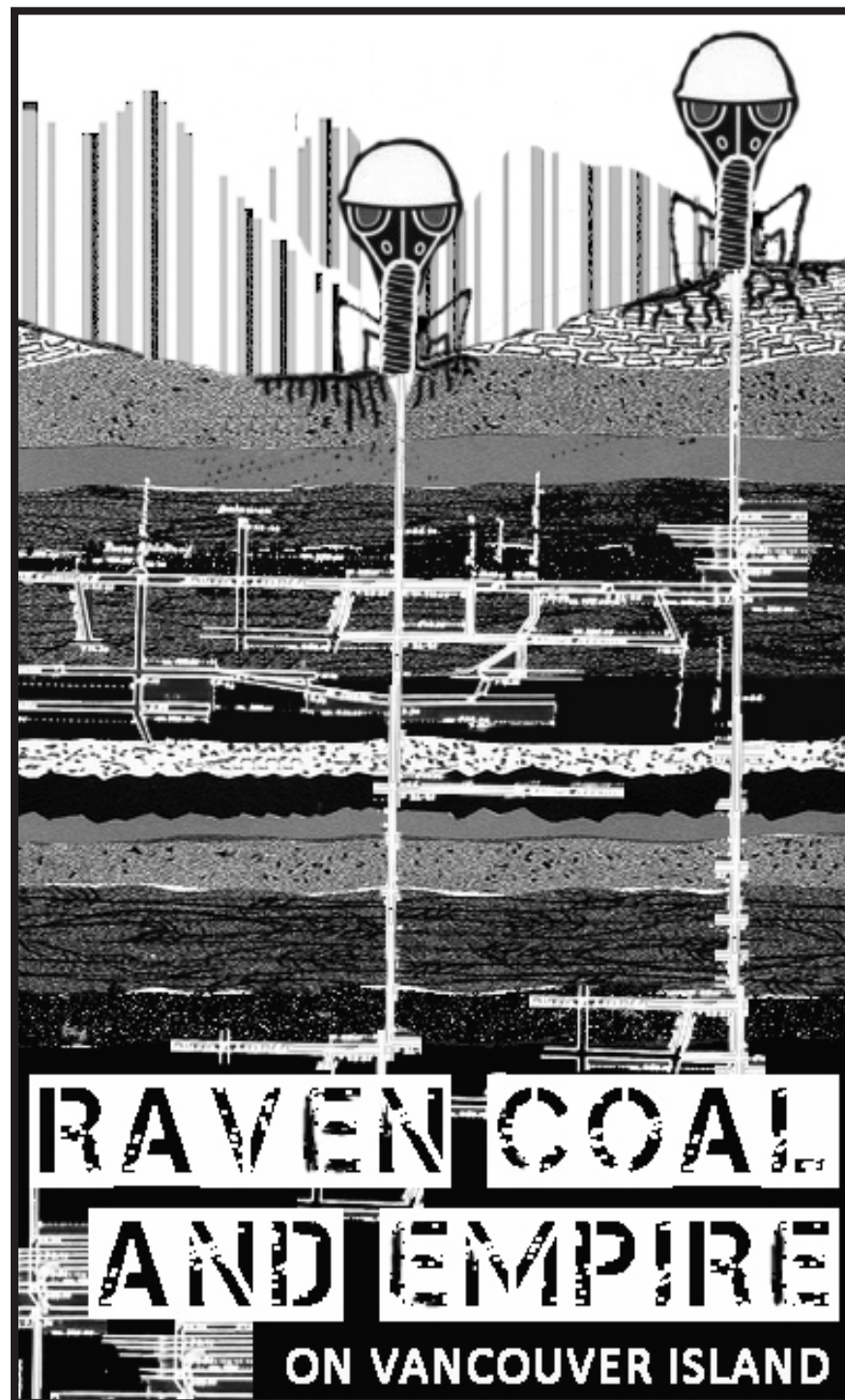


**THESE PROJECTS CAN BE STOPPED
SO LET'S STOP THEM
WE ENCOURAGE WHATEVER MEANS
DESIRED TO STOP RAVEN AND BEAR
AND LET'S NOT STOP THERE...**



We feel strongly about what we write, and are unable to separate the wheat from the chaff. We do not wish to hide our contempt for the bosses and their apologists. The continuation of their projects destroys the ability for natural systems to support us and increases our reliance on the economy and those that control it. These projects are not isolated from each other and it is important to see how interconnected they are. We encourage you to not get discouraged by the overwhelming state of things and to be empowered to defend our communities, ourselves and the land.



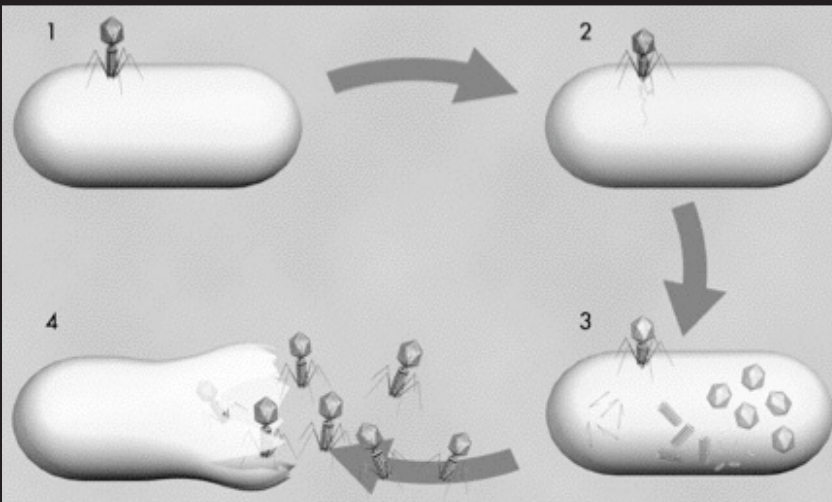
"Steel is essential to the production of food, delivery of clean water and provision of housing and transportation. It is a primary ingredient in many renewable or energy efficient technologies such as windmills or hybrid cars. Homes, businesses, vehicles, recreation, and industry all require steel. Metallurgical or "steel-making" coal is required to produce steel. Steel is essential to modern civilization."⁽²⁸⁾



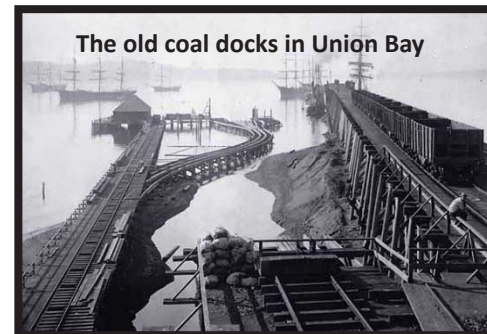
By this logic black lung and cancer are essential to sustainability. Civilization is a highly mechanized collection of oppressive industries protected by the government through the police and military. It expands infinitely while debilitating us and destroying any alternatives, especially alternatives that occur naturally. Destroying ground water to build pipes to transport water is just one perfect example of this and how it relates to the Raven Coal Mine. Civilization has the cures to the diseases that it causes and the cures always cause more disease and what those in charge lack in cures they make up for with excuses.

CITATIONS

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- (4) <http://www.theravenproject.ca/index.php>
- (5) Gunboat Frontier Barry M. Gough UBC Press 1984
- (6) <http://www.sfu.ca/labour/StrikeOutline.htm>
- (7) Donald F. MacLachlan (1986). The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway - The Dunsmuir Years: 1884-1905. The B.C. Historical Railway Association.
- (8) <http://historytothepeople.ca/2010/09/canadian-castles-part-ii-hatley-castle/>
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- (10) Why coal miners still die on the job Charlestown Gazette Oct. 5, 2010, Ken Ward
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- (19) Quinsam Coal's Watershed History Quentin Dodd Watershed Sentinel Jan-Feb '10
- (20) Report to Quinsam Coal ETRC Dr. William R. Cullen UBC April 2010
- (21) Karla Joy Biagioni The Negative Impact Of Abandoned Coal Mine Workings On Drinking Water Quality And The Health Of Residents On Vancouver Island B.A., University of Victoria, 2002
- (22) Toxic Coal Waste 101 walkingfern@gmail.com march 2009
- (23) www.lgicorp.com/eng/ir/financial/f_highlight.jsp
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- (25) "100 Years in Canada", Amec Promotional Video: Amec.com
- (26) Two Million Tonnes a Day A Mine Waste Primer Mining Watch Canada Dec. 2009
- (28) <http://www.theravenproject.ca/index.php?id=166>



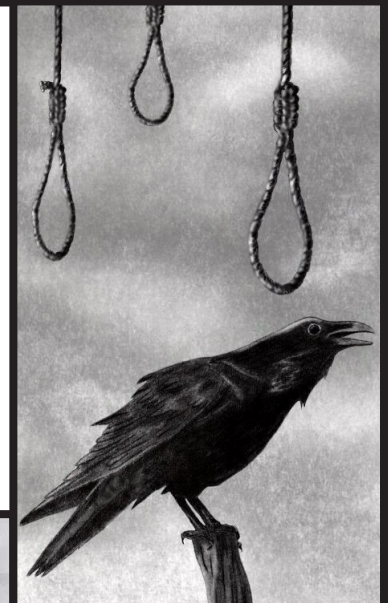
Compliance Energy Corporation (CEC) with partners I-Comox Coal Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of ITOCHU Corporation and LG International Investments Canada Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of LG International Corporation) through their Comox Joint Venture agreement are keeping the wheels in motion of the original plan to extract coal from the mountains west of Union, and Buckley Bays and Cumberland in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island.



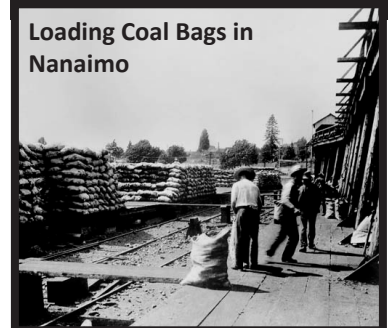
The old coal docks in Union Bay

Two different mining projects have been proposed and are currently in different stages of development with mining proposed to start in 2011. The Raven Coal Underground coal mine project is currently awaiting Environmental certification from the provincial government. The company responsible for the environmental assessments is AMEC. We'll get to them a little later.

It is hard to know where to begin as these projects are controversial for countless reasons. The history of coal mining has left a wake of destruction, unemployment and death. The CEC is glossing over this and the project with myths and lies as bold reassurances.



Coal mining is nothing new on Vancouver Island, it has existed since the mid 1800s and has seen much conflict. Cumberland itself is named after the coal fields in the region of Cumberland, England.



Loading Coal Bags in Nanaimo

Canadian registered and listed mining & exploration companies represent one of the most economically powerful sectors of the Canadian economy accounting for \$42 billion of the GDP. They constitute over 3/4 of the total number of mining and exploration companies in existence globally with over \$60 billion of investments in other countries.(1)

Investment in mineral exploration in BC was nearly \$367 million in 2008, an almost 1,300 per cent increase over the 2001 investment level of just \$29 million.(2) With the slow death of the logging industry, mining has become the way for the BC and Federal governments to get paid, and maintain the infrastructure that controls us. The Elk River Valley near Fernie, BC runs full coal trains to Roberts Bank

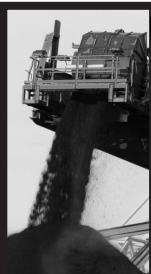


→ Terminal in Delta 24/7 from Tech Cominco controlled and other mines there.

"For the past decade, Westshore has been the busiest single export coal terminal in all of North America, routinely shipping about 21 million tonnes of coal each year and bringing in billions of dollars of wealth to Canada."(3)

The coal that is to be mined from Raven and Bear is to be shipped to Asia where it will be used for steel smelting and for coal fired power plants. Trucks are to run 24/7 between the mine and Port Alberni. Over the total mine life of about 20 years, the Raven project is estimated to be capable of producing between 0.9 and 1.5 million tonnes of clean (processed) coal per year.(4)

Now let us jump back and look briefly at the history of coal on Vancouver Island.



Robert's Bank
(Westshore) Terminal



Murray Coell - Minister of the Environment
MLA Saanich-North: (Room 247 at the Legislature)
Constituency Office:
Suite F 2412 Beacon Ave.
Sidney, BC.

Has been a politician for 25 years. Saanich Municipal Council for 12 years, 6 as mayor. Chaired the CRD, and Saanich Police Board. Also held 9 Cabinet positions.



Randy Hawes - Minister of Mining (Room 134)

MLA Abbotsford-Mission
Mission Constituency: 33058 1st Avenue
Abbotsford Constituency: 560-3033 Immel St.
3 term mayor of the District of Mission. Was also chair of the Fraser Valley Regional District, & a member of the Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee for four years.



Of course there are a lot more politicians....

Canada



Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Pacific/Yukon Office
757 West Hastings Street, Suite 320, Vancouver
Tel.: 604-666-2431 Fax: 604-666-6990

Coal quality testing completed by GWIL Industries in Calgary Alberta which is an IG Ltd Company

Pincock Allen & Holt has been involved in the grading of the coal seams. They are a Colorado based global mining company owned by Runge Limited Mining.



Runge Limited Mining has an Address in Calgary
Suite 304 4014 MacLeod Trail South





**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
The Best Place on Earth

BC Ministry of the Environment

2975 Jutland Rd.
Victoria, BC
Tel 250-387-1161
Fax 250 387 5669

Vancouver Island Regional Office:

2080-A Labieux Rd
Nanaimo B.C. V9T 6J9
(250) 751-3100
Fax: (250) 751-3103

Offices on the Island; Black Creek,
Duncan, Goldstream Park, Parksville,
Port Alberni. Also an office in North
Vancouver, and many around BC.



Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)

First Floor 836 Yates Street
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

General Inquiries:

Telephone: 250 356-7479

Fax: 250 356-7440

Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca

EO Review Committee for Raven:
Rachel Shaw - Assessment Manager
Dan Motisca - Assessment Officer



Steve Thomson - Minister of Energy (Room 133)
also **Minister of Natural Resources** (Room 027)
MLA Kelowna-Mission
Constituency Office:
102-2121 Ehtel St. Kelowna
P 250-712-3020 F 250-712-3626

The Provincial Liberal's sure are excited about mining:

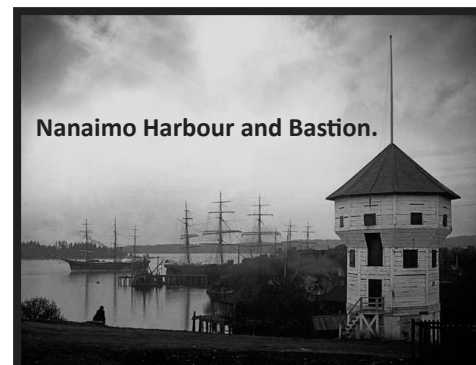
- Gross mining revenues in B.C. nearly doubled to \$6.9 billion in 2007, up from just \$3.6 billion in 2000.
- 60 per cent of Canadian exploration companies are based in B.C., raising \$2.9 billion in equity capital – that's approximately 40 per cent of the total equity capital for Canadian-listed exploration companies.
- 12 metal and coal mines have opened or reopened under the BC Liberals.
- The mining industry has benefited from our reduction of the corporate income tax by 33 per cent since 2001. Today the rate is 11 per cent, the second lowest in Canada, and we're cutting it to 10 per cent by 2011. We also eliminated PST on machinery and equipment. (27)

COLONIZATION THE HBC AND A TALE OF TWO CASTLES

Coal mining on Vancouver Island began at the HBC's (Hudson's Bay Company) Fort Rupert, between what is now Port MacNeill and Port Hardy on the North of Vancouver Island. The Fort was constantly paranoid of attack from the Kwagu'tl peoples whose land the fort occupied. Miners were shackled after refusing to work the coal seems because of the unsafe conditions and because of the deception the Company had committed in regard to their work contract.⁽⁵⁾ Due to the isolation from the Colonial seat of power in Victoria, and the general shortcomings of the mine itself, operations were moved to what is now known as Nanaimo (after the Snuneymuxw peoples that lived there). These Nanaimo mines supplied the Royal Navy gunboats which were heavily dependent on coal. The Royal Navy was employed on the coast by the Colonial governments backed by the British Empire as a means of controlling the many indigenous populations, and safeguarding the new colonies whilst expanding into the newly subjugated lands. When the lease ran out in 1859 Robert Dunsmuir, who had been overseeing the mines in Nanaimo with



the HBC, was employed in the newly formed Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company. He had previously worked in Fort Rupert and was a scab during the previously mentioned strike there.⁽⁶⁾ Following the end of the lease which had been held exclusively by the HBC, the

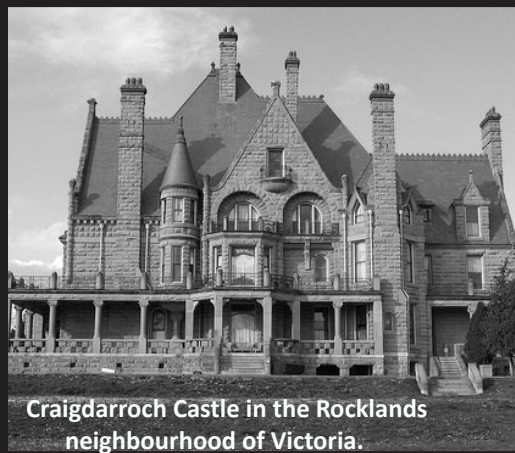


Nanaimo Harbour and Bastion.

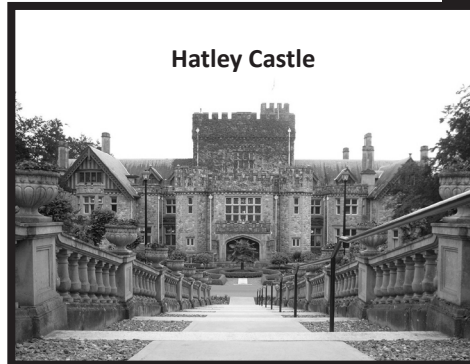
opening for private claims to be staked began. Dunsmuir ventured into a partnership forming Dunsmuir, Diggle and Company. Their two principal markets being San Francisco and the Royal Navy. By 1873 his workers in the Wellington mines were producing nearly half of the 40,000 tonnes of coal on Vancouver Island per year.

"In 1883, the British Columbia provincial government signed a contract with Dunsmuir to build a railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo in exchange for ... 800,000 acres plus a cash grant of \$750,000 from the federal government. The grant amounted to almost 20% of the entire island and included all known coal deposits." (7)

Robert Dunsmuir eventually entered Provincial politics and had Craidarroch Castle built in Victoria as a place for he and his wife to live out their days. He died before it was completed. It stands today as a reminder of his Empire.



Craigdarroch Castle in the Rocklands neighbourhood of Victoria.



Hatley Castle

The legacy that he created on the backs of countless lives was continued by his son James, who continued opposition to organized labour. He later became premier and Lieutenant-Governor and lived out his days at Hatley Castle which he had constructed. This is now a part of Royal Roads

University in Colwood, BC. James spent the last decade of his life isolating himself between Hatley Castle, his hunting lodge on Lake Cowichan, or aboard his 218 foot luxury steam yacht. (8)

If you would like to find them, to chat about history or other concerns you might have, they are now buried in Ross Bay Cemetary in the Fairfield neighbourhood of Victoria, BC.

"Amec has had a hand in every mineable lease in the oil [Tar] sands, designing, supporting, building across all aspects of extraction and production. Today Amec is working on 10 of the 11 bitumen [heavy crude] extraction plants in the oil sands. And once that oil comes out of the ground Amec helps get it to market. Amec is working on the \$4 billion Gateway project a 1200 km pipeline to move oil sands crude to Kitimat [also known as the Enbridge Pipeline]. On the west coast the company has had a very large footprint, from the development of pulp and paper mills starting in Port Alberni in 1947 as well as pipelines including the natural gas pipeline that linked Vancouver Island to the mainland in 1991. The company has also worked on the Expo and Millenium lines of the Sky Train to BC Place Stadium in Vancouver. In the Arctic the company stood proud when the Ekati Mine [Canada's first Diamond mine] entered production in 1998."(25)

We don't really want to get into the destruction caused by the Tar Sands but we would like to point out that the Ekati diamond mine had a tailings impoundment failure in 2008.(26) Their really isn't much more to say about these bastards, they say it for themselves...



www.amec.com

Mainland Offices:
Mining, Natural Resources, Oil Sands,
Power & Process
Suite 400 111 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver
Telephone: 604 664 4315 &
604 664 4367 (Training & Development)
Fax: 604 669 9516 &
604 664 4903 (Training & Development)

Earth & Environmental
4445 Lougheed Highway Suite 600
Burnaby
Telephone: 604 294 3811
Fax: 604 294 4664

Earth & Environmental
55A Fawcett Rd.
Coquitlam
Telephone: 604 526 2456
Fax: 604 526 2438



Two Nanaimo Offices:
235 Bastion Street
Suite 305
Nanaimo, British Columbia
Telephone: 250 716 5700
Fax: 250 716 5701

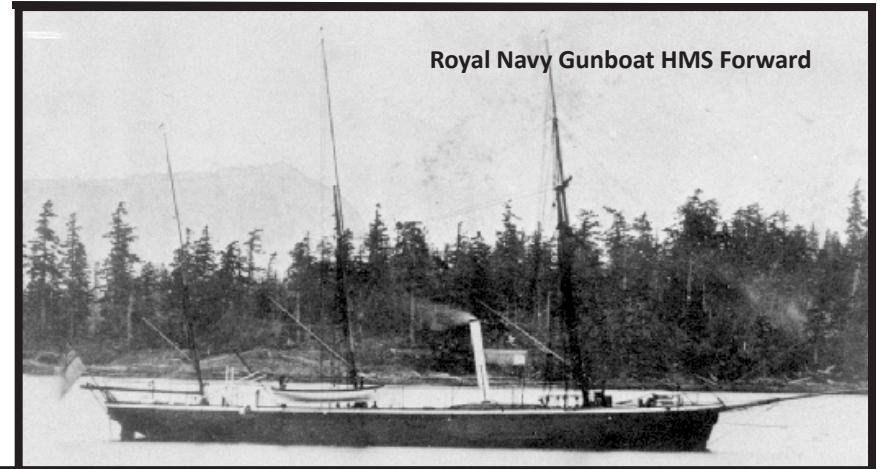
Earth & Environmental
4385 Boban Drive
Telephone: 250 758 1887
Fax: 250 758 1899

Use Campbell River office
as a satellite office

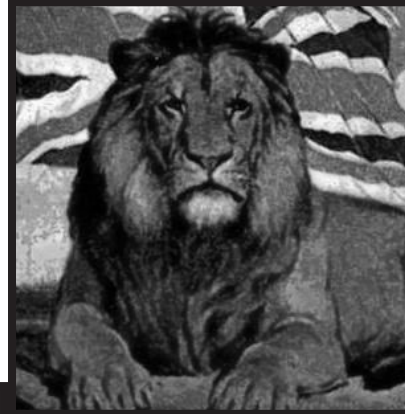
A mec (Association of Mining and Exploration Companies) is a multinational corporation with a head office in London, England that operates in 40 countries, and makes £2.5 billion (Can \$3.8 billion) revenue annually. Can you say rubber stamp. In Canada their main offices are in Oakville, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. They work in resource extraction as well as, nuclear, solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro electric energy projects. They pride themselves on sustainability while working with the military, mining and oil and gas sectors.



They offer consultation, design, construction and project management to their clients. They are involved in reconstruction of infrastructure projects in Iraq. They were also involved with BP (British Petroleum) during the rig disaster that killed a couple dozen workers and spewed oil all over the Gulf of Mexico. Amec continues to be involved in contracts with BP in the Gulf as well as around the world. Here is a piece from a promotional video of theirs celebrating 100 years in Canada:



Royal Navy Gunboat HMS Forward



The history of coal is colonial in nature which has involved the dispossession of indigenous lands. This has happened through gunboat naval deployment and bombardment, environmental destruction, and land theft like that of the Dunsmuir land grants. Coal has consistently been used by empires to expand empires. The British dominance of west coast peoples was based on the coal that was mined here. Steam powered ships brought countless settlers and supplies to occupy the land. It allowed the Royal Navy the ability to replace sail with steam power for better maneuverability in the shallow waters and strong currents that are a fact of life between the numerous islands and in the long inlets. The lighter wooden hulls were also replaced with the heavier armoured, plate steel. This facilitated the carrying of heavier guns. With these advancements the British Empire continued its hold here and on far flung territories around the globe. (9)

The power that coal holds is used to further the dominance of the bosses, who see no end to expansion. It fuels colonization and dispossession. (Navajo peoples are being relocated at Black Mesa for coal mining as another example.) Military and police structures are based on industrial processes which are based on resource extraction to fuel them. The mining industry is reaping rewards of military occupations. Colonization is not lost in the past it is an everyday cycle. We live in occupied territories.

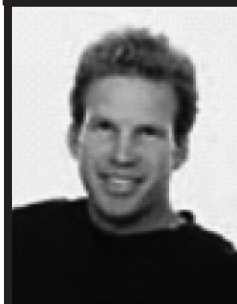
ACCIDENTS AND DEATH



We condemn those that see us as merely tools to increase their profit margins and our communities as stages for plunder.

As long as there are bills to pay there will be people working and dying in mines. A large part of the problem of coal mines, aside from the inherent dangers of coal itself, is the negligence of coal bosses. Every year around the globe thousands of workers die in mines. Despite safety regulations mines are still dangerous places to work as money is and will always be the driving force behind business. Miners are 'safer' today but the big coal empires were built upon the backs of 100's of thousands of dead miner's. And continue to be so.

It is with great tragedy that we recall the April 2010 West Virginia mining disaster leaving 29 dead, and many left to grieve. This was not an isolated incident as accidents in mines are not a matter of if but when. As of October 5th, 13 more coal miners had died in the U.S. and all of these in separate incidents. Usually miner's die alone, crushed by heavy



Jamieson Merritt - Director
President of Arbutus Point Development Ltd.

Possible Home Address & Tel:
1848 Esquimalt West Vancouver
604-925-9509

Michael Varabioff - Corporate Secretary

Founding partner of Axiom Law Corporation, a Vancouver based law firm focussing on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, complex commercial transactions. 20 years experience



Russ Hallbauer - Advisor

President & CEO of Taseko Mines Ltd. which recently had its copper/gold mine south-west of Williams Lake rejected by Federal Environment minister Jim Prentice. They wanted to turn Fish Lake an important food source for Tsilhqo-tin peoples into a tailings pond. The decision was most likely made for fear of another Oka crisis. A couple days following the decision Jim Prentice resigned to accept a job with the CIBC.



Possible Home Address & Telephone:
3170 Westmount Place, West Vancouver
Tel 604-913-0476

Here are a few other CEC Folks that might be of interest;

Al Cloke - Advisor- Director of CMMC
Pat Tsuen - Senior Business Manager and Project Developer
Greg Werbowski - Investor Relations (ext. 244)
Dan Berkshire - Project Manager - Lives in Comox Valley
Candy-Lea Chickite - Community Liason

**John A. Tapics - President & CEO** (ext. 230)

30 yrs: Mining and Electricity industry experience.

4 yrs: Pres. & CEO of the Alberta Electric System Operator which operates Alberta's electricity market.

11 yrs: Officer of TransAlta Corporation, directed the planning and economic delivery of 16 million tonnes of coal annually from two mine sites to three power plants.

Was a Director of the Coal Association of Canada, the Alberta Chamber of Resources, the Western Electric Power Institute and also the Calgary Branch Chairman

for Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Director of CMMC.

Possible Home Address & Tel :

1335 Adams Rd. Bowen Island, BC 604-947-2874

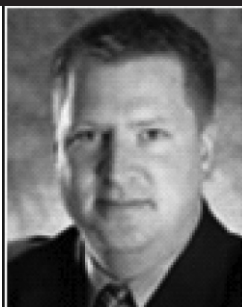
Jim Defer - Chief Financial Officer (ext. 234)

Experienced in investment banking & corporate finance. Was head of investment banking for a Vancouver based firm and has held senior managerial roles with two major accounting and auditing firms.

jimd@complianceenergy.com

Possible Home Address & Tel:

**959 Devon Rd. Forest Hills North Vancouver
604-990-6786**

**Rodney A. Shier - Director**

Extensive experience in all aspects of corporate finance also the Chief Financial Officer of Copper Mountain Mining Corporation. He previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Possible Home Address & Tel:

**214 Stevens Dr. Canyon Heights
West Vancouver 604-921-1339**

**Paul Willis - Director**

President of Willis Energy Services and brings with him 30 years of energy-related experience. Worked for BC Hydro, Portland Electric, Seattle City Light, Northern States Power and BC Gas.

Possible North Vancouver Address

equipment, ground by runaway machinery, or buried beneath collapsed mine roofs. (10) Nor do we forget the slow death of black lung and related diseases as a result of working in or living near coal mines. It is difficult to estimate the number of miners who die each year directly related to coal mining, as the numbers vary. However, between the years 1992 and 2002, the CDC (Centre for Disease Control) estimates that Black Lung Disease took the lives of 12,000 miners in the US.(11) Mining accidents kill about 93 U.S. citizens each year (many more in developing areas around the world) and about 21,351 are injured every year.(12) No amount of government legislation or safety protocols can bring back the countless lives lost for profit margins and share holders.

Mine workers have fought tooth and claw for all of the small gains that they have received. The coal miner strike that paralyzed mining on Vancouver Island in 1911 was a direct response to the sacking and blacklisting of two safety committee members, who said that a mine owned in Extension, just outside of Ladysmith, was filled with dangerous levels of an explosive gas. The strike lasted two years in some areas and 1000 Canadian troops occupied Nanaimo to end the strike there and nearby Ladysmith. We do not sympathize with any racist tendencies some of the strikers had but we appreciate the strike itself. As long as we are still breathing, the bosses will always pit us against one another.



COMPLIANCE ENERGY LIES

Looking through Compliance Energy's corporate profile fills us with disgust and has left a foul taste in our mouths. Deceitful propaganda cannot hide the damage that the Raven Coal mine will cause and the damage already caused by these pigs. Meet CEO John Tapics. →



He is "optimistic that [we] can do this in an environmentally sustainable manner". (13) In the same article John boldly states that "there isn't a coal mine operating in B.C. that has caused the kinds of impacts [environmentalists] are worried about," going on to mention the Quinsam Coal mine in Campbell River. He also references the Tsuble River Mine that operated between the 40's and 60's for metallurgical coal. Let's take a look at John's bold claims.

What does he mean by sustainable? The very nature of a coal mine is unsustainable. Coal is a finite thing, unless you live to be hundreds of millions of years old. The only thing he is concerned about is being able to go ahead with the project. So of course he's going to talk about environmental sustainability because it sounds nice. He isn't going to come to the discussion with the horrors of the coal industry while he is at the head. He talks about the project as if he is trading in baseball cards or making us a sandwich and that people who don't want the coal mine are either confused or paranoid about the consequences. No one would allow him to have his mine if he called it "The Cancer Causing Black Pit of Death that Makes Me Rich".

The coal is being exported to Asian steel smelting facilities where it will be burned, releasing mercury and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. John's assurances of sustainability and a clean environment on behalf of



550-800 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2V6
Tel: 604-689-0489
Fax: 604-681-5910
www.complianceenergy.com

They own 60% of the Joint Venture Partnership in the proposed mines. They also claim on their website that their holdings in the Comox Valley all have open pit potential. CEC has only existed for a decade, but are made up of some industry experienced scum. They also own a lot of shares in Copper Mountain Mining Corporation, which operates southwest of Princeton, BC. As you will see there is some personnel crossover as well.

Legal Counsel:
Axiom Law Corporation
3350-1055 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC V7X 1L2

Bank with Bank of Montreal
595 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V7X 1L7

Transfer Agent:
Computershare Transfer Services
4th Floor 510 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3B9

Auditors: De Visser Gray
401, 905 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC

Copper Mountain Mining Co.(CMMC)
1700-700 Pender St.
Vancouver, BC
<http://www.cumtn.com/site/index.php>



J.C. (Jim) O'Rourke - Chairman (retired?)

Involved in the start-up of mines including Gilbralter, Marcopper, and Endako while working with Placer Development Limited. Over 30 years of hands-on experience in mining industry in Canada, the United States, South America and the Philippines. Was responsible for the opening of the \$140 million Huckleberry open pit copper mine in Northern British Columbia. CMMC

Director, President of Orclann Investments Inc, director of numerous public and private companies in mining and property development. Was Director of Mining Association of Canada, Vancouver Board of Trade, and is currently Chairman of the BC Mining Association. **Possible Home Address & Tel:**

328 Taylor 18A Way West Vancouver 604-921-7197

Their Vancouver address:
World Trade Centre Suite
770-999 Canada Place
Tel 604-331-5800
Fax 604-688-9292
www.itochu.co.jp/en/

ITOCHU

Founded in 1858 as a linen trading operation, Itochu Corporation is based in Tokyo, with approximately 150 overseas bases in 74 countries. They are engaged in domestic trading, import/export, and overseas trading of nearly an identical dossier as LG International with real estate and insurance interests as well. They had annual revenues of \$29 billion US in 2008. They have invested in Uranium mining in traditional Navajo territory in the Southwest of the United States.



They bank with;

**Bank of America,
 CIBC, Citibank,
 Comerica,
 JPMorgan Chase,
 Wachovia and
 Wells Fargo**

As of the year 1999 they were 41st in the top 100 economies in the world including national economies, and 10th among world corporations. (24) They are a 20% partner in the Comox Joint Venture.



his business partners is an outright lie. "High levels of mercury deposition, traceable to China, have been detected on the east and west coasts of the US..."(14) Now unless the border somehow filters out toxins as it filters out economically 'undesirable' migrants, mercury from Asian smelters and coal power plants can be found here as well.



In the same Oceanside Star article John talks of up to 300 jobs directly dealing with coal and its transport and mentions the pay for miners being \$100,000 per year. He also talks about the 300-500 spinoff jobs.(15) In these economically difficult times all this talk of jobs might be pretty enticing to the cash strapped folks looking for work at the Courtenay Job Shop. It seems that workers in the first world as much as we are paid higher

aren't as different from third world workers as we may think;

"In the Phillipines, case studies reveal that poverty stricken families, used to living hand to mouth, are sometimes cajoled by coal plant proponents and village officials into hosting mines and plants, with promises of jobs and increases in community income, and misled into believing that coal development impacts will be minimal or insignificant."(16)

A majority of the economy in Bayne's Sound, adjacent to the mine, is based on the shellfish industry which employs over 1,000 people.(17) The Raven Coal Mine is in the Cowie Creek and Tsable River watersheds that flow into the Sound. At the most the mine will produce 800 jobs (is working at Subway really worth it) while the toxins in the water will poison the oysters and clams ruining a great food source and the current local industry, let alone further damaging the groundwater for the local residents.

"In both underground and surface mining, sulphur bearing minerals common in coal mining areas are brought up to the surface in waste rock. When these minerals come into contact with rain and groundwater, an acid leachate is formed. This leachate picks up heavy metals and carries these toxins into

streams or groundwater. This form of contamination is known as acid mine drainage (AMD). AMD contamination renders water non-potable, harms plants, animals and humans, and can corrode structures like culverts and bridges.” (18)

The Quinsam Coal mine hasn’t been without its controversy like John wants us to think. The company that operates the mine was ignoring the regulations about its waste discharge and failing to report them in their annual reports. With no surprises the BC Ministry of the Environment (MoE) sat back and did nothing. The Company went ahead and applied for a permit to double its waste water discharge and the government granted the request. “A senior government official working alongside the company on the ETRC (Environmental Technical Review Committee) minimized the omissions as minor “exceedances” of no great significance.” A lake near the Company’s settling pond had excess levels of arsenic and other heavy metals poisoning the water shed. The government shrugged its shoulders. The Quinsam Watersheds levels of sulphates skyrocketed dramatically throughout the 80’s and 90’s. (19) A UBC Report to the ETRC in April 2010 reiterates the arsenic and sulfate level concerns that had already been raised to no effect from the Quinsam Coal Company.(20)

Contamination is not something foreign to other coal mining areas on Vancouver Island either. A recent study of the effects of mine polluted ground water on human health in South Wellington (just south of Nanaimo) found that residents were twice as likely to suffer disease as those that drank water from the Nanaimo lakes reservoir.(21) South Wellington has a history of coal mining (Dunsmuir Empire) and the abandoned mines now mostly full of groundwater are full of heavy metals and sulfates. The main difference between the two study groups was water. I’m sure that if we looked at drinking water in other coal mining areas on the island we would find the same or similar results. Sounds like people aren’t as paranoid as John thinks.

The coal washing process which will be used at the Raven Mine to make ‘clean coal’ has had disastrous impacts on people living in coal mining areas. Coal wash impoundment failures in Appalachia come to mind.(22)

John Tapics’ community friendly face and environmentally sustainable promises are bullshit. There’s no other way to put it. So let us move on.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

We have already looked at the more explicitly dangerous aspects of coal, and some of the lies being spread. Now we will look closer at the charismatic CEC, their business partners, how they earn their bread, and other interesting information. We don’t want to leave out the politicians as they seem to have a difficult time removing their heads from the trough.



Based in Seoul South Korea, LG International, who are a 20% partner in this venture, are a giant corporation worth 2 trillion Korean Won (23) (100 billion US\$) and have money invested in hundreds of different projects. Many of

these ventures have to do with mining and resource extraction including coal, copper, zinc, steel, aluminum, pulp, paper among others. They are also involved in the textile industry with its countless sweatshops, the aviation industry, agribusiness, shipping, pharmaceuticals, computer technologies and countless others. They are major players on a global level, with oil and gas interests in the Middle East and Nigeria and huge aspirations of expanding infrastructure in countless countries to facilitate resource extraction. To them the Comox Valley is just another project.

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