



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2013

Harper Government Strengthens Training for Mining Sector in British Columbia

CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Training for jobs in the mining sector will be easier, thanks to federal funding announced today by the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification.

"Our Government's top priority is creating jobs, economic growth and long-term prosperity," said Minister Yelich. "This investment will help to increase the number of skilled Canadian workers available to western Canada's booming mining sector."

Federal funding of more than \$1.7 million will allow the College of the Rockies to acquire haul-truck training simulators which will train entry-level workers in the mining sector. A total of five simulators will be purchased and used for training at several of the College's campuses. Compared to training on an actual machine, simulation-based training allows students to engage in maneuvers or operational situations that may be dangerous to perform.

"The mining industry plays an integral part in British Columbia's economy," said David Wilks, Member of Parliament of Kootenay—Columbia, who joined Minister Yelich for today's announcement. "Our Government's support for the College of the Rockies will help our region take advantage of the opportunities and jobs in the mining sector so our region can thrive."

"This significant investment by the Government of Canada will go a long way in allowing College of the Rockies to continue to play a vital role in preparing skilled workers to support our economy and communities," said Dr. Nick Rubidge, President and CEO, College of the Rockies. "We greatly thank the federal government for this major investment which will provide our students with state-of-the-art technology and skills training that is aligned with the needs of our regional mining industry and beyond".

Since 2006, the Harper Government, through WD, has invested in job-creating small- and medium-sized businesses, aerospace, marine and defence industries, and supported innovative entrepreneurs in pursuing emerging markets. By continuing to promote new economic opportunities, WD is helping to create jobs, economic growth, and long-term prosperity.

For additional information, contact (media only):

Jerra Kosick
Office of the Minister
Western Economic Diversification
Telephone: 613-954-8097
Email: jerra.kosick@wd-deo.gc.ca

Donna Kraus-Hagerman
Executive Director, College Relations and Marketing
College of the Rockies
Telephone: 250-489-8258
Email: kraus-hagerman@cotr.bc.ca

WD Toll-Free Number: 1 888 338-WEST (9378)

Teletypewriter (TTY): 1 877 303-3388

Website: WD is online at www.wd-deo.gc.ca.

Subscribe to news releases and keep up-to-date on the latest from WD. Follow us on Twitter at [@WD_Canada](https://twitter.com/WDCanada)

A stronger West. A stronger Canada.

<p>IF THERE IS A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN ANY PRINTED VERSION AND THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWS RELEASE, THE ELECTRONIC VERSION WILL PREVAIL.</p>
