

Copper Mountain holds official opening



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Published: **August 23, 2011 3:00 PM**

Updated: **August 23, 2011 3:08 PM**

Mining is returning to the Princeton region as the Copper Mountain Mine celebrated its grand opening last Thursday. The mine brings jobs to the area and benefits the entire province.

Having started production in June 2011, Copper Mountain is the third- largest copper mine in Canada and the first major-metals mine to open in British Columbia since 1998. The 7,285-hectare (18,000-acre) site is located 20 km south of the town of Princeton and is expected to produce approximately 2.27 billion kilograms (five billion pounds) of copper over its life.

When fully operating, the mine will provide about 270 mining jobs in the Princeton area. The B.C. mining sector hit \$7.9 billion in gross revenues in 2010, returning to 2008 historic levels after rebounding in recent years.

Princeton Mayor Randy McLean -

“The official opening of Copper Mountain Mine marks a great day in the history of Princeton. The economic effect of a project of this magnitude on a small community is remarkable; every facet of our way of life has undergone a boost in morale. We are eternally grateful to Copper Mountain Mining’s Jim O’Rourke and the provincial ministers who worked so hard to bring this project into production.”

Why It Matters:

Mining contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to the Province and more than \$400 million is estimated for 2010.

All of B.C.’s operating mines are profitable, tax revenues are rising, and direct employment is growing.

The average wage in the mining industry reaches well over \$100,000.