



**KIMBERLEY**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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***Western Canada's Largest Solar Powered Development Begins***  
*SunMine means bright future for sunny resort city Kimberley, B.C.*

(KIMBERLEY, B.C.) The City of Kimberley's future is bright as it announces the start of construction on the \$5.3 million SunMine solar project.

SunMine will have over 4,000 solar-cell modules, mounted on 96 solar trackers which follow the sun's movement, maximizing solar exposure. It will be western Canada's largest scale solar project, and the first solar project in B.C. to sell power to the BC Hydro grid.

The project is being supported by Teck, whose involvement, first announced in 2011, includes providing land and site infrastructure as well as a \$2 million contribution towards the project. SunMine is located on Teck's former Sullivan Mine site, which has been fully reclaimed

The Province's Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund program will provide \$1 million for SunMine through the EcoSmart Foundation, a Vancouver based non-profit foundation promoting economically and ecologically smart projects between public and private sectors. EcoSmart has been a driving force that helped incubate the project from concept to reality.

The SunMine project also acknowledges the support of Columbia Basin Trust, which supports efforts to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the residents in the Columbia Basin. Additional funding and assistance has been received from the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.

SunMine is community owned, distinct and well suited to capitalize on Kimberley's clear and sunny conditions.

A 2011 referendum saw an overwhelming majority of Kimberley voters support the City borrowing \$2 million toward construction of SunMine. As a result, the City and its partners allocated three years to securing funding, negotiating ownership, undertaking due diligence and prefeasibility studies, and completing 17 agreements with eight different organizations.

In addition to energy generation, SunMine will benefit the regional economy through increased visibility and awareness. The engineering and project experience will garner the region a competitive edge for future initiatives in the growing renewable energy market.

Following a competitive process Conergy Canada was selected as the prime contractor to provide SunMine's engineering, procurement, and construction management.

The SunMine project will be constructed over Summer-Fall 2014, targeting January 2015 operation.

For more information visit: [www.sunmine.ca](http://www.sunmine.ca) or [www.kimberley.ca](http://www.kimberley.ca)

## CONTACT

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(Attached )

Appendix A - Fast Facts  
Appendix B - Quotations

## **Appendix A – Fast Facts & Brief History**

### ***Fast Facts***

- Upon completion, SunMine will be:
  - The largest solar facility west of Ontario.
  - The first re-development of a reclaimed mine site into a solar farm in Canada.
  - The first large solar project in Canada supported by a mining company.
  - The first utility scale solar facility developed, owned, and operated by a Canadian municipality.
  - The first 1000V DC solar installation outside of Ontario.
  - The first grid-connected solar photovoltaic installation in B.C.
  - The first large-scale project in Western Canada to use solar trackers.
- Kimberley, B.C. receives 300+ days of sunshine per year.
- A 1.05 megawatt solar power plant will be constructed on the former site of Canada's largest underground mine within City limits.
- Over 4,000 solar cell modules will be mounted on 96 solar trackers.
- SunMine is a community owned venture.

### ***Brief History***

- 2001: The Teck Sullivan Mine closes following nearly 100 years of operation.
- 2003: The British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation recognizes Sullivan Mine with a Metal Mining Citation for outstanding achievement in reclamation.
- 2008: City of Kimberley and Teck are approached by EcoSmart.
- 2008 thru 2010: EcoSmart and the City work to develop SunMine concept; apply for funding; undertake on-site energy testing with solar PV systems.
- 2010: Teck completes full reclamation of the Teck Sullivan Mine and transitions to long term care and maintenance of the site.
- 2011: SunMine selected to receive \$1 million in funding from the Province of B.C. Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund program.
- 2011: Public presentation on the concept, preliminary business model and yield projections.
- 2011: Teck announces a \$2 million contribution.
- 2011: 76% of voters are in favour of the City borrowing \$2 million toward the construction of SunMine, to be repaid through SunMine revenue.
- 2011-2013: Roles, responsibilities, and ownership are negotiated.
- 2012: Significant changes to project ownership structure are negotiated to comply with funders' requirements.
- 2013: SunMine is identified as a City Corporate Strategic Priority.
- 2013: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are issued and evaluated and Conergy Canada is selected as prime contractor.
- 2013-2014: 17 agreements and contracts are developed with eight different organizations
- April 2014: City Council decision to proceed with construction in the summer of 2014.

## **Appendix B - Quotations**

### **City of Kimberley**

"Kimberley citizens directly endorsed this project and we're proud to deliver on a bold and innovative initiative," says Kimberley's Mayor, Ron McRae. "SunMine aligns with the community's values associated with environment, community and a history of innovation and resilience. We're creating the future, not awaiting it, and this project shows we mean business."

### **Teck**

"SunMine is an innovative use of a former mine site and is an excellent example of a collaborative partnership supporting sustainable, vibrant communities," said Don Lindsay, President and CEO, Teck. "Our interest in SunMine also reflects Teck's commitment to alternative sources of energy."

### **Government of British Columbia**

"The Province will provide \$1 million to SunMine from the Innovative Clean Energy Fund," said Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett. "This is exactly the type of forward-thinking project the ICE Fund was created to help support. The City of Kimberley and the EcoSmart Foundation should be proud to be installing the first B.C. grid-connected solar plant on a brownfield mine site."

### **BC Hydro**

"BC Hydro is pleased to support the innovative SunMine project. This is the first solar project to sign an electricity purchase agreement with BC Hydro and it fits well into our Standing Offer Program. This program offers a simple, streamlined process to allow small, clean energy projects to feed electricity into BC Hydro's grid," said Doug Little, vice-president, Energy Planning & Economic Development, BC Hydro.

### **EcoSmart Foundation**

"Solar energy is one of the fastest growing industries in North-America. The first large scale solar power plant in Western Canada, SunMine, is a timely game-changer. EcoSmart is proud to collaborate in it with Teck and Kimberley," says Michel de Spot, president and CEO of the EcoSmart Foundation.

"Knowledge and experience gained from this innovative project will help develop local skills and make solar energy a viable option for B.C.'s generating portfolio. The solar energy potential in B.C. – and in particular, in the East Kootenay – is exceptional. Let's put it to work."

### **Columbian Basin Trust**

"We are proud to be a part of this project that is furthering Kimberley's vision to be a sustainable and innovative community," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "One of our guiding principles is collaboration and we commend the community and all of the partners involved on their collaborative efforts and commitment to this project."

**Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT)**

"SIDIT looks forward to the completion of this innovative project," states Grace McGregor, SIDIT chair. "Kimberley has the unique opportunity of generating economic diversification while protecting and enhancing the environment that will have a long term impact."

**Conergy**

"Conergy is excited to be a part of such a precedent setting project in Canada. The engagement and collaboration between the municipality, the mining sector and the solar industry is a great marriage, and it should be a model for others to follow," said Jared Donald, President of Conergy Canada. "Conergy's global experience and highly skilled local partners will ensure the successful execution of this power plant."