

ENTHUSIASM FOR BC MINING GROWS AS BRITISH COLUMBIANS SEE DECARBONIZATION AND CRITICAL MINERALS OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC OPINION RELEASE

On behalf of the Mining Association of BC, a province-wide survey was conducted with 1,000 BC residents aged 18 and over. Field work was carried out from January 12th to 19th, 2023. The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 3.10%, 19 times out of 20. The data were weighted according to census data to ensure the sample matched BC's population according to age, gender, and region. Data collection was carried out by Abacus Data.

Prepared by

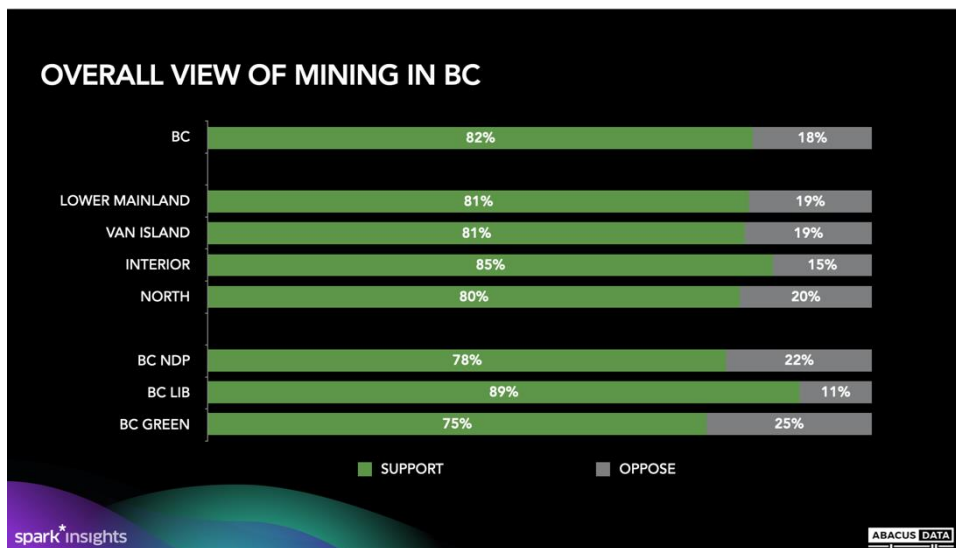
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REPUTATION OF THE MINING SECTOR IN BC

By a wide margin (82% - 18%) British Columbians have positive feelings about the mining sector. Underpinning this support for the sector, is the view that mining is good for BC's economy and is conducted in a way that is respectful to the environment. 88% describe BC's economic opportunities from mining as good, very good or excellent, and 73% say that the environmental standards in use in mining in BC are good, very good or excellent.



Across a range of measures tested, British Columbians believe the mining sector is helpful to the province. At the top of the list are well paying jobs, investments in local communities, income for British Columbia from global sales and purchases from local BC businesses.

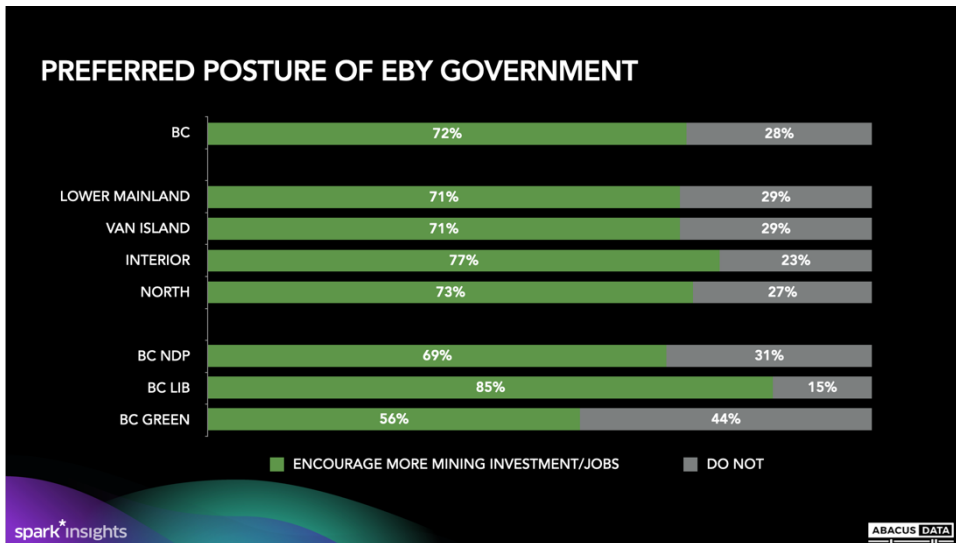


PREFERRED POLICY STANCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

By a wide margin (72% - 28%) British Columbians would prefer to see the provincial government take steps to encourage more investment and jobs in mining in BC.

Most want (73%) to see the province become a world leader in “critical minerals” (described to respondents as minerals essential to modern technologies including clean energy technologies that help fight climate change – like solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and electric vehicles).

Majorities on the political left and right, those who live in urban areas as well as those who live in more remote areas, people who generally lean against mining, as well as those who have usually been supportive – want to see BC lead the world in supplying critical minerals.



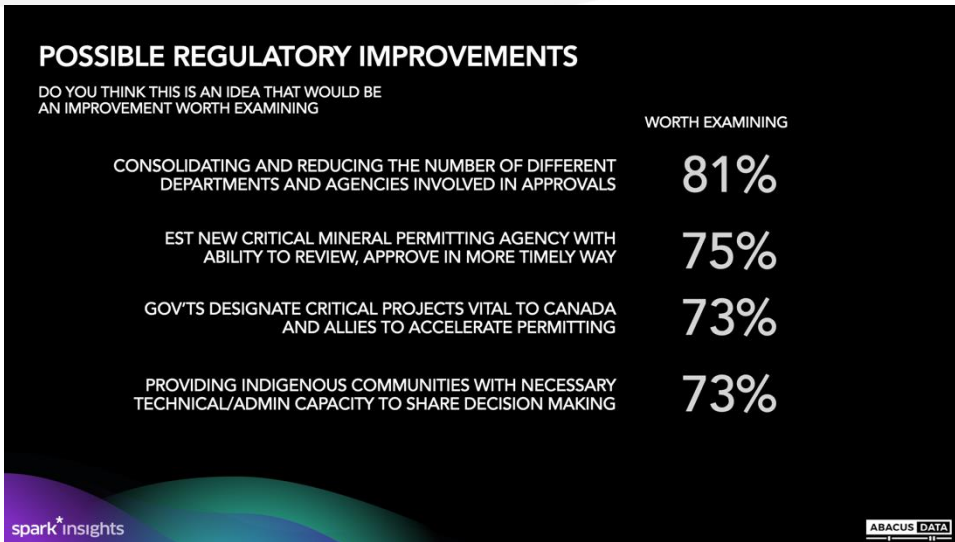


APPROVALS PROCESS FOR NEW MINES

The survey also explored views of the approvals process for new mines. When informed that it can take up to 15 years to obtain government approvals and permits to build a new mine, by a margin of 64% - 36% respondents felt that it should be possible to reduce the regulatory complexity and time required without compromising environmental protection.

Asked about four ideas that might help improve regulatory pace, three quarters or more found each one worth considering. Those ideas included:

- Consolidating and reducing the number of different departments and agencies involved in these approvals, to reduce the amount of duplication and the time it takes to reach decisions. (81% worth considering)
- Establishing a new critical mineral permitting agency/authority with dedicated resources to review, modify and approve mining permits in a more coordinated, efficient and timely way. (75% worth considering)
- Doing more to provide Indigenous communities with the necessary technical and administrative capacity to participate in the shared decision making and permitting processes of mines and other resource projects in a timely way (73% worth considering)
- Supporting the federal and provincial governments to designate critical minerals projects that are vital to Canada and our allies as nationally and provincially significant to reduce regulatory impediments and accelerate their permitting and approval timelines. (73% worth considering)



USE OF ADDITIONAL CARBON TAX REVENUES

The survey also asked respondents to react to the idea of the province using increased carbon tax revenue to match funds from mining companies that wanted to invest in ways to reduce their emissions and fight climate change. Two thirds of respondents said they would like to see this happen.

CONCLUSIONS

The BC public is broadly supportive of the mining sector and favours public policy that encourages investment and job growth in mining. They perceive significant upsides for the province from mining, including good jobs, revenues for the provincial government and the province’s economy.

The most revealing new finding is the public enthusiasm for mining and the significant public support in BC for supplying the world with the critical minerals that are essential for clean technologies, decarbonization and fighting climate change. This idea rallies people on the left and right, in every region of the province, and across generations. British Columbians are broadly interested in seeing the province play a leadership role in this area and are open to a variety of ideas that would make it possible for BC to act more quickly on mine permitting and approval timelines.