



British Columbia Geological Survey Mineral Development Office



Ministry of
Mining and
Critical Minerals

Information Circular 2026-02



Mineral Development Office

The Mineral Development Office (MDO) is the Vancouver base of the British Columbia Geological Survey. Regional Geologists are part of the MDO and are stationed in offices across the province where they provide geoscience expertise and monitor local industry activities. Public geoscience is one of the principal enablers of grassroots mineral exploration, the backbone of mining. The MDO provides technical information and investment intelligence to global business, government, and Indigenous groups.

The Mineral Development Office serves mineral resource decision making by

- linking the more than 1,000 exploration and mining companies headquartered in Vancouver to provincial mineral and coal information
- conducting an annual expenditure and drilling survey to analyze short- and long-term industry trends
- producing the annual *Mining and Exploration* publication, a summary of mining and exploration projects, activities, production and expenditures
- responding to requests from government and Indigenous groups to prepare Mineral Lands Assessments to support land-use planning decisions by summarizing the geologic context of mineralization, historical and recent mining and exploration activities, known mineral occurrences, active mineral rights, and results of mineral potential models
- providing minerals, project, and technical data to government groups

The Mineral Development Office promotes British Columbia as a preferred jurisdiction for mineral exploration by providing information to international trade offices and meeting with global industry representatives seeking technical discussions about potential projects.

Exploration and mining

Mining contributes greatly to the economy of British Columbia, and exploration is the backbone of mining. More than 1000 exploration and mining companies are headquartered in Vancouver. In addition, the exploration and mining industry is particularly important for northern communities and some Indigenous groups, employing more than 40,000 people.

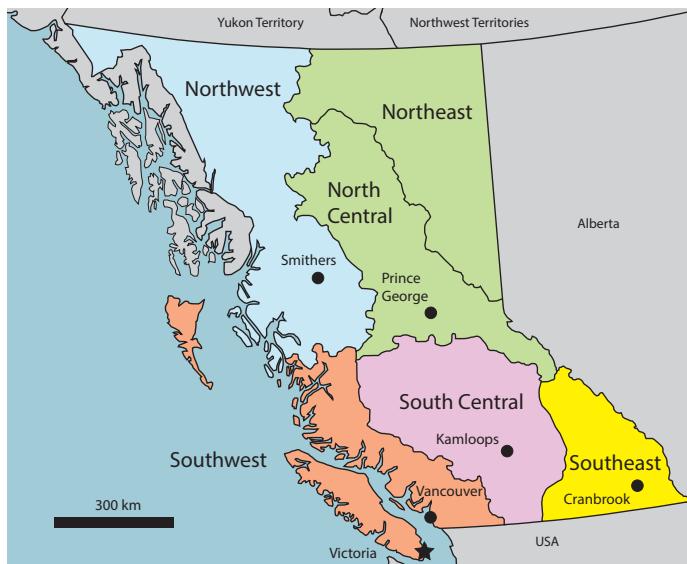
Between 2020 and 2024, the total value of mining production was \$71.9 billion and the exploration expenditure was \$3.0 billion. For 2025, the forecast value of mine production is \$16.4 billion, and the exploration expenditure is estimated at \$750.9 million.

As the steward of mineral and coal resource information in the province, the Survey has an important role in stimulating activity, attracting investment, and providing continuous research based on a corporate memory that extends back more than 130 years.

The Survey reduces exploration risk by: providing the geological framework to identify areas with high mineral potential; increasing exploration efficiency by gathering regional information used for property-scale evaluation; and archiving exploration results so that projects can be advanced without duplicating previous work.

Regional Geologists

Based in Smithers, Prince George, Kamloops, Vancouver, and Cranbrook (vacant) the Regional Geologists monitor exploration and mining activities in their jurisdictions. The Regional Geologists also provide information on exploration trends and possible investment opportunities, respond to mineral lands assessment requests, and conduct public outreach.





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