



NEWS RELEASE

46th Annual BC Mine Reclamation Awards and Scholarship Recipients Announced

Prince George, BC/Lheidli T'enneh Traditional Territory – September 26, 2023

The British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) presented its annual awards at the TRCR's 46th annual Mine Reclamation Symposium at Prince George Civic Centre on Wednesday, September 21st. "The awards are reflective of the innovative and high-quality reclamation activities being conducted throughout the province," noted Tim Antill, chair of the TRCR's Awards Subcommittee. "I congratulate the winners and would also like to recognize all of the companies and individuals who are so committed and involved with mine reclamation throughout the province."

Imperial Metals - Mount Polley Mine and Habitat Remediation Working Group are the recipients of the **Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award** for the remediation of Hazeltine and Edney creeks following the breach of the Mount Polley Mine tailings storage facility in 2014. Since then, restoration of nearly nine kilometres of Hazeltine Creek and the lower 500 metres of Edney Creek has been completed. Restoration works included the installation of trout and salmon habitat, and the creeks have now been re-opened to the fish. In addition, the affected Quesnel Lake shoreline has been cleaned up, revegetated, and salmon spawning gravel has been installed. Extensive revegetation of forested and riparian areas involved the planting of more than 800,000 native trees and shrubs. Success of this restoration work has been demonstrated by the return of Coho salmon and other fish species to Edney Creek, the spawning of Rainbow trout in upper Hazeltine Creek since 2018 and the observation of sockeye salmon spawners in lower Hazeltine Creek in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Habitat Remediation Working Group is a collaborative partnership with participation from Imperial Metals Corporation's Mount Polley Mine employees and their consultants, including WSP Consulting Group; representatives of the T'exelcenc (Williams Lake First Nation) and Xat'sull First Nation, and their consultants, including Marc Gaboury; plus, government representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Government of BC.

Centerra Gold – Mount Milligan Mine and Chu Cho Environmental received the **Metal Mining Category Award** for ongoing progressive reclamation at the Mount Milligan Mine, located 155 kilometres northwest of Prince George. The approach focused on the collection of native seed, propagation of native plants using a local nursery, and collaboration with a team of Northern BC-based companies, educational institutions, and professionals. The incorporation of local Indigenous cultural values has helped to identify target species for use in reclamation.

Teck Resources Limited is the recipient of the **Coal Mining Category Award** for its use of uphill contouring to re-slope rock spoils at the Coal Mountain Mine near Sparwood; benefits included geotechnical stability of waste spoils without impacting undisturbed or reclaimed downslope areas.

Orca Sand and Gravel received the **Sand and Gravel Category Award** for its ongoing progressive reclamation efforts at the Orca Quarry near Port McNeill as demonstrated by the reclamation of a sediment storage facility and its engagement with the Kwakiutl First Nation and 'Namgis First Nation to adapt planting prescriptions based on feedback from community members.

Tim Poulton and **Colleen Hughes** were presented with the **Tony Milligan Book Award** for their paper, "[Copper Mountain Mine Wolfe Creek fish habitat offsetting plan effectiveness monitoring](#)" presented at the 45th BC Mine Reclamation Symposium in Kimberley, BC in 2022.

The TRCR is also pleased to announce its 2023 **Jake McDonald Memorial Scholarship** recipients. **Angus Ball** is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC); **Lori Clyde** is a fourth-year student in the Natural Resource Science program at Thompson Rivers University; and **Jeremiah DuBovis** is an MSc candidate in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at UNBC. Additionally, **Angus Ball** receives the inaugural poster award at the Mine Reclamation Symposium for presenting on impacts of soil amendments and microbial inoculum on ryegrass growth in tailings reclamation.

Nearly 300 people attended the symposium including more than 220 people in person at the Prince George Civic Centre; attendees ranged from mining industry and Government representatives, University students and representatives of Indigenous nations.

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. trcr.bc.ca.

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