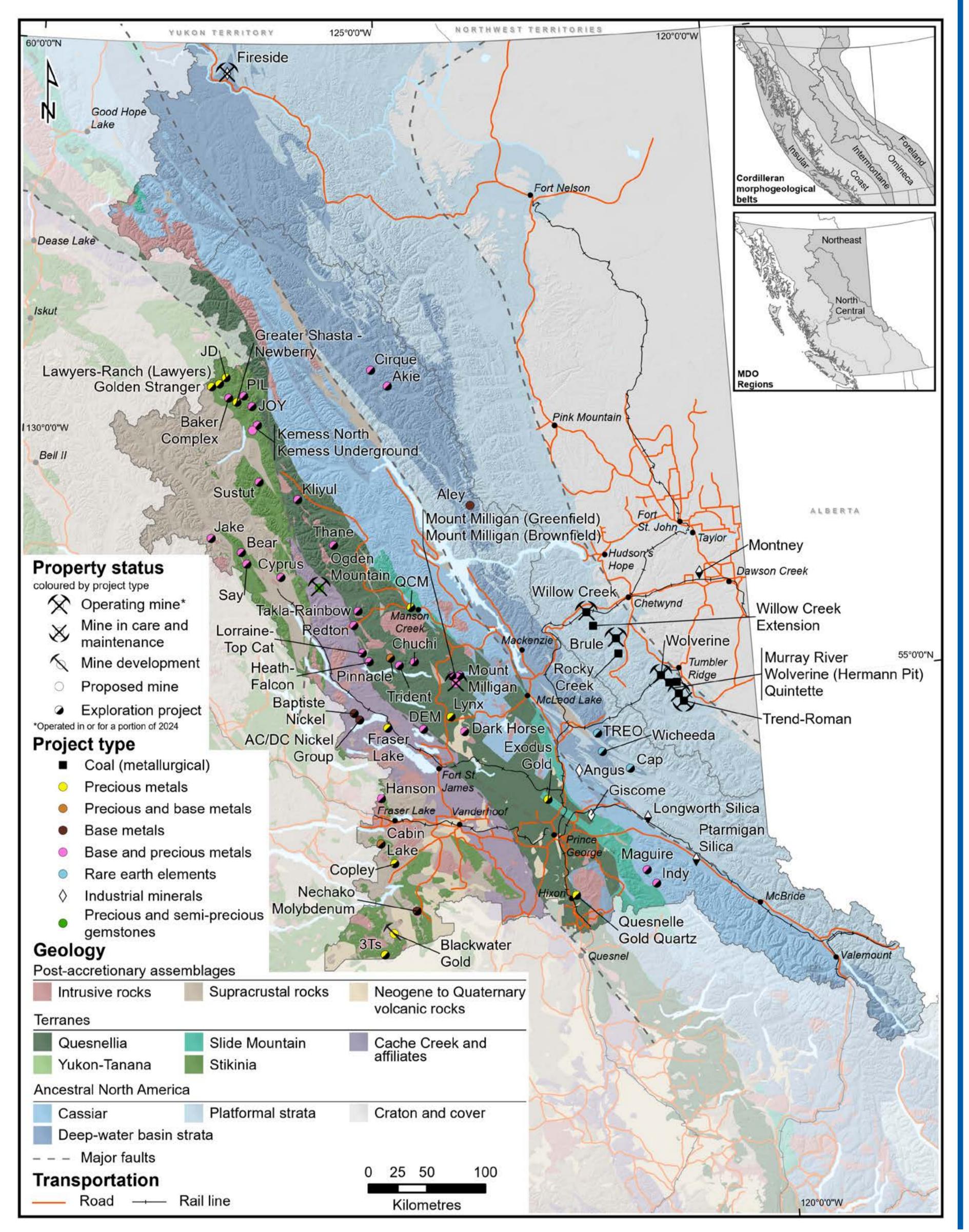
For the North Central Region, exploration expenditures were estimated at \$77.0 million and exploration drilling was estimated at approximately 89,000 m. For the Northeast Region, exploration expenditures were estimated at \$3.3 million and exploration drilling was estimated at approximately 3600 m (Clarke et al., 2025; EY LLP, 2025).

#### Provincial expenditures by region





# Mines and selected exploration projects





Blackwater's gold mine crusher.

Northeast

# **Exploration highlights**

#### **North Central Region**

- 3Ts (Independence Gold Corp.): Drilling, 22 DDH (5130 m). Highlight results for spring drilling included 26.00 m grading 9.62 g/t Au and 65.42 g/t Ag, and 23.00 m grading 5.85 g/t Au and 152.70 g/t Ag. By year end, 3222 m in 12 holes had been completed.
- Baker Complex (TDG Gold Corp.): Reported results of a 2023 drainage survey across 42 km2. Drilling, 15 auger (53.4 m) samples of historic tailings. Average grade for all material sampled was 1.00 g/t Au and 46 g/t Ag.
- **Baptiste Nickel (FPX Nickel Corp.):** The company closed a \$14.4 million strategic equity investment from Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. (SMCL). SMCL now owns 9.9% of FPX's issued and outstanding common shares on a non-diluted basis. The company completed large-scale mineral processing pilot test
- Chuchi (Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.): Diamond drilling, 5 holes, 2716 m total. Highlight results included 382 m grading 0.19% Cu, 0.12 g/t Au, and 0.47 g/t Ag, and 51.0 m grading 0.22% Cu, 0.15 g/t Au, and 0.49 g/t Ag.
- Cirque (Cirque Operating Corporation): Diamond drilling, 21 holes, 3022 m total.
- Dark Horse (IAMGOLD Corporation): Diamond drilling, 5 holes, 1032 m total.
- DEM (Evergold Corp.): Drilling, 4 DDH (1410 m). Highlights included 40 m grading 0.10 g/t Au, 2 g/t Ag, and 0.42% Sb.
- Jake (Quartz Mountain Resources Ltd.): Drilling, 7 DDH (3418 m).
- JD (Sun Summit Minerals Corp.): Drilling, 12 DDH (2537 m). Highlight results included: 122.53 m grading 2.11 g/t Au including 20.0 m of 10.01 g/t Au, 4.04 m of 46.78 g/t Au, and 1.52 m of 121.0 g/t Au. Collected 1220 soil and 51 rock samples. 20 line-km ground IP survey; lidar survey across project area.
- JOY (Amarc Resources Ltd.): Drilling, 40 DDH (16,883 m) at Pine deposit, Canyon discovery and Twins, Northwest Gossan targets. Completed a 19 line-km IP ground geophysical survey.
- Kemess North (Centerra Gold Inc.): Drilling, DDH (11,423 m). IP geophysical survey.
- Lawyers-Ranch (Lawyers) (Thesis Gold Inc.): Diamond drilling, 4100 m. Highlight results: 8.00 m grading 7.29 g/t Au and 327.75 g/t Ag, 45.00 m grading 1.03 g/t Au and 51.53 g/t Ag, 53.00 m grading 2.12 g/t Au and 104.95 g/t Ag, and 45.00 m grading 2.29 g/t Au and 132.10 g/t Ag. PEA and updated mineral resource assessment stating a 35.2% after tax IRR and an after-tax NPV5% of \$1.28 billion. Metallurgical and baseline environmental studies. Financing (\$31 million).
- Mount Milligan (Brownfield & Greenfield) (Centerra Gold Inc.): Drilling (12,407 m) & Drilling (3495 m, 16 holes). Soil sampling (203).
- PIL (Cascadia Minerals Ltd.): Diamond drilling (1759 m, 2 holes). Highlight results: 162.0 m grading 0.10% Cu, 0.05 g/t Au, and 7.1 g/t Ag. Rock (408) sampling results included: 12.25% Cu, with 0.26 g/t Au and 329 g/t Ag, and 7.13% Cu, with 0.29 g/t Au and 247 g/t Ag.

QCM (Centerra Gold Inc.): Drilling, RC (1098 m). Soil (1245) and rock (109) sampling, IP survey. Kestrel Gold Inc. granted Centerra Gold Inc.the option to earn a 75% interest in the QCM gold project.

- Quesnelle Gold Quartz (Golden Cariboo Resources Ltd.): Drilling, 15 DDH (4836 m). Highlight results included 85.83 m grading 0.55% g/t Au, 136.51 m grading 1.77 g/t Au, 204.85 m grading 0.80 g/t Au, and 136.51 m grading 1.46 g/t Au. Soil (606), rock (60), and stream (3) sampling.
- Wicheeda (Defense Metals Corp.): Strategic equity partnership and co-design agreement with McLeod Lake Indian Band. Environmental and metallurgical studies, processing test work. Prefeasibility study release planned for February 2025.

Drilling site at Kemess North deposit.

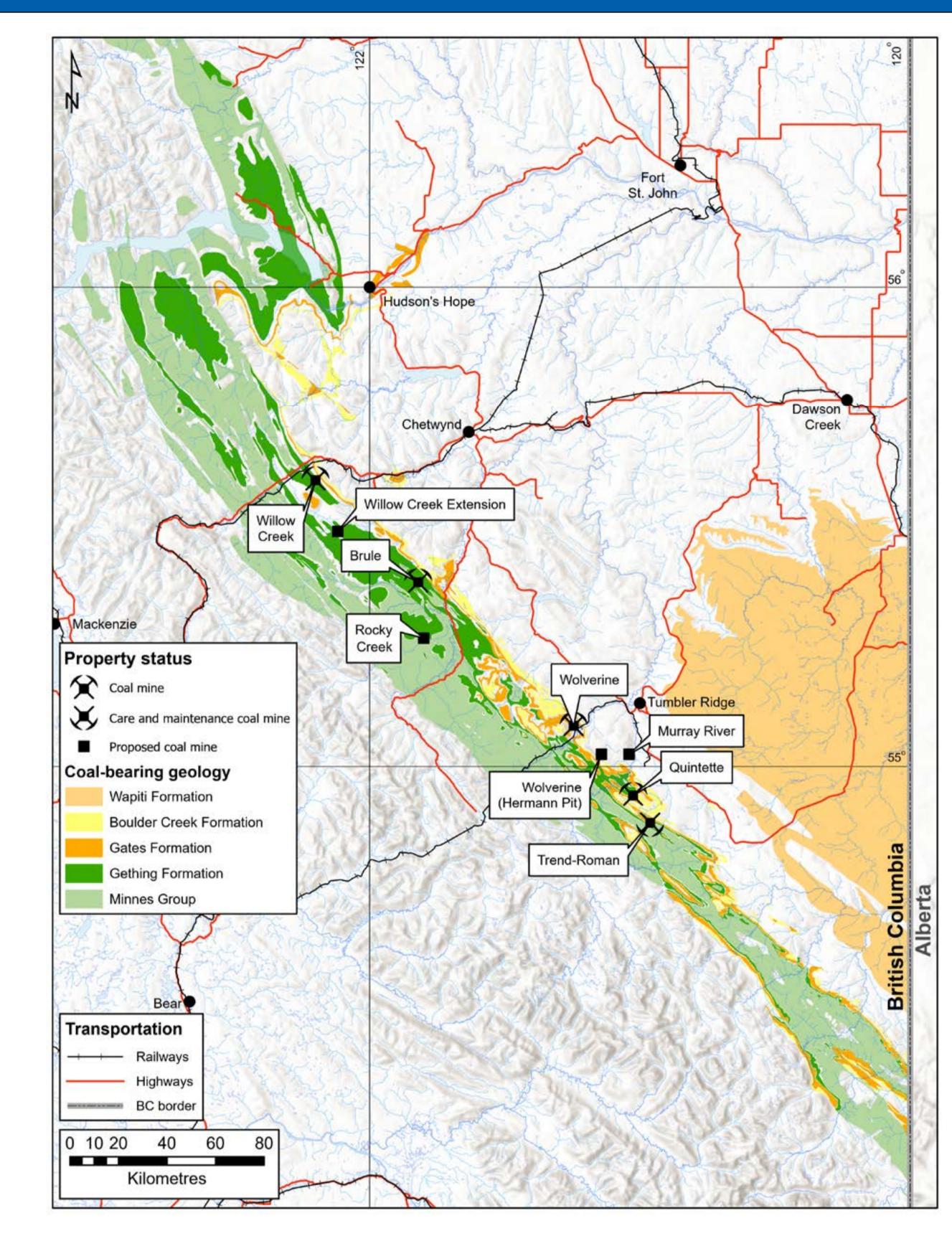


Drilling at Chuchi project.



Core with visible gold in quartz vein, Quesnelle Gold Quartz project.

#### Northeast Region coal fields







Willow Creek mine, June 2024.

Little Windy pit June 2024, Quintette

#### **Further information**

EY LLP, 2025. British Columbia Mineral and CoalExploration Survey 2024 Report, in press.

Heidarian, H., 2025. Exploration and mining in the North Central and Northeast regions, British Columbia. In: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2024. British Columbia Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2025-01, pp. 93-113.

Clarke, G., Northcote, B., Corcoran, N.L., Pothorin, C., Heidarian, H., and Hancock, K., 2025. Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2024: A summary. In: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2024. British Columbia Ministry of Miningand Critical Minerals, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2025-01, pp. 1-60



Ministry of<br/>Mining and<br/>COLUMBIAMinistry of<br/>Mining and<br/>Critical Minerals

Hassan Heidarian Regional Geologist, NC & NE regions British Columbia Geological Survey, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Low Carbon Innovation 1011 4th Avenue, Prince George , BC, V2L 3H9

# Mining highlights

#### **North Central Region**

#### Metal mines

• Mount Milligan (Centerra Gold Inc.): Mount Milligan produced 129,919 ounces of gold and 41.6 million pounds of copper in the first three quarters of 2024. Within the mine lease, 7005 m of drilling was completed.

#### • Mine development

• Blackwater (Artemis Gold Inc.): By the end of September construction was more than 95% completed. In November, commissioning began with the first ore fed to crushing circuits. Life-of-mine average annual gold production of 339,000 oz.

#### **Proposed Mines and quarries**

- Aley (Taseko Mines Limited): Proposed open-pit mine with 10,000 tpd ore processing rate and average annual production of 9000 t Nb.
- Angus (Vitreo Minerals Ltd.): Proposed mine production is 2.9 Mt per year over a 20-year mine life. Geotechnical drilling (12 sonic holes totalling 186.8 m) and diamond drilling (8 holes, 745.2 m).
- 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. Graymont has not yet decided to initiate construction.
- Kemess Underground (Centerra Gold Inc.): Permitted, proposed 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 12year life of mine.

## **Northeast Region (Coal mines)**

- Brule Mine (Conuma Resources Limited): Forecast production for the Brule mine was 1.3 Mt of pulverized coal injection (PCI) coal. The mine may go into C&M in 2025.
- Quintette (Conuma Resources Limited): First shipment of coal in more than 20 years left the mine on September 18. Forecast production for the mine was 0.2 Mt of hard coking coal (HCC).
- Willow Creek Mine (Conuma Resources Limited): The Willow Creek mine forecasted production was 1.3 Mt of hard coking coal (HCC) and pulverized coal injection (PCI) product.
- Wolverine Mine (Conuma Resources Limited): Forecast production for the Wolverine mine was 0.7 Mt of hard coking coal (HCC). Mine shut down in April 2024. On care and maintenance.
- Industrial mineral mines and quarries
- Fireside (Fireside Minerals Ltd.): Fireside Minerals produces 4.1 API spec barite for sale to western Canadian oil and gas markets.

#### **Proposed coal mines**

- Murray River (HD Mining International Ltd.): Dewatered previous workings. A 5-year construction phase is currently planned.
- Rocky Creek (CTI Plus Resources Ltd.): Early engagement phase of the environmental assessment process. Fieldwork included 11 geotechnical test pits, 9 overburden sampling pits and environmental baseline studies.
- Willow Creek Extension (Conuma Resources Limited): Prefeasibility study completed in September 2022. Continued baseline monitoring. The project contains 15.6 Mt Proven and Probable serves.
- Wolverine (Hermann Pit) (Conuma Resources Limited):
- Continued baseline monitoring. Project contains 13.9 Mt Proven and Probable reserves of coal in the Gates Formation.

