

Working towards consensus and consent in the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act – the First Nation, proponent, and regulator perspectives



Katherine St James, Tim Michell, Kelsey Dodd

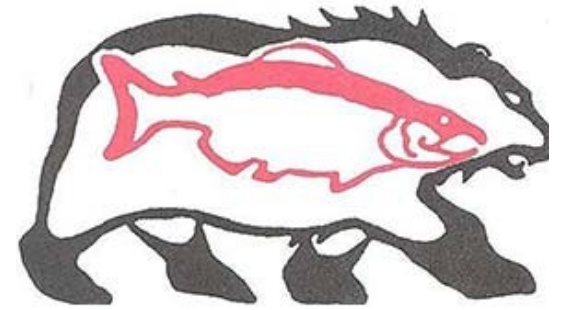
*BC Environmental Assessment Office; Lhtako Dené Nation council; Osisko Development Corp.
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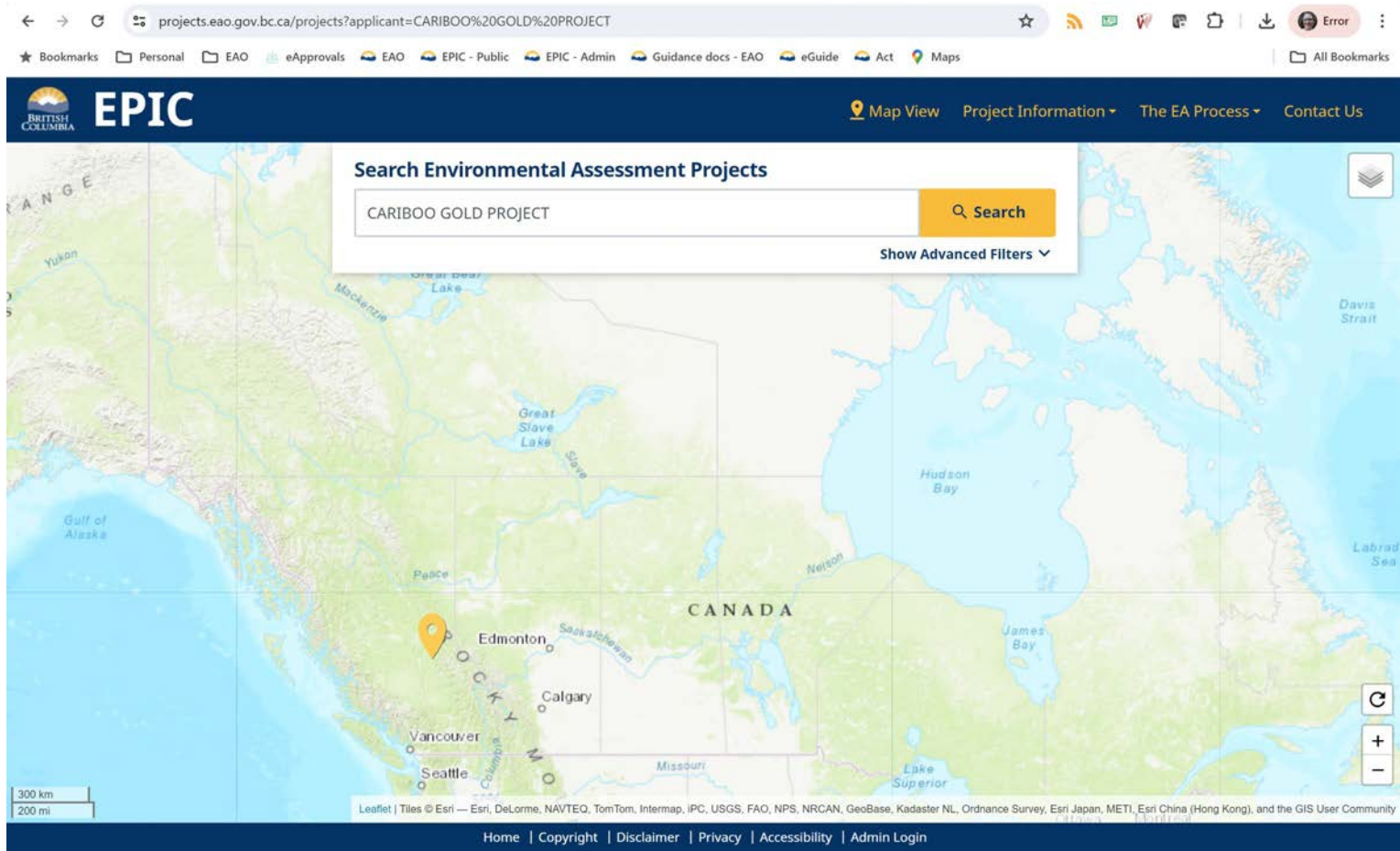
www.eao.gov.bc.ca; www.cariboogold.com

Why are we here?

We want to tell you the story of three different perspectives of seeking consensus and consent through the new British Columbia (BC) Environmental Assessment process.



OSISKO DEVELOPMENT



Cariboo Gold Mine EA

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca>

First project through the new BC *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018)

Issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate in October 2023

First Nations involved: Lhtako Dené Nation, Xat'sull First Nation, Williams Lake First Nation

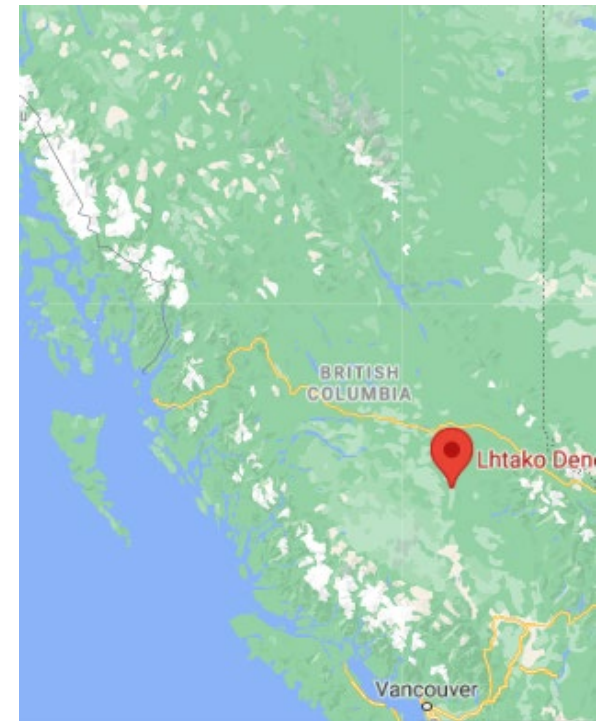
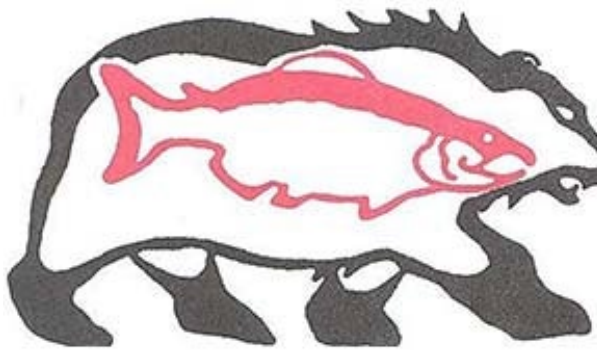
Cariboo Gold Mine

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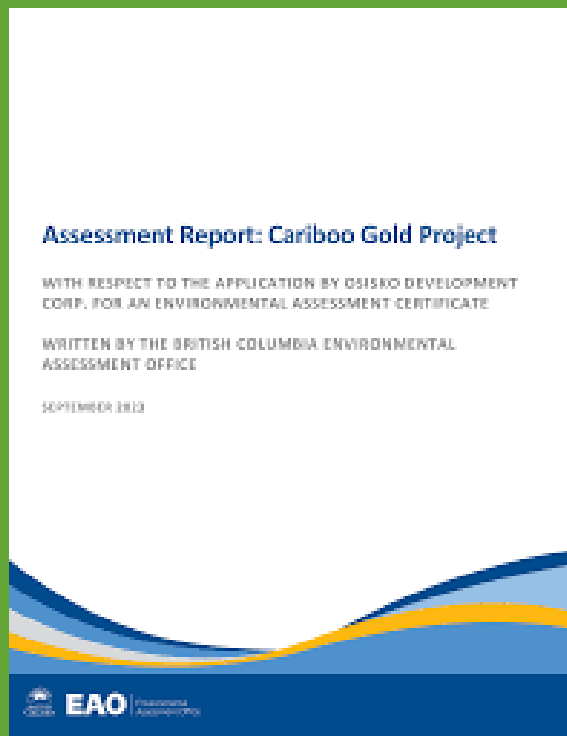
Proposed underground gold mine with a production capacity of 4,900 tonnes per day in the District of Wells, BC



Lhtako Dené Nation



Experiences in the EA process



https://www.projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/652595359019250022e37ae0/download/Cariboo%20Gold%20Assessment%20Report_September%202023.pdf



Learnings

- Relationship between the proponent and First Nation is key, and is the long-term one to foster
- Regulator has an important role to play, particularly when things aren't going well
- It's a very long-term process
- Know when to stop talking and start listening
- Relationship is not only with leadership, but with wider Lhtako community
- First conversation is about the relationship, not the project
- Process of seeking consensus and consent made for a better process for all parties involved
- Bring food!

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.

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