

TRCR Lifetime Service Award for Glenda Ferris

The TRCR would like to present Glenda Ferris with a Lifetime Service Award in recognition of her dedication and years of work in promoting and enabling environmental protection by the mining industry. Glenda has an exhaustive list of accomplishments that have helped improve mining practices locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Glenda's numerous reviews of mine proposals, operating and closure plans and results have included Bell, Granisle, Equity Silver, Snip, Golden Bear, Eskay Creek, Sullivan, Huckleberry, Windy Craggy, Bronson Slope, Red Chris, Tulsequah, Silvertip, Isk Wollastonite, Prosperity and Telkwa Coal.

Assistance to government and non-government organizations in upholding environmental values have included the British Columbia and Canadian governments, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, Tahltan Joint Councils, Xeni'gwet'in First Nation, East Kootenay Environmental Society, Environmental Mining Council of British Columbia, MEND, Canadian Institute of Mining, and International ARD Conference.

Contributions to policy and guidelines have included the British Columbia ML/ARD Guidelines and Contaminated Site Regulations, Federal Metal Mine Effluent Regulations, and both the British Columbia and Canadian Processes for Environmental Assessment.

Recognition of her work has included:

- British Columbia Minister's Award for Environmental Achievement,
- 1990 CBC Award for a Person Who Made a Difference for the Decade,
- 2001 B.C. Mining Association Sustainable Development Award, and
- Outstanding Woman of the Year from the town of Houston.

Glenda's introduction to mining occurred in 1981 when the recently opened Equity Silver Mine started releasing acidic drainage into the watershed above where she lived. In March 1982, the British Columbia Ministry of Environment started the Equity Mine public advisory committee so staff wouldn't have to answer Glenda's questions. Due in large part to the work of Glenda, Equity was the first mine in Canada with a financial security for the large costs of ML/ARD, is

the only mine in British Columbia with a public advisory committee and has been the only mine to review its financial security every five years.

Mines like Equity Silver require maintenance for the foreseeable future and conditions are continually changing so public oversight is a never-ending endeavor. Still actively participating, Glenda has been the public participant on the Equity Mine public advisory committee for almost 45 years and usually the only public participant.

Glenda's success has resulted from her energy, bravery and perseverance, as well as her knowledge and experience. Contributing positively and proactively requires Glenda to invest considerable effort and time learning and keeping up to date with mine's history, site details, plans and performance.

Mines are on a learning curve regarding many aspects of future performance and there are many factors and gaps in knowledge to consider. Challenging inadequately informed professional experts can be difficult and painful. Over the years, Glenda has received a lot of abuse when pointing out errors and omissions. This includes being called a trouble maker and an apocalyptic carpet bagger, and told to go home and make supper. When Glenda supported good mine plans, abuse has also come from the environmentalists.

In conclusion, Glenda has dedicated a lifetime, most of it unpaid, towards improving the standards by which mines are assessed, managed, and reclaimed – working tirelessly not against mining, but against poor practices. Her contribution is a sizeable part of why the liability is lower, and the standard of mining practice is higher in BC than in other jurisdictions.