



Municipality of Skagway

MEMO

TO:	Mayor and Borough Assembly
FROM:	Brad A. Ryan
DATE:	January 29, 2024
SUBJECT:	Mineral Roundup Trip Summary

Mayor Bass, Port Director Jennings, and I attended Mineral Roundup in Vancouver, British Columbia, where we held four days of productive meetings.

Our first meeting was with representatives from Western Copper and Gold, who reiterated their interest in using the port of Skagway for exporting their ore. They estimated a timeline of six years for permitting and four years for construction at the mine before they would utilize the port. They anticipate the creation of 1400 jobs during construction and 800 jobs once the mine is operational. Additionally, they are conducting a traffic study to estimate the volume of traffic through Skagway.

We then met with the Yukon Joint Transportation Infrastructure Committee, which expressed continued interest in collaborating with Skagway to facilitate ore transportation in a manner aligned with the community's desires. We discussed opportunities for outreach in Skagway, including potential partnerships between community groups in the Yukon, such as the Women in Mining group, and the Skagway school to develop courses or outreach programs for future job opportunities.

We met with representatives from the Yukon Government, including Premier Ranj Pillai and his staff. This productive meeting resulted in an invitation for Mayor Bass to join them in Whitehorse when Governor Dunleavy visits the first week of February. The Yukon Government remains interested in collaborating with us to develop a mutually beneficial ore export facility in Skagway. They also expressed interest in meeting with Blackstone representatives to discuss the future of Skagway.

We attended the Yukon Night event, where we engaged with various representatives from the mining, transportation, and political sectors of the Yukon government, business, and industrial sectors. We also met with Ausenco, where we discussed the differences between container bulk handling units and the potential for a study on the freezing and thawing of container-sized bulk handling.

We had a productive meeting with DP World and their consultant. DP World specializes in developing small ports for container shipping worldwide. DP World representatives proposed loading containerized bulk handling units onto a barge in Skagway and shipping them to Prince Rupert, eliminating the need to dump ore in Skagway. This would have multiple benefits, including imports from Prince Rupert to the Yukon and potentially Skagway. This meeting prompted further discussions with Ausenco, leading to a request for a proposal to study the cost of shipping containers through Skagway to Prince Rupert versus Stewart, BC. It also initiated conversations about Ausenco's planned study to assess the freeze-thaw cycle of ore in containerized bulk handling containers later this year, including its environmental impact on Skagway.

Other meetings included updates from the Port of Vancouver on their 2023 and projected 2024 cruise seasons, which anticipates a small increase in passengers for 2024. The port is also working on an additional cruise ship berth and provided an update on the Green Corridor Program.

We also met with Canagold, which is actively pursuing a mine 100 km south of Atlin, BC. They are assessing whether to transport the ore directly to Juneau or to Atlin via Skagway. The ore is primarily gold, which would be contained in one-ton super sacks and sent out either through Skagway or Juneau in containers.

Finally, we met with Sumitomo Corporation, who purchased the copper concentrate that was most recently produced at the Minto Mine, to discuss the potential cleanup of the remaining ore in the current facility. They have offered to assist us in identifying a recipient for the remaining ore that was left behind after the final shipment from Skagway.