

## British Columbia Coal Industry

### Economic and Social Impacts

- BC's coal mining industry contributes just over \$3.2 billion in value-added GDP to the provincial economy.
- In 2011, the value of provincial coal production reached \$5.7 billion.
- Total tax payments made by the coal mining industry to all levels of government in 2011 was \$715.2 million – this includes \$399 million in tax revenue generated by economic activity and \$316.2 million in mineral taxes paid to the B.C. Government which helped support infrastructure and government programs.

### Coal Resources

- British Columbia has 12.9 billion tonnes of potentially mineable coal resources, of which 8 billion tonnes are located in the East Kootenay coalfields in southeast B.C. and 4.9 billion tonnes are located in the Peace River coalfield in northeast B.C.
- B.C. has 10 operating coal mines located in the northeast (Peace River area) and the southeast (Kootenay area), and Vancouver Island. Additional project sites throughout the province are under exploration or at other stages of advanced development.
- 9 mines produced metallurgical coal (used for making steel) while one mine (located on Vancouver Island) produced thermal coal.

### Production and Exports

- In 2012, British Columbia's ten operating mines produced 28.8 million tonnes of coal.
- Export sales for metallurgical and thermal coal were \$7.1 billion in 2011, representing 22% of total exports from British Columbia.
- Canada is the third largest exporter of metallurgical coal after Australia and the United States and 89% of Canadian metallurgical coal comes from B.C.
- Coal exports are a major contributor to B.C.'s export activity making up 21.8% of total provincial exports in 2011.
- Japan and South Korea consumed the largest share of B.C.'s total metallurgical coal exports, however China's demand for B.C. coal has been on the rise recently.

### Employment

- Over 26,000 jobs in B.C. are attributable to the coal industry.
- The estimated average yearly wage for workers directly employed by coal companies was \$95,174 in 2011. This is twice that of the provincial wage of \$43,500.
- Canada's coal industry requires a highly skilled and technical workforce including engineers, geologists, technologists, environmental scientists, and a variety of tradespeople such as electricians and heavy duty mechanics.