



NEWS RELEASE

BC Mine Reclamation Award and Scholarship Recipients Announced

British Columbia – September 23, 2021 – The British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) presented its annual awards at the TRCR’s 44th annual Mine Reclamation Symposium today.

Centerra Gold and **Chu Cho Environmental** are the co-recipients of the Jake McDonald Annual Reclamation Award for their ongoing research into innovative techniques to solve reclamation questions at the Mount Milligan Mine, and their partnership with local communities. Mount Milligan’s environmental team, which includes Indigenous members from Nak’azdli Whut’en First Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band, co-hosted tours of Centerra Gold’s Endako and Kemess sites for local Indigenous Nations to identify successful reclamation methods from these “living labs” to evaluate their application at the Mount Milligan Mine. The experiences and lessons learned during the reclamation of the Kemess and Endako mines were leveraged into the development and implementation of a Proof-of-Concept reclamation demonstration field trial. “Although the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for collaboration across communities, the Mount Milligan environmental team successfully brought together people from Indigenous Nations into the closure planning process, and used examples of exemplary reclamation to apply what was learned to guide site specific reclamation approaches at Mount Milligan,” says Tim Antill, awards subcommittee chair and incoming TRCR chair. Centerra Gold previously received the Jake McDonald Annual Reclamation Award for Mount Milligan at the 2016 symposium.

The Tony Milligan Book Award was presented to **Trevor Baker, Justin Straker** and **Max Ryan** of Integral Ecology Group for the best paper delivered at the previous year’s BC Mine Reclamation Symposium, the first symposium held online. The paper, “Development of a soil water balance-based model for predicting ecosystem occurrence on post-closure landforms” describes a system for more accurately predicting the soil moisture regime of reclaimed upland sites.

The TRCR is also pleased to announce its 2021 Jake McDonald Memorial Scholarship recipient. **Jaxon Reid** of Kamloops, BC, is a second-year mining engineering student at BCIT who has previously completed 3 years as a biology major in the Bachelor of Science program at University of Victoria. Jaxon switched to mine engineering last year after working in a metallurgical lab and becoming more focused on a career in mining.

The 44th Annual Mine Reclamation Symposium attracted more than 240 delegates ranging from biologists to engineers and geoscientists and representatives from Indigenous communities from throughout western Canada. “We have built on the strong success of our first ever virtual event last year, and are pleased to provide two full days of exciting virtual content (including multiple virtual mine tours) that covers a diverse range of topics plus an additional interactive short-course this year,” notes **Alison Burton**, outgoing chair of the TRCR.

About the BC TRCR

The TRCR originated in the early 1970s in response to a demonstrated need in the British Columbia mining sector for greater government-industry communication in the area of environmental protection and reclamation. Membership is drawn from industry, provincial and federal government agencies, exploration and mining associations, and universities and colleges. The TRCR sponsors the BC Mine Reclamation Symposium. Follow @TRCR on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TRCR>.

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MEDIA CONTACT: For enquiries contact Jonathan Buchanan at 778.840.0620 or jbuchanan@amebc.ca.