

Exploration and mining highlights, Northwest Region, 2020

Overview

The Northwest Region has long been known for its history of mining and its vast endowment of precious and base metals. The region is prospective for a wide range of mineral deposits: large bulk-tonnage porphyry Cu-Au-Mo, high-grade Au-Ag precious metal, Ag-Pb-Zn polymetallic, ultramafic-hosted Ni-Co-Pt-Pd, anthracite coal, placer gold, and jade. Projects this year were again largely concentrated in the Golden Triangle, while several other projects were underway to the southeast. High metal prices in 2020 encouraged financings of many projects and led to an increase in exploration activity for the fourth consecutive year.

The Northwest Region has several producing mines including two large metal mines (**Red Chris** and **Brucejack**) and an abundance of proposed and advancedstage projects. In 2020, the region saw numerous active early- to advanced-stage projects that focussed mainly on precious, base metal, and porphyry deposits.

Exploration and drilling estimates

Total British Columbia:

-Exploration expenditures: \$422.7 million -Drilling: 991,300 m

Northwest Region:

-Exploration expenditures: \$225.3 million -Drilling: 470,058 m

Exploration expenditures in the Northwest Region are the second highest in recorded history.













The Golden Triangle of northwestern British Columbia contains a large mineral wealth and includes most of the major Cu-Au-Ag deposits in western-central Stikinia. It is prospective for a wide range of mineral deposits: porphyry Cu-Au-Mo, precious metal Au-Ag, and polymetallic Ag-Pb-Zn. Important mineral deposits formed directly from tectonic compressional and extensional deformation and arc-related magmatism which was widespread and long-lived from the Late Triassic - Early Jurassic. The regions metallogenesis is directly tied to this tectonomagmatic evolution.



Intrusive rocks Sedimentary and volcanic rocks International Border Pleistocene - Holocene Volcanic rocks, undivided Paleogene-Neogene Intrusive rocks, undivided Jurassic Metamorphic rocks, undivided ——— Highway/Road HAZELTON GROUP Middle Jurassic Andesitic volcanic rocks Miocene - Pleistocene Volcanic rocks, undivided Cretaceous - Paleogene Intrusive rocks, undivided **Property Status** Triassic - Jurassic Marine sedimentary and volcanic rocks, undivided Triassic to Tertiary Intrusive rocks, undivided Pleistocene to Holocene Basaltic volcanic rocks Exploration Project STUHINI GROUP Upper Triassic Marine sedimentary and volcanic rocks Jurassic - Cretaceous Intrusive rocks, undivided Proposed Mine Cretaceous - Paleocene Clastic sedimentary rocks





Exploration highlights

Step-out drilling highlights for Dolly Varden Silver Corporation's **Dolly Varden** project included 2.70 m of 1083 g/t Ag within 12.75 m of 351 g/t Ag.

Infill drilling at Skeena Resources Limited's Eskay Creek project intersected 42.59 m grading 7.19 g/t Au and 665 g/t Ag at 21C zone, 35.42 m grading 21.90 g/t Au and 235 g/t Ag in 21A zone, and 56.34 m grading 2.17 g/t Au and 234 g/t Ag in 22 zone. The company raised C\$46 million enabling financing for a Prefeasibility and Feasibility Study and are permitting 137,000 m of exploration drilling. The company also acquired 100% interest in the project Barrick is to retain 12.4% interest in the project.

Drilling by Garibaldi Resources Corp. at their **E&L** project extended the strike length of the E&L intrusion from 200 to 650 m and to 578 m at depth.

Imperial Metals Corporation drilled beneath the East zone pit at the **Huckleberry** mine and intersected 361 m grading 0.35% Cu.

A Preliminary Economic Assessment was filed by Seabridge Gold Inc. for their **KSM** project in April. It shows a mine life of 44 years producing 27.6 Moz Au and 17.0 Blbs Cu, where the initial capital for mine construction and development is \$5.2 billion on a four-year payback period. It's the largest undeveloped gold project in the world (by gold resources).

Enduro Metals Corporation assayed previously unanalyzed historic core at their Newmont Lake project. Results included 144 m grading 3.18 g/t Au and 3.66 g/t Ag. Step out drilling results included 8.85 m grading 31.09 g/t Au and 1.07% Cu.

Deep drilling at the East zone at the Red Chris mine (Newcrest Mining Ltd. 70% and Imperial Metals Corporation 30%) intersected high-grade pods of mineralization, including: 514 m grading 1.3 g/t Au and 0.77% Cu including 166 m grading 3.0 g/t Au and 1.5% Cu (from hole RC634).

Skeena Resources Limited announced an updated resource for **Snip** with 539,000 t grading 14.0 g/t Au (containing 244,000 oz Au) in the Indicated category.

Step-out drilling by Equity Metals Corporation at their Silver Queen project intersected a pyrargyrite (ruby-silver), quartz-barite vein containing 0.3 m grading 56,115 g/t Ag.

GT Gold Corp. announced a maiden resource for Tatogga (Saddle North). This contained an Indicated resource of 1.81 Blbs Cu and 3.47 Moz Au and an Inferred resource of 2.98 Blbs Cu and 5.46 Moz Au (combined open pit and underground mining methods). The company is completing a Preliminary Economic Assessment to be released Q1 2021.

Tudor Gold Corp. reported that drilling at the Treaty Creek project intersected grades of significant length: 348 m grading 2.04 g/t Au and 4.13 g/t Ag within 930 m of 1.06 g/t Au and 2.80 g/t Ag (from hole GS-20-65).

Mining highlights

The Brucejack and Red Chris mines operated continuously in 2020, and the Silvertip mine operated in the first quarter before being put into care and maintenance in February.

Brucejack: production for the first three quarters totalled 259,443 oz of Au at a head grade of 8.4 g/t Au and 364,233 oz Ag. The mill throughput in the first nine months of the year totalled 3642 tpd for a total of 997,821 t milled. In March, a technical report was filed, with Indicated and Measured mineral resources totalling 23.2 Mt grading 10.1 g/t Au and 65.5 g/t Ag and Proven and Probable mineral reserves totalling 15.7 Mt grading 8.4 g/t Au and 59.6 g/t Ag.

Red Chris: production to the end of the third quarter totalled 40,275 oz Au and 49.8 Mlbs Cu. Brownfield exploration drilling was carried out at the East zone, Main zone, and Gully zone following up on historic drilling along a 3 km porphyry trend. Electromagnetic and gravity surveys were completed and will be used for furthered target generation. Resource definition infill drilling was also completed and confirmed several discrete high-grade pods of mineralization in the East zone that sit within a larger overall porphyry system. Highlights from this infill drilling included 514 m grading 1.3 g/t Au and 0.77% Cu including 166 m grading 3.0 g/t Au and 1.5% Cu (from hole RC634). As of 2014, open pit/block cave Measured plus Indicated resources total 1.034 Bt with grades of 0.35% Cu, 0.35 g/t Au, and 1.14 g/t Ag. Additional Inferred resources total 787.1 Mt with average grades of 0.29% Cu, 0.32 g/t Au, and 1.04 g/t Ag.

Silvertip: at the end of February, Coeur Mining Inc. announced a temporary suspension at the Silvertip mine, resulting in the project being put on care and maintenance. In the first quarter the mill produced 139,000 oz Ag, 2.46 Mlbs Zn, and 2.18 Mlbs Pb from 29,240 t milled. Exploration this year was directed at expanding the resource and extending the mine life. Early drill results indicate the potential for resource growth along a 3.5 km north-south strike length, prompting the company to spend \$1 million US towards underground development to facilitate follow-up drilling.

Further information

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Energy, Mines and COLUMBIA Low Carbon Innovation



alcopyrite yein (2 cm wide) trending NW within Main zone pit at Huckleber



Bonanza gold mineralization in fine-grained, quartz-sericite-pyrite altered lapilli tuff at Brucejack.

storic railcar track remains from mining operations at Silvertip in the 1950s; photo ta





Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2020



ve phase) at Red Chris (NO core size)