



# NORTH COAL COMMUNITY COMPASS August 2019



## Valued Components Open House

The Environmental Assessment Office has released the draft Valued Components (VCs) list for the proposed Michel Coal Project. The VCs have been drafted by a working group of 50 plus people covering 15 technical disciplines. The process ensures that any potential environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health effects of the project are reviewed and assessed.

A public open house was held on August 1, 2019 at the Sparwood Seniors Centre. Representatives from the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency were one hand to answer question about the process and take comment on the identified VCs.

A number of scientists and consultants were also on hand to speak to the

technical design elements of the proposed Michel Coal Project.

The public can view the draft VCs on the government's EPIC website ([www.projects.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.projects.eao.gov.bc.ca)). Comments will be accepted until August 29, 2019.





## Furbearers study

One of North Coal's overarching goals is to build trusting, sustainable, transparent, and respectful relationships with First Nations. This goal will be built on the basis of respect, listening, inclusion and meaningful participation. One of the avenues for meaningful participation by First Nations is the Ktunaxa led Furbearers Study. The focus of this study is to identify key consider-



ations, recommendations and knowledge gaps pertaining to furbearing wildlife in the proposed Michel Coal Project area, through effective and respectful involvement of key Ktunaxa elders, knowledge holders and staff of the KNC. This work will be used to inform and optimize mine layout and will be included as part of the Michel Coal Project Application.

The study involved taking Ktunaxa elders and knowledge holders onto the land base during different seasons (Fall, Winter, Summer) to identify the presence (or absence) of wildlife,

important wildlife movement corridors, critical habitats and culturally important and native vegetation species to be used in the reclamation and closure process of the Michel Coal Project.

This important work guides our understanding of the traditional land use and how we can work collaboratively to ensure it will be used that way again in the future

## Staff Profile: Jonathon Brewer

### How did you first get involved with North Coal?

In the summer of 2018, I was hired by North Coal as an assistant Geologist. We mapped the known coal seams and located, plotted and measured any new seams we discovered while we walked the mountainous terrain of the North Coal property. At first, I saw this as a cool way to see the Rocky Mountains that were in my back yard, but with a purpose. But I soon realized that I was given the opportunity to learn more about the geology of the rocks, land, and formations.

### What is your current position and what responsibilities does that include?

My current title is Indigenous Relations and Education Lead. My responsibilities include the education of the Ktunaxa youth and any other Nation member(s) who would like to know more about North Coal. My role also allows me to help in the communities where I am needed to assist in the different events as a representative of North



Coal. My first job as an assistant geologist has helped me understand what steelmaking coal is and how it became coal. My current job has allowed me to understand what a coal mine is, what it takes to extract it and why we need it in today's world.

This new understanding has helped me when I interact with the communities so that I can answer the questions from my own experiences. I am still learning but if I ever needed an answer to a question I have some of the best experts in the field I can ask to help clarify those questions.

### **What do you like most about working at North Coal?**

North Coal has allowed me to grow in the short



time I have been with the company. This year has allowed me to job shadow some of the various specialists working in the field and understand what they do. This experience has opened my eyes to the world of jobs that study some of the things that we take for granted when we walk through the woods. I like that I have been able to learn first-hand, what great efforts North Coal is going to, in order to understand the environmental impact, and how they are going to reclaim it in the near future.

### **What has surprised you about working at North Coal?**

I am surprised that North Coal has put so much effort into mining the best way possible. As energy sector projects go, I have heard so many negative comments about the way it is extracted or processed. With the proposed Michel Coal project, the questions asked are answered and the feedback has been positive in the way North Coal has approached the whole project.

### **What do you wish other people knew about North Coal?**

As many companies work in the traditional territory of many of the Indigenous communities in North America, North Coal has made weekly efforts in acknowledging the Indigenous community's input in the project. This has allowed a friendship and a trust to develop as to which I see is a positive step toward Indigenous inclusion and relations in Canada.

## Welcome to David Leslie

David Leslie joined the North Coal team in July as the Manager of Engineering.

David brings over 30 years of mine operations, mine planning and permitting, and project management experience to his role.

The majority of his operational experience was gained at several of the large open pit coal mines in the Elk Valley. He has successfully managed the mine planning and permitting of several green-field coal projects as well as other projects in oil sands, aggregates, industrial minerals, diamonds, and copper-gold.

David has a solid technical and practical background in all aspects of mine engineering, a very good understanding of geological, geotechnical,



environmental, and permitting issues, and believes in the critical importance of community and First Nations relationships.



Members of the North Coal team participated in the Fernie Raft Race. This annual race is a fund-raiser for the Elk River Alliance. Our team paddled hard, had a lot of fun, and swept the river to make sure no one was left behind.

### HOW MUCH STEELMAKING COAL DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD?

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE 57,976 tonnes  
WIND TURBINE 142 tonnes  
AVERAGE COMPACT CAR 647 kg  
REFRIGERATOR 53 kg  
MICROWAVE 10 kg  
BICYCLE 1 kg

(1 tonne = 1,000 kgs)

### STEEL IS A FUNDAMENTAL MATERIAL FOR OUR DAILY LIFE

communications, transport, energy, health, sanitation and food all depend on it.

January 2018

For more information on steelmaking coal and its impact on local economies visit [coalalliance.ca](http://coalalliance.ca)