

The Cariboo Mining Association was founded in 1952 & became a non-profit society 1989. We are a 100% volunteer run, & are part of an umbrella group of other associations called the British Columbia Placer Miners Association. We have open lines of communication with all the government agencies that manage the regulations that guide our industry. Some of the government ministries call on us for our input regarding new policies & regulations. We have recently opened up lines of communication with some of our local Native Bands & are currently working on how we can help each other & finding common ground. Members rely on our ties with government for notifications for many things like new regulations, road deactivations & road closures, education, & standing up for their rights.

One of our biggest challenges as an Association is reaching & enrolling new members. We do use social media & we have a website. Our website was created & built by a volunteer member but it sadly needs not only a makeover but needs to be rebuilt & reorganized. Part of our mandate is education of the public, new hobbyist miners, & full time professional placer miners & government. There are many rules that affect all levels of mining from gold panning to machine mining so it is a broad spectrum. The rules & application systems are consistently changing so it can be challenging for everyone involved, so we need a website that is easy to navigate & will help answer questions at all levels. The first part would be to build a website with a data base of information including links to government regulations & applications.

The second part is starting a data base that we can utilize to build our organization. One avenue is to search the Mineral Titles Online to see who holds placer tenures in the Cariboo, record the names, addresses, & email so we can contact them directly for recruitment in our membership & inform them of new information that affects our sector & enroll them in our ongoing education of current regulations & applications.

With an increased membership we can reach even more miners & involve them in our training programs that are in part sponsored by the Ministry of Energy & Mines (MEM) & the Ministry of Forests Lands & Natural Resource Organization (FLNRO). Both Ministries have noted a huge increase in our region of the proponents following the regulations & a substantial decrease in infractions. An increase in members also gives our association a stronger united voice when dealing with government proposed fees, regulations, & individual miner's issues. With new rules, regulations, ever changing online applications & fees, ongoing education is not only needed but it is essential to keep a professional stewardship amongst the miners in our region.

It would be greatly appreciated if the UBC students could aid us in any form of restructuring the above mentioned.

Thank you, Rick Wittner

CMA President