

**HONOURABLE GORDON HOGG
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINING**

SPEAKING BULLETS

**Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia
(AMEBC) Board Meeting**

December 9, 2008

Date: Dec. 9, 2008

**Location: AMEBC
Suite 800 – 899 West Pender St.
Vancouver**

Time: 12 to 1 p.m.

Speech: 3 minutes

Check against delivery

INTRODUCTION

- I know you have specific topics you'd like to discuss today.
- I'd like to give you a short update on last week's Mining Council meeting.
- I floated the idea of creating a sub-committee that would focus on our current global economic situation.
- The group unanimously supported the idea.
- The next day we announced the formation of the Economic Task Force for Mining.
- This task force will:
 - Bring together industry leaders to monitor the economic situation.
 - Recommend measures to mitigate the effects of the global downturn on the mining industry.
 - And, equally important, put forward a strategy to mitigate human resources losses and prepare for recovery.
- By early as next week we hope to have both a structure and list of potential members.
- Last week we also announced the extension of the Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit to the end of 2009.
- We were fortunate to have the Premier at a portion of our meeting.
- He invited the mining industry to bring forward priority infrastructure needs so he can bring them to Ottawa in January.
- I extend that invitation to you as well.
- We also heard from Grand Chief Ed John and Regional Chief Shawn Atleo – as well as industry members at the table – about the pressing need to clarify the First Nations consultation process so industry can do business in a timely way while respecting the need for consultation.
- This will be something we will be focusing on both at the Council table and with ministry staff.

- We heard a report back from your president and CEO, as well as Pierre Gratton, on their view of the Asia Investment Mission.
- We all agreed that next year we will undertake an even more coordinated effort so we can maximize our opportunities there.
- We know it takes time to establish relationships in China.
- Jurisdictions like Australia, who have been working with the Chinese for 10 years, are seeing results.
- I think this is a valuable undertaking that will bear fruit for B.C. mining in the future.
- Despite the current downturn, as the Premier said, China will continue to urbanize.
- “When things pick up again, we need to be there for it.”
- While we were there, one headline in a Chinese newspaper said that economic growth was going to drop to 10.4 per cent next year!
- I can’t remember when we saw an economic growth rate of 10.4 per cent in North America.
- Those are just some of the things discussed at our meeting.
- Many of the other topics discussed are on your discussion list today.
- So I’ll save those for the table.
- Thank you.