



November 14, 2025

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Email: [ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca](mailto:ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Dabrusin:

**Re: Designation of Record Ridge mine for impact assessment**  
**(Rossland, British Columbia)**

I write as President of Red Mountain Ventures LP (“RED”) in support of the request submitted November 5, 2025 to designate the Record Ridge mine near Rossland, British Columbia for impact assessment, pursuant to Section 9 of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

**A. RED Mountain Resort: Origin and development**

RED Mountain Resort is one of Canada’s oldest and most storied ski destinations, originating in the late nineteenth century as part of Rossland’s mountain culture. Over the past several decades, it has evolved from a volunteer-run ski club into a major four-season resort and the largest employer in the City of Rossland.

Since its acquisition by RED in 2004, the resort has undergone continuous, responsible expansion guided by a provincially and municipally approved Master Development Plan, emphasizing sustainable, all-season development aligned with community values.

RED spans 3,850 skiable acres across five mountains — Red, Granite, Grey, Kirkup, and Topping — offering 890 metres of vertical terrain with 360-degree descent opportunities. It ranks as the fourth largest resort in Canada by geographic area and ninth largest in North America.

RED holds a 49-year Operating Agreement with the Province of British Columbia governing a 3,600-acre Controlled Recreation Area, granting exclusive rights for ski-related and associated land uses supporting winter and summer operations.

Beyond skiing, RED has invested significantly in summer recreation, including the \$2,089,466 investment in a lift-accessed mountain bike park, which opened in 2025, creating a true four-season resort experience.

Since 2004, RED has invested more than \$150 million in infrastructure, terrain expansion, and new facilities, with an additional \$45 million planned over the next five years for chairlifts, skier services buildings, maintenance facilities, and expanded biking terrain.

Regarding the broader positive economic effects of non-winter tourism in the Rossland area, Tourism Rossland reported non-peak accommodation revenues of \$5.3 million in 2023/2024, representing a 21% increase over the prior year, and accommodation inventory now supports approximately 2,500 guests per night.



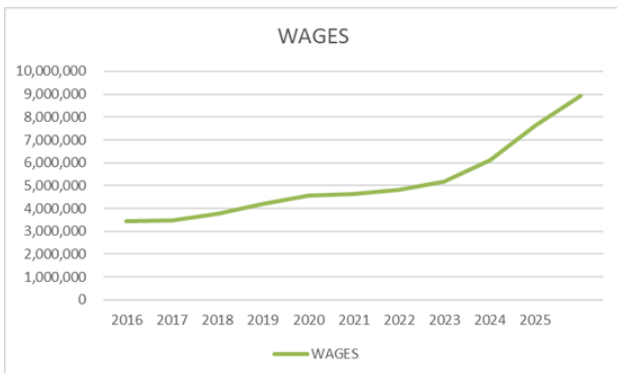
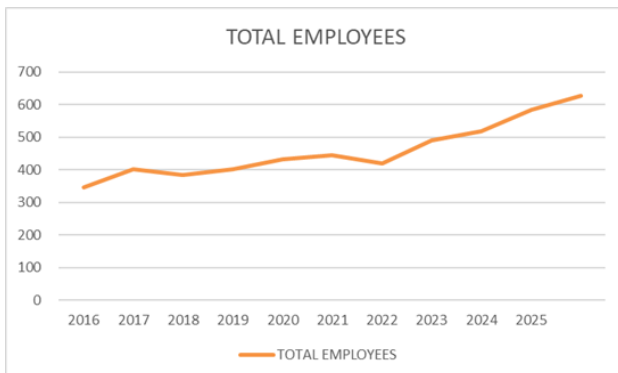
These existing economic benefits of non-winter tourism in Rossland are significant, as West High Yield Resources Ltd. (“WHY Resources”) now holds a recently issued mining permit allowing for construction and operations from April 1 to November 15 for the next three years (issued by the BC Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, after the company sought to avoid an environmental assessment by claiming to reduce its annual tonnage while leaving its environmental footprint and mine design largely unchanged).

If the project is allowed to proceed, the construction and mining operations would completely disrupt RED, its revenues, its employees, its visitors, the broader tourism sector in Rossland, and the broader community in Rossland, at a time when the resort and other Rossland-area businesses are investing millions of dollars to be a premier four-season resort.

**B. Employment, visitation, investment, and economic contributions**

RED is the primary driver of Rossland’s tourism-based economy, supporting local jobs, business revenue, and municipal tax growth.

RED employs more than 600 staff with an annual payroll exceeding \$9 million.



RED Mountain Ventures LP operates the entire resort, including food and beverage, retail, rentals, guest services, ski school, daycare, lift operations, maintenance, patrol, mountain bike park, banquets, events, marketing, finance, and administration.

RED also owns a Property Management Division and a real estate company, which have sold more than \$150 million in real estate projects comprising a mix of townhomes, condominiums and single-family lots since 2022, primarily to Canadian and U.S. residents who value RED's environmental stewardship and recreational quality.

RED's recent construction projects have generated hundreds of local jobs and associated economic benefits for workers, the community and the provincial and federal treasuries.

RED initiated a fourth \$74 million real estate project on November 3, 2025, which is anticipated to create more than 100 new construction jobs over the next three years (in addition to hundreds of existing jobs that are ongoing with current construction projects).

### ***C. Impacts of the proposed Record Ridge mine on RED and Rossland's tourism economy***

The Record Ridge mining project, proposed by WHY Resources, poses a serious threat to the economic, environmental, and reputational foundations of Rossland's tourism industry and RED's investments.

RED generates over \$20 million annually for the ski resort operations (excluding the \$150 million in revenue described above from real estate) and projects substantial revenue growth over the next decade. Its success has driven real estate value increases and municipal tax revenue growth in Rossland, directly benefiting Rossland's community. The Red Mountain neighbourhood (the housing that has been developed at the base of the resort in the last two decades) alone contributed \$2.4 million dollars in property taxes in 2025. We expect that number to quadruple during the next decade.

In contrast, the proposed Record Ridge mine would provide limited employment, no municipal tax benefits, and finite, time-limited, extractive economic gains, while causing enduring environmental, economic and reputational harm to RED, other tourism-based businesses, employees, and Rossland's community.

RED's annual payroll and reinvestment largely remain within the local community, supporting local families and businesses. The proposed mine threatens these benefits and risks undermining decades of strategic investment in sustainable tourism development.

### ***D. Rossland's status as a Resort Municipality and strategic tourism development***

Rossland is one of fourteen Resort Municipalities in British Columbia, a designation granted in 2007 largely through RED's leadership. This recognizes tourism potential and provides resources to build a sustainable, year-round visitor economy. It is an acknowledgement of the importance of four-season tourism for the City of Rossland and for RED Mountain Resort.

Tourism Rossland and RED have collaboratively developed a coherent framework for tourism growth in the local area, including development of the Community Tourism Plan (2006–2008) and incorporation of the Red Resort Association in 2007, which makes annual contributions toward tourism marketing.

Rossland's current Resort Development Strategy (2025–2027) establishes performance metrics including:

- a. 2% annual increase in overnight stays.
- b. 5% annual increase in non-winter visitation.
- c. Expansion of recreational trails.
- d. Attraction of at least four non-winter events annually.

Rossland's tourism sector generated approximately \$39 million in total revenue in 2024, including \$19 million during the non-ski season. Employment in tourism has grown from roughly 200 employees in 2004 to more than 1,200 employees in 2025, with RED projected to employ more than 1,500 employees at full build-out.

### ***E. Environmental, health, and reputational risks arising from the Proposed Mine***

The proposed open pit mine at Record Ridge presents risks of water contamination, air pollution, noise, habitat destruction, and long-term environmental degradation.

Such impacts would undermine the ecological integrity that attracts visitors and investors to Rossland and to RED Mountain resort, diminishing public confidence in Rossland's sustainability and negatively impacting revenues, employment and property values.

RED-generated visitor activity supports local merchants, hospitality providers, and municipal tax revenues. Any loss due to environmental or reputational damage would have significant and lasting economic consequences for the entire community.

### ***F. Reputational harm***

Rossland has a national and international reputation as a four-season destination with sustainable tourism development.

The introduction of an open pit mine at Record Ridge would irreparably damage this reputation, creating a visible contrast to Rossland's serene natural environment and undermining provincial tourism objectives, including the "Super, Natural British Columbia" initiative and the Invest in Iconics Strategy.

The economic, reputational and symbolic consequences to Rossland and RED include erosion of visitor confidence, decline of a globally recognized tourism brand, and perception that sustainable tourism can be compromised by short-term industrial interests.

### ***G. Harm to community well-being and talent recruitment***

Rossland's quality of life and healthy natural environment attract skilled professionals. Mining-related degradation of air, water, habitat, and visual landscapes would hinder recruitment and retention of talent, affecting essential community services with a corresponding irreparable negative impact on community wellbeing.

Increased heavy truck traffic would disrupt safety and community tranquility, directly contradicting the goals of the Resort Municipality Initiative and jeopardizing decades of economic and environmental progress. To put this in context, Rossland has one main street without any stoplights. A regular flow of heavy trucks from the open pit mine would destroy the peace and tranquility of the community of Rossland.

***Conclusions regarding impacts of the proposed Record Ridge mine***

The proposed Record Ridge Mine is inconsistent with Rossland's identity, economy, and future.

RED and the Rossland community made investments during several decades — with a total value of hundreds of millions of dollars — to build a sustainable “four-season” tourism economy. At no time during the year will an active mine be consistent with the tourism economy of Rossland and the surrounding areas.

The proposed mine would introduce high-impact, irreversible economic, environmental, and reputational damage, destabilizing employment, real estate values, and Rossland's standing as a cornerstone of sustainable tourism in British Columbia.

These reasons, I respectfully submit this letter in support of designation of the Record Ridge mining project for impact assessment under Section 9 of the *Impact Assessment Act* — to protect Rossland's long-term economic, environmental, and social interests.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

<original signed by>

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Mark Schroetel

President, Red Mountain Ventures LP