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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2008EMPR0004-000106  
Jan. 27, 2008

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
Mining Association of British Columbia

### **SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MINING SECTOR RECOGNIZED**

VANCOUVER – Fording River Operations has received the 2007 Mining and Sustainability Award for its efforts to promote sustainable development in the British Columbia mining sector, announced Kevin Krueger, Minister of State for Mining, and Michael McPhie, president and CEO of the Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC).

“I am very pleased to congratulate Fording River Operations on their ongoing commitment to the environment, safety and the community,” said Krueger. “Fording River Operations is a leader in mining reclamation and is working hard to ensure that mining leaves a very small footprint on the land, protecting water and wildlife in the Elkford, Fernie and Sparwood communities.”

“Fording River Operations, through their demonstrated actions and commitments over many years, has successfully balanced economic, social and environmental goals,” said McPhie. “The Fording River management team, the communities of Elk Valley, Ktunaxa Nation and the many others who have been involved deserve tremendous credit for their leadership and commitment in making Fording a success and a leading example of how mineral development can be positive for society as a whole.”

The Fording River mine site, operating since 1970, is recognized as a world leader in mine safety and reclamation. Over 650 hectares, representing about 16 per cent of the area affected by mining, have been revegetated. Fording River Operations is the only mine in British Columbia to operate its own greenhouse where up to 50,000 conifer and deciduous seedlings are propagated annually from locally collected seed and cuttings.

In addition to their dedication to being a leader in reclamation, Fording River is also committed to high standards of training to ensure a safe environment for all of their 900 employees. Last September, Fording River’s mine rescue team was the overall winner in the Surface Mine Rescue category in the 2007 North West Regional Rescue Competitions.

The mine also made significant contributions to the community through programs like scholarships, donations, education outreach and participation in community events. In addition, the Fording River mine is currently working with the Ktunaxa Nation Council to find ways to foster a healthy, long-term relationship with the Ktunaxa Nation Council and its members.

The Mining and Sustainability Award will be presented jointly by MABC and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources at a gala dinner in Cranbrook on Feb. 28, 2008.

The award was launched in 2005 by MABC to publicly recognize the diverse companies, communities, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and individuals committed to advancing and promoting sustainable development in the B.C. mining and minerals sector.

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