



NEWS RELEASE

BC Mine Reclamation Award and Scholarship Recipients Announced

Kimberley, BC – September 23, 2019 – The British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) presented the Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award and Metal Mining Award at the BC TRCR and Canadian Land Reclamation Association joint conference in Kimberley last Wednesday.

The Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award was presented to **Barrick Gold Inc.** for enhanced reclamation of a tailings storage facility at the historic Giant Nickel mine ten kilometres north of Hope, BC. “Barrick is recognized for taking the initiative to conduct works to improve the reclamation and closure outcomes to meet current mine reclamation standards as well as their own corporate standards,” notes Brenda Bailey, member of the TRCR Awards Subcommittee. “The company’s approach of engaging with local user groups, involving Indigenous community members in the activities, and utilizing local contractors to conduct the work is admirable. This project demonstrates that reclamation of older, closed mine sites can be enhanced to meet modern standards and best available technologies, to meet regulatory requirements and the social, environmental, and economic needs of the surrounding communities.”

The **Crown Contaminated Sites Program of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development** and **AECOM Canada Ltd.** received the Metal Mining Award for their installation of a water treatment system at the historic Atlin Ruffner mine site, located 28 kilometres northeast of Atlin, BC. This project is recognized “on the merit of conducting detailed closure planning, including comprehensive water quality and water balance modelling, and consideration of the site-specific limiting factors to reclamation,” notes Bailey. “Between the installation of the passive water treatment system and previous reclamation work done at the site, the area can now be used safely by wildlife and the public.”

The TRCR is also pleased to announce four 2019 Jake McDonald Memorial Scholarship recipients. **Bilawal Soomro** is an undergraduate mining engineering student at the University of British Columbia involved in a research project to investigate the ability of mine tailings to directly capture carbon dioxide. Three Master in Science students in Environmental Science at Thompson Rivers University received scholarships: **Chantelle Gervan**, who is studying invertebrate response to mine reclamation; **Ashley Fischer**, whose research focuses on investigating topsoil stockpiles and native soil inoculations; and **Brandon Williams**, who is studying the use of prescribed burns as a reclamation tool for mine sites.

The Tony Milligan Book Award was presented for the best paper delivered at the previous year’s BC Mine Reclamation Symposium in Williams Lake. Natalie Melaschenko of Integral Ecology Group presented “[A community-based approach to End Land Use planning at Highland Valley Copper](#)” with Tamlyn Botel, who was representing the Citw Nlaka’pamux Assembly. Co-authors of the paper were Melaschenko, Jaimie Dickson of Teck Highland Valley Copper, and Kevan Berg and Justin Straker of Integral Ecology Group.

The TRCR hosted its 42nd annual Mine Reclamation Symposium in Kimberley from September 16 to 19 in conjunction with the Canadian Land Reclamation Association’s 45th annual conference. More than 180 delegates attended the program which included a landform design workshop, and field trip on mine reclamation at Teck Resources Limited’s past producing Sullivan mine, two days of technical presentations, and the B.C. Mine Reclamation Awards banquet.



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 Committee meets to discuss matters of joint concern and interest, exchange experiences, plan activities, and prioritize research needs. It sponsors the BC Mine Reclamation Symposium and studies on reclamation-related issues. www.trcr.bc.ca. Follow @TRCR on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TRCR>.

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