

## Minerals North 2014 – Speaker Biographies Presented Alphabetically

### **Phillip “Jerry” Asp, President - C3 Alliance Corporation**

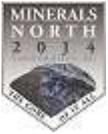
Jerry Asp is one of western Canada’s most prominent Aboriginal leaders and is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Aboriginal people through the creation of new business opportunities and development of skills and capacity in the community. In addition to supporting Aboriginal business development, Jerry has also applied his leadership skills to serve the public.

Jerry has been involved in the mining industry since 1965 when he started working on diamond drills. He then went on to work underground for six years in the Tantalus Butte Coal Mine. During this stage in his career, he was President of the only all-native United Steelworker’s Local in North America. Since then, he has become progressively more involved in Canada’s mining industry and in supporting Aboriginal business development across Canada. Jerry was President and founder member of the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation, is a founding member of the National Indian Businessman’s Association and served as Vice President of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA). He has also served as a member of the International Mining, Minerals, and Sustainable Development Committee – North American Branch. He has been recognized with numerous awards over the course of his career.

### **Tim Bekhuys, Director of Environment and Sustainability – New Gold**

Tim Bekhus is the Director of Environment and Sustainability with New Gold. In his current role, Tim manages the Environmental, Government, Community and First Nations aspects of the Blackwater Gold Project. Prior to joining New Gold, Tim worked in environmental consulting with AMEC and Tetratech; primarily in permitting and community relations for over 25 years. He is a former Director of the BC Association of Professional Biologists and has been a member of the Association for Mineral Exploration in BC, Aboriginal Relations Committee for over 10 years as well as sitting on the Boards of various professional associations.

Tim was born in the BC and has worked throughout the world on mining projects primarily in North and South America and Asia. He spends his off work time on Bowen Island chopping firewood and trying to keep up with his 2 young children.



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### **Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review**

Minister **Bennett** was re-elected to a fourth term as MLA for Kootenay East in 2013 and was appointed Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review June 10, 2013. He previously served as Minister for Community Sport and Cultural Development, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Minister of Community and Rural Development, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, and Minister of State for Mining.

Bennett has chaired the BC Legislative Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, and chaired the BC Legislative Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides. He has been a member of various legislative committees and government committees, particularly focused on land use and natural resource issues. Before being elected, Bennett was a partner in a law firm in Cranbrook. He also owned and operated fly-in wilderness fishing and hunting lodges in the Northwest Territories and Manitoba.

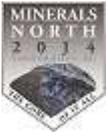
### **Karina Briño, President and CEO - Mining Association of BC**

Karina Briño assumed the role of President and CEO of the Mining Association of British Columbia in August 2011, bringing with her a wealth of experience in the province's mining sector.

Previously, Ms. Briño was BC's senior mining bureaucrat. She served as Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Energy and Mines after many years of experience focusing on mineral policy and in managing regional operations for the Mining Division. Over the course of her career, Ms. Briño has held progressively senior positions for the Province of British Columbia in the area of social services, providing direct client service to youth at risk and adults with special needs and in designing and developing programs aimed at promoting self-reliance and re-attachment to the labour force.

### **Ron Britten, VP Exploration – First Point Minerals Corp.**

Ron Britten has been VP of Exploration of First Point Minerals Corp. since 1996. He previously worked with Sumitomo Metal Mining, Esso Minerals and Homestake exploring for a variety of deposits in Canada and abroad. The Decar Project in Central BC is one most unusual zones of mineralization in the world and has the potential to host an economic deposit with environmentally friendly characteristics.



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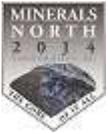
### **Jim Bottomley, keynote speaker**

From Fortune 500s to non-profits, Jim Bottomley has advised organizations in every sector as they set about charting a path for the future. Providing insight into how social, economic, and demographic trends are shaping the years ahead, Bottomley’s presentations combine humour, high-energy, and practical examples to leverage future changes for success. More information on Jim Bottomley is available [here](#).

Bottomley is an entrepreneur and consultant who has spoken to over one-quarter million people about future success. He owns businesses in software development, consulting and retail and managed marketing programs for Quaker Oats—from “Cap’n Crunch” to “Life” cereals—along with helping launch new products such as “Kibbles ‘n Bits ‘n Bits” and specialized agri-products. He is graduate of the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

### **Andrea Clifford, Project Coordinator and Communications Manager – Geoscience BC**

Andrea Clifford’s first field experience was as a summer student employed with the Geological Survey of Canada in the Northwest Territories. This experience sealed her fate as a field geologist. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and spent the next eight field seasons in the Canadian Arctic exploring for diamonds. She moved from Edmonton to Vancouver in 2006 and until spring 2013 she worked with junior mining companies within the Aurora Mineral Resource Group before she began her current role as Project Coordinator and Communications Manager with Geoscience BC. Her work has taken her from the top of the world to the bottom of Colombian emerald mines and with Geoscience BC, she is excited to be learning about some of the projects going on in her own backyard.



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### **Susan Craig, Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations – Aurico Gold Ltd.**

Susan Craig is a Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations for Aurico Gold Ltd. She is a professional Geoscientist who has spent her +20 year career in BC and the Yukon. Susan's expertise includes liaising on technical, environmental, and socio-economic issues on projects ranging from exploration through to production and closure.

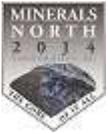
As Environmental Manager at NovaGold between 2004 and 2006, Susan was responsible for the environmental assessment of the Galore Creek Project. Susan was part of a team that won the first Robert Hedley award in 2006 from the Association of Mineral Exploration BC for excellence in social and environmental responsibility.

Susan co-founded and was President & CEO of a junior resource company between 2006 and 2012 during which she helped raise +\$25 million dollars from investors and defined significant plus million ounce resource deposits on the Company's main project. Susan is currently providing support on the assessment and permitting of the Kemess Underground Project and is helping implement the Interim Measures Agreement between AuRico and Tse Keh Nay. Susan has presented at Minerals North in 1995 and 2005, and is excited to be providing an update on the Kemess Underground Project at Minerals North 2014.

### **Nathan Cullen, MP Skeena – Bulkley Valley**

Nathan Cullen was first elected in 2004 and has been re-elected three times since, winning his riding of Skeena—Bulkley Valley. He is currently the Official Opposition House Leader.

Nathan's commitment to bipartisan work has helped him in negotiating a number of legislative initiatives through the House of Commons. Much of his work has focused on the need to develop a green economy – looking for ways to create employment and thriving communities while also meeting our responsibilities to the planet's future generations. He has also taken initiatives to improve the level of decorum and the quality of debate in the House of Commons.



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Before elected life, Nathan was a small business owner and community organizer in northwestern BC, where he worked in conflict resolution for businesses, government and non-profit agencies throughout the province.

### **Gavin C. Dirom, President and CEO – Association of Mineral Exploration BC**

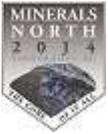
Gavin Dirom is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Mineral Exploration BC and joined AME BC in late 2008. He brings over 20 years of mineral exploration and mining industry experience, with a focus on project permitting, safety, environmental management and sustainable mineral development in British Columbia. Before joining AME BC, Gavin held the role of Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety at the Mining Association of British Columbia. Prior to this he served as Senior Policy Advisor with Natural Resources Canada and has over a decade experience working for a number of exploration and mining companies.

As President and CEO of AME BC, Gavin provides leadership to the growing and diverse membership in order to successfully advocate for a safe, economically strong and environmentally sound mineral exploration and development sector. He is responsible for the management, organization and implementation of all AME BC

activities and programs. Born in Smithers, BC, Gavin has explored, worked and travelled throughout much of the province. He and his wife Kathy have four children and reside in North Vancouver, BC.

### **Claudette Gouger, Community Manager – New Gold Blackwater**

Claudette Gouger is the Community Manager for the New Gold Blackwater Project. Claudette holds a Bachelor of History from the University of Northern British Columbia and is proud to work and live in Northern BC. Claudette brings over 17 years of experience in education, job development, communications and recruitment to her work with community stakeholders for the Blackwater Project.



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### **Paul Jago, Regional Geologist – Omineca/Northeast**

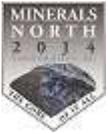
Paul Jago is the Regional Geologist for the Omineca and Northeast regions with the *BC Ministry of Energy and Mines*. From 2005-2008, Paul was enrolled with the Mineral Deposit Research Group at UBC where he studied the Mt. Milligan deposit for his Masters Degree in Geological Sciences. Paul worked seasonally with Exploration companies in north-central BC, and then several years with Freeport-McMoran in the United States. Publications include co-authorships in the survey's Geological Fieldwork, and Geoscience BC summary reports. A paper summarizing his Master's thesis has been accepted by the Society of Economic Geologists. Paul is happy to be back learning and exploring in the Omineca region of BC, and raising a young family near grandparents in the community of Prince George.

### **Jeff Kyba, Regional Geologist - Skeena**

Jeff Kyba grew up near Falkland BC and completed an undergrad degree at the University of Victoria. He has been the Skeena Regional geologist since late 2011. Jeff spent multiple summers working in northwest BC for a junior exploration company exploring ultramafic rocks for nickel, copper and platinum group elements before taking a regional mapping job with the BC Geological survey near Terrace in 2007. Warm waves and exotic geology led to three years in Australia working as an exploration geologist in a world renowned Iron Oxide Copper Gold district in the Mount Isa Inlier for Ivanhoe Australia. When not working Jeff finds himself enjoying skiing fresh lines, riding local single track and the life-long mission for more waves!

### **Dave Lefebure, Vice President - C3 Alliance Corporation**

Dave Lefebure has more than 30 years of experience with government geoscience surveys and mineral exploration companies working in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. A former Chief Geologist for British Columbia, he is knowledgeable about a wide variety of mineral, industrial mineral and coal deposits. Dave is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to mineral resources and modern mining. An active volunteer for the mineral industry, he currently is involved with the newly formed Centre for Training Excellence in Mining, the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia and the Minerals North Conference Association.



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### **Taylor Little, Associate – Stikeman Elliott Law**

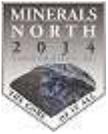
Taylor Little is an associate in the Corporate and Securities Group of Stikeman Elliott's Vancouver office who focuses his practice on securities, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate and commercial matters. Mr. Little has a particular interest in the start-up sector, and is passionate about assisting start-up companies through all stages of development. To that end, Mr. Little advises start-up clients on all aspects of their businesses, including matters relating to intellectual property, financing, structuring licensing and employment.

In addition, Mr. Little acts for a number of private and public companies, angel investors, venture capitalists and private equity funds and has experience in assisting clients with corporate finance and M&A transactions, asset and share transactions, listing applications, reorganizations and recapitalizations. Mr. Little also advises companies with respect to corporate governance matters, compliance and reporting obligations.

### **Chief Clarence Joseph Louie – keynote**

Chief Clarence Joseph Louie believes that Aboriginal people and government must make economic development and business growth an everyday priority. Under his direction, the Osoyoos Indian Band has become a multi-faceted corporation that owns and manages nine businesses and employs hundreds of people, while the Band Development Corporation that he helped to form provides strategic direction to existing businesses. Chief Louie shares his experiences and lessons in leadership and forward-thinking with a variety of audiences around the world.

The Osoyoos Indian Band has modeled not only sustainable business development, but also socio-economic development, whereby the community's social needs are improved. Chief Louie feels that First Nations communities need to become business minded and begin to create their own jobs and revenue sources, not just administer underfunded government programs. As confirmation of the Osoyoos Indian Band's commitment to business, the Band owns and operates nine businesses on the reserve, including vineyards, retail stores, a construction company, a REDI-MIX company, a championship golf course, eco-tourism businesses, and activities in forestry. Chief Louie's efforts have been widely recognized in Canada and the United States. In 2002, Aboriginal Tourism BC awarded Chief Louie the "Inspirational Leadership Award," and Maclean's magazine listed him as one of the "Top 50 Canadians to Watch" in 2003.



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In 2004, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation presented him with the award for “Business and Community Development.” In 2006, Chief Louie was presented with the Order of British Columbia, which is the province’s highest honor for outstanding achievement.

### **Jason McIvor, FortisBC**

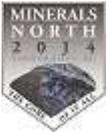
Jason McIvor has a breadth of experience building businesses and teams in the transportation, technology and energy industries. Jason has worked for FortisBC for 5 years. In his current role Jason helps companies lower their fuel costs by using liquefied natural gas to displace diesel in high horsepower applications. Previous roles at FortisBC include leading the development of compliance and safety field training programs, corporate HR initiatives and IT related projects. Jason graduated from Simon Fraser University with a business degree.

### **Annita McPhee, President – Tahltan Central Council**

Annita McPhee is the President of the Tahltan Central Council and a First Nation leader working to enhance and protect the quality of life for the Tahltan people, while creating policies that support sustainable development.

During her terms as President, Annita has led the Tahltan Nation through some of the most challenging times in Tahltan history. She was instrumental in negotiating over \$2 billion worth of agreements on behalf of the Tahltan Nation for the Northwest Transmission Line and AltaGas projects within Tahltan territory. Annita has also worked hard to negotiate agreements with the BC Government on shared decision making processes to ensure that the Tahltan people shape how development unfolds in their territory.

Annita strives to achieve a balance between economic development within Tahltan traditional territory and protection of the Nation’s rights and way of life. Her commitment and dedication to the implementation of innovative and comprehensive communication processes, which include social media, interactive websites, databases and community meetings, has been pivotal in allowing the Tahltan people to better understand both the benefits and the impacts that development can bring.



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### **The Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

John Rustad was re-elected to represent the riding of Nechako Lakes in 2013 and was appointed Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on June 10, 2013.

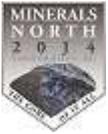
He previously served as Parliamentary Secretary for Forestry to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and as a member of the Environment and Land Use Committee, Legislative Review Committee, Treasury Board, Select Standing Committee on Education, Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Select Standing Committee on Health. John was born and raised in Prince George and has lived all of his life in northern B.C. He grew up enjoying fishing and hunting. In 2009, he and his wife Kim moved to Cluculz Lake where they enjoy the peace and beauty of rural living.

### **Eugene Marks, Director of Instruction – School District 91**

Eugene Marks is the Director of Instruction for School District 91. Eugene has 26 years of experience in the K-12 system and has spent the last 25 years working in the Nechako Lakes region (District 56, District 55 and now District 91). He has been a teacher, a counselor, a secondary vice-principal, a principal, and for the past 8 years he has been the Director of Instruction for Secondary Education. Part of his duties includes working with the district's career coordinator in helping facilitate relevant hands on learning opportunities for students. Eugene also liaises with the College of New Caledonia as part of a partnership that allows high school students to take their first year of apprenticeship training while they are still in high school.

### **Dr. Dan Ryan – Dean of Science and Management, UNBC**

Dan Ryan holds a PhD, MSc in Applied Statistics from the University of Guelph and is the current Dean of Science and Management at the University of Northern British Columbia. As Dean of Science and Management he has responsibility for the School of Business; Chemistry, Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering; Computer Science; Ecosystem Science and Management; Environmental Planning; Geography; Mathematics and Statistics, and; Physics. Dean Ryan's academic careers includes the positions of Dean of Science, University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford,



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Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown and Research Scientist/Statistician at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Townsville, Australia.

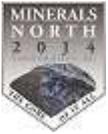
Dan has a young family and is active in a wide range of activities in Prince George, from cross country skiing to skating, hockey, archery, riding, and music. He has family memberships at the Exploration Place, Two Rivers Gallery, Otway and we have enjoyed every performance at Theatre North West since we arrived in Prince George. The family regularly uses the Ice Oval, Agri-plex, Aquatic Centre and the Prince George Library, and Dan has a strong appreciation for the quality and diversity of the Region's offerings in terms of education, sports, recreation and culture.

### **Lori Seymour – Heavy Equipment Operator, Red Chris Mine**

Lori Seymour grew up on a farm near Kamloops in a family where heavy equipment was a part of everyday life. With family and friends all having large equipment it was possible to jump on the odd dozer or loader and walk it out of the bush or practice moving logs around on the landing with a loader. As the only girl in a family of 6 kids, Lori's Mom taught her that women were very capable with equipment so farm equipment was also on her resume before she left home.

Lori has had numerous jobs through the years from waitressing to a spa business on Haida Qwaii. When the logging industry crashed on the island, so did the spa - resulting in a move to Tumbler Ridge at Anglo America's Peace River Coal. Starting as a plant labourer, Lori spent most of her days on the shovel. However, she eventually moved up to pit services, and finally on to haul trucks.

Since then Lori has worked at Thompson Creek Metals Mt Milligan mine and is now at Imperial Mines Red Chris mine near Dease Lake. She is confident running and training new operators on a variety of trucks, as well as running smaller equipment such as packers and rubber tire dozers. She is very involved in the safety aspect of mining and has been a part of various safety committees and steering committees to help provide a consistent and safe working environment for her coworkers.



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### **Dr. Janis Shandro, Researcher University of Victoria, University of BC, University of Queensland**

Janis Shandro is a researcher with the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Queensland. She is currently leading a number of community health and extractive projects and has focused a large portion of her academic career on the health and well-being of communities in British Columbia. Janis also works with Monkey Forest Consulting as a community health/influx specialist. With MFC, she works with international financial institutions and corporations to mitigate social risk and strengthen social performance.

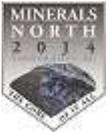
**Charlyne Smilinski** has been employed with the College of New Caledonia for twenty-four years with the last seventeen years focused on student supports and academic advising. As Access Facilitator for CNC - Nechako Region and Coordinator of the Nechako Career Centre she is first point of contact for students and community.

The last ten years she has also been Coordinator for the Good Neighbours Committee (GNC) a committee formed to build bridges between the communities of Saik'uz and Vanderhoof with more recent activity incorporating the Welcoming Communities Program, a project funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia. The GNC is a partnership of local government, education, business and First Nations.

### **Christy Smith, Manager of Community and Aboriginal Affairs - Taseko Mines**

Christy Smith is a highly accomplished professional from the Komox First Nation with 19 years of proven expertise in Community and First Nation engagement. She holds a Bachelor degree in First Nation Studies from the University of Alberta and a MBA from University of Northern BC. Christy's strong commitment and passion for people, local and First Nation communities have led to the development of an extensive network of contacts and stakeholders. This network has allowed her to ensure individuals, local suppliers, contractors and businesses have the opportunity to a role to play within the mining sector.

Prior to joining Taseko, Christy was the Manager of Community and Aboriginal Affairs for the Mt. Milligan project where she supported the local and First Nation communities in preparation for the construction and operation of the mine.



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As the Manager of Community and Aboriginal Affairs with Taseko Mines Limited, Christy continues to build relationships and provide opportunities in all four of Taseko's project areas which extend as far North as Fort St. John on the Taseko Aley project, as far South as 100 mile House (Gibraltar/new Prosperity), and as far west as Haida Gwaii (Harmony). She sits as the Chair for the Mining Association of BC's (MABC) Aboriginal Affairs Committee, and as a director for the Canadian Institute of Mining North Central Branch.

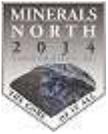
In 2013, Christy was awarded the Mentor Award at the Northern BC Business and Technology awards for her work fostering business and growth in northern British Columbia.

### **Danielle Smyth, School of Exploration and Mining – Northwest Community College**

Danielle Smyth leads Northwest Community College's award-winning [School of Exploration & Mining](#) and also serves as the interim Executive Director with the [BC Centre of Training Excellence in Mining](#). Danielle has also served as the Regional Director for the colleges Eastern Region and as the Sustainability Manager with the University of Northern British Columbia. Through employment experiences in government, education and the private sector, Danielle has gained diverse experiences working in both the environmental and natural resources fields. Danielle serves on the Board of Directors for the Smithers Exploration Group and is a member of the AMEBC Aboriginal Relations Committee and the BC HR Task Force: Exploration, Mining, Stone, Sand & Gravel (BC Task Force).

Danielle holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Guelph, a Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of Northern British Columbia, and completed the Institute in Sustainability Leadership program at the University of British Columbia.

**Walter Sorokovsky** is the Apprenticeship Advisor for the Industry Training Association. He is responsible for the Northeast area of the Province and is based in Prince George. In addition to operating a construction business, Walter obtained his Provincial College Instructors Diploma and worked as a Millwright/Machinist instructor for over 10 years, drawing from his experience in the health, pulp and paper, lumber processing and mining industries. He holds Red Seal Certification as a Millwright, Machinist, and Carpenter; as well he holds a Certificate of Qualification in Power Engineering. Most recently, Walter worked in the advanced education system training and guiding apprentices from BC and Alberta to become skilled trades people.



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### **Michael Urbani - Partner, Stikeman Elliott Law**

Michael Urbani is a partner in the firm's Corporate and Securities Group. acquisitions. He acts for private and public entities and investment dealers in public financings and private placements in Canada and the United States, as well as take-over bids, and mergers and acquisitions involving public and private corporations.

Mr. Urbani acts for investment banks and clients in various industries including mining, hospitality, communications, biotech, high tech, petrochemicals and forest products. Mr. Urbani was named in Legalese's *The Legal 500 Canada 2014* in the corporate and M&A category. He was listed in the 2013 *The Best Lawyers in Canada* for corporate and M&A law. He appeared in the 2012 and 2013 *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*, a guide to the leading law firms and practitioners in Canada, as a leading lawyer in the corporate midmarket and corporate finance and securities areas. He was recognized as one of Canada's leading lawyers under 40 in Lexpert's 2009 *Rising Stars* awards.