

Synergy: Learning from Each Other – A United Perspective

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The Eagle Rock Aggregate Quarry, Port Alberni, BC; The Hupacasath First Nation and Polaris Minerals Corporation

Eagle Rock Materials Ltd. (ERM) is a joint venture between the Hupacasath First Nation, the Ucluelet First Nation and Polaris Minerals Corporation (TSX:PLS). Polaris Minerals Corporation is the majority shareholder with 70%. The joint venture comprises a construction aggregate quarry located near Port Alberni and a series of receiving marine terminals in California, the target market for the company's products. While the Eagle Rock Quarry has already secured tenure and all permits required to proceed, the project awaits a construction decision. ERM is presently developing the first of its proposed port terminals in San Francisco Bay, which will be a key gateway for British Columbia sand, gravel and crushed stone, including products from Polaris' other BC quarry, the Orca Sand & Gravel Project, currently being constructed on Northern Vancouver Island. ERM is a progressive and precedent-setting model for businesses working with First Nations.

Why Should Resource Developers Work with First Nations?

First Nations live in rural areas at the frontline of resource development. Working and consulting with First Nations is a moral, ethical and good business obligation. The Supreme Court in Haida says that governments must consult, but it is impractical to expect governments to consult with limited staff and financial resources. It makes good business sense for industry to continue to consult with First Nations and better yet to be in business together in order to achieve greater certainty.

For ERM, consultation turned into a successful partnership. Working with First Nations and Industry requires developing a united perspective that involves finding a common vision on protecting the environment, sustainable resource utilization, and giving back to the community through revenue, jobs, diversifying the economy, and local Ownership.

The key is to learn from each other and use the advantages of working together to form a lasting partnership. The business sector can play a huge role in resolving aboriginal and treaty rights and title claims. We can't expect government to do it all. Working together will bring long term benefits for our country as well as stability, and new opportunity. Put the pressure to settle with First Nations where it belongs, on government. Eagle Rock took the challenge and we ask others to do the same.