



*105 Highway 3 East  
Princeton BC V0X 1W0  
Tel: (250) 295-3103  
chamber@nethrop.net*

Thank you Frank and thank all of you who have taken the time to be here today, what a turnout, this is the second time half of Princeton has shown up to welcome Copper Mountain Mining to our community. From the very beginnings of the rumors that something might be happening up here on the hill, there has been nothing but the most positive response in the community. And why not, with the influx of economic boom and mine workers our whole community has been transformed, stores and businesses are busier, curling, golf and other recreational clubs have greater participation, service clubs and cultural activities have more hard working members, more moms pushing baby-carriages down main street, more children in our schools,( those miners are busy people) in so many ways in Princeton there has been a huge boost in confidence and attitude. How nice is it that our children are staying here or moving back because they can find meaningful jobs right here in the community and can raise our grandchildren right down the block? Princeton is building towards a brighter and more prosperous future and so can many small communities across the province that have potential mining properties around their borders. Pine beetle affected forest revenue can be replaced by mine revenue to strengthen our province. This is a historic day for Princeton, a day when we welcome back mining to the community. There are so many people that have worked so hard over the past years to make this possible. I have sometimes referred to one of them as unswerving with a single-mindedness of purpose, translation stubbornness. Fourteen years ago when Jim O'Rourke left this site he made it clear that there was still a potential property here and today after fourteen years of hard work and dedication he is back with 270 workers and a 400 million dollar operation and Ladies and Gentlemen today I am standing here thanking God for that stubbornness. Jim, Princeton is so grateful for all you have done for us. Four years ago when Jim was looking for potential investors, one must remember that the global financial situation did not lend itself to investment and yet Mitsubishi Materials Corporation stepped forward, the only criteria they asked for was an environmentally and safety focused operation and that fell right in place with the only kind of industry Jim would be associated with. Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Princeton thanks you for your trust and belief. Throughout the

establishment process the Upper Similkameen Band have been up front and supportive, they have worked together with Copper Mountain to ensure that the traditional territory, for which they are responsible, is cared for. Princeton thanks the chiefs, Chief Charlotte Mitchell, the councils the elders and the band members. As well I would like to acknowledge the new members of our community, the new mine employees who have fitted in so seamlessly and bolstered our economy as well as boosting the morale of many of our groups, organizations and recreational clubs by their participation.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our provincial government, from the beginning they have been in our corner on both sides of the house doing everything they could to bring about this project. Our local MLA Harry Lali has joined together with the provincial ministers to help promote our mine. Minister Rich Coleman as well as former mines and energy ministers Randy Haws and Blair Lekstrom have worked tirelessly to make Copper Mountain a reality. We received the odd groan when we brought timeline concerns from Jim because they were already working as hard as they could to speed things along. That constant assistance and concern for those timelines will never be forgotten. MLA Bill Barisoff is somewhat of a legend in the eyes of the mine managers as a result of the time Bill Van Damme called me to see if I knew someone who could do anything about a Highways Ministry edict concerning winter restricted roads, as there were 14 trucks carrying heavy equipment sitting in town and unable to move, I made a few calls and was absolutely turned down and then I called the Speaker MLA Barisoff and later that night he called and said you have 3 hours to get the equipment through and they got it through. We all should have known that if you could control both sides of the house in the middle of a fierce debate, getting around a highways ministry edict would be a piece of cake. That was the type of cooperation we received and I want to thank all of the members of the legislature who showed up here today to help us celebrate this historic day in Princeton. Ladies and gentlemen will you join with me now in expressing how we in Princeton appreciate the work all of these people have done to brighten our future. It is my pleasure to now introduce a man who has a long list of credits to his name, he is a four time member of the legislature, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, a recipient of Kinsman's highest honour, he is leading his third ministry and yet I would like to introduce him as the former Minister of Forests who granted Princeton, Area H and the Upper Similkameen Band a 20,000 cubic meter area based license that has started hauling logs this week and will benefit the area for years to come. Ladies and gentlemen a real friend to Princeton, Minister of Mines Rich Coleman