

**MINERAL ASSAYER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
1998/1999 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN**

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES

Ray Lett, February, 1998

Background

British Columbia has run a successful Assayers Certification Program since 1895. The program provides for the training, examination and certification of mineral assayers to ensure that they are competent to operate in BC. It operated continuously from 1895 to 1973 when it was cancelled by provincial government order. It was reinstated in 1977 in response to industry demands and is presently incorporated in the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Act. An independent review of the Program was carried out in 1992 by Dr. J. Alan Coope, an internationally respected geoscientist. Dr. Coope confirmed that the mining industry strongly supported continuation of the Program and he recommended improvements to the examination syllabus, and to the Program administration. In 1995 The British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) started a comprehensive mineral assaying training program which incorporates the Assayers Certification Examination. Up to 1997 the Program was administered by the Ministry of Energy and Mines, but it is now managed by a partnership between government, the assaying industry and BCIT.

Partnership Structure

A government-industry-BCIT partnership was formed to strengthen and improve the Assayers Certification Program. A Board of Advisors with representatives from each of the partners oversees management of the Program. Responsibilities of the Board of Advisors and related organizations are:

Board of Advisors:

- to oversee Program management and financing;
- to advise the Ministry of Energy and Mines on Program direction;
- to promote participation in the Program by the mining, assaying and securities industries.

Board of Examiners:

- to set, invigilate and grade examinations;
- to review examination curriculum;
- to recommend candidates for Certification by the Ministry;
- to report to the Board of Examiners on recommendations to improve the Program.

Ministry of Energy and Mines:

- to issue Certificates of Proficiency to successful examination candidates;
- to work with BCIT and the industry to promote the Program locally and internationally.

BCIT:

- to provide a training program for assayers and mineral analysts;
- to provide facilities to hold Assayers Certification examinations;
- to manage external financial contributions required to operate the program including promotion, training, examination expenses and travel expenses for the Board of Examiners.

1998-1999 Program Objectives

The three main objectives of the Assayers Certification Program for 1998-1999 are:-

1. To establish a new Partnership with a minimum of three industry partners.
2. To arrange two theory and one practical examination.
3. To promote the Program and the associated assayers training course offered by BCIT.

1998-1999 Program Initiatives and Deliverables

Program initiatives and deliverables for 1998-1999 will be:

1. Approve Terms of Reference of the Board of Advisors.
2. Approve a fee structure for the Program.
3. Prepare and distribute a brochure advertizing the Assayers Certification Program.
4. Create a web site to increase the international profile of the Assayers Certification and BCIT Assayers Training Programs.

ASSAYERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1998-1999

INCOME

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|--|----------|
| Ministry of Energy and Mines Grant. | \$10,000 |
| Examination Fees. | \$1,200 |
| Industry Contributions based on a proposed fee structure:- (minimum 5 partners @ \$1000/partner maximum 10 partners @ \$1000/partner). | \$5,000 |
| Total | \$16,200 |

EXPENSES

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|---|----------|
| • Examiners Board expenses for March exams. | \$5,540 |
| • Program brochure (printing and layout). | \$500 |
| • BCIT Examination material. | \$1,500 |
| • Honorarium for Examiners Board Chair. | \$1,000 |
| • Board of Examiners meeting costs. | \$750 |
| • Web site development. | \$500 |
| Total | \$9, 790 |

INCOME - EXPENSES

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| (Anticipated surplus to be applied to future years) | \$6,410 |
|---|---------|

BOARD OF ADVISORS -TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership: The Board of Advisors shall comprise:

- The Chief Geologist or representative, from the Geological Survey Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines;
- A member from the Board of Examiners;
- A member from the staff of BCIT;
- A representative from each contributing Patron Member and Corporate Member organizations;
- Such members as the Board may from time to time approve.
- Members of the Board shall hold office until their successors are appointed

Functions: The functions of the Board of Advisors are:

- to oversee Program management, administration and financing;
- to advise the Ministry of Energy and Mines on Program direction;
- to promote participation in the Program by the mining, assaying and securities industries;
- to review a draft budget prepared annually for the Program and to approve the final budget after making any appropriate amendments.

Meetings: The Board of Advisors:

- shall meet at least once in each calendar year;
- shall determine its own procedures for the conduct of its meetings;
- may invite persons to attend all or part of any of its meetings as observers;
- shall at its first meeting and thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs elect one of its members as Chair;
- shall from time to time invite one of its Members or some other person to be Honorary Secretary to the Board.

Contributing Membership

Contributing members are drawn from the mining, assaying and securities industries. The categories of contributing Membership and the contribution payable in respect of each are:

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|-------------------|---|
| Patron: | Annual contribution not less than \$5000. |
| Corporate Member: | Annual contribution not less than \$1000. |
| Associate Member: | Annual contribution not less than \$500. |

Privileges attached to each Membership category are shown in the Table below

| PRIVILEGES | Patron | Corporate | Associate |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Voting | Yes | Yes | No |
| BCIT Training Fee Discount | TBN* | TBN* | TBN* |
| Logo on Program Brochure | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Logo on Web site | Yes | Yes | Yes |
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* To be negotiated