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# Cassiar Gold Corp. 2021 Sustainability Report

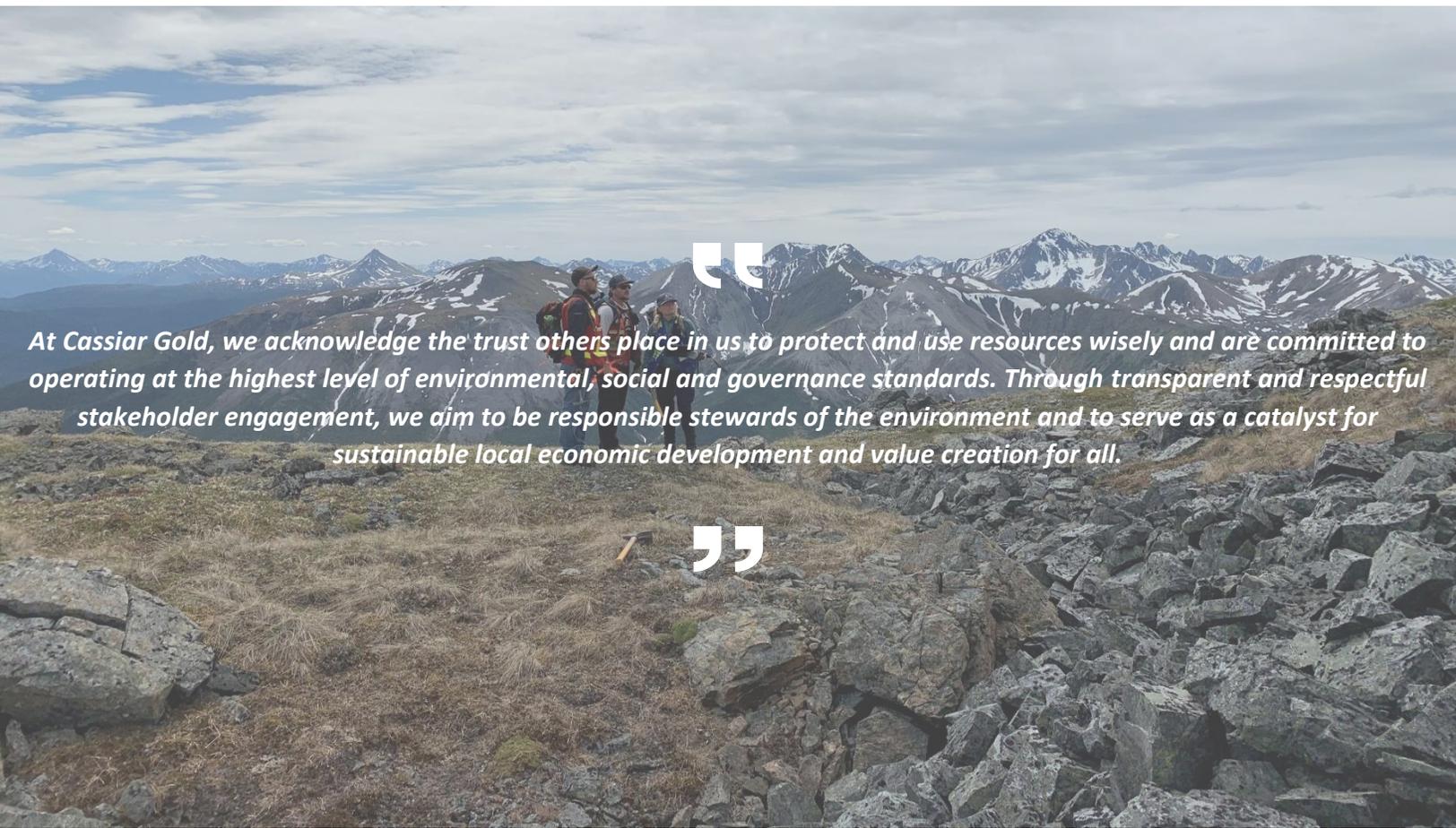
# Disclaimer

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Unless stated otherwise, information pertaining to the Taurus Deposit Resource of the Cassiar Gold Property is summarized, derived or extracted from, respectively, the technical report titled “National Instrument 43-101 Technical Report on the Cassiar Gold Property” prepared for the Company by Scott Zelligan, P.Geol., James Moors, P.Geol., Chantal Jolette, P.Geol. with an effective date of April 28, 2022. Scott Zelligan, P.Geol., James Moors, P.Geol., and Chantal Jolette, P.Geol., are all independent as defined by NI 43-101 — Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects (“NI 43-101”). Unless stated otherwise, information pertaining to the Sheep Creek Property is summarized, derived or extracted from the technical report titled “NI43-101 Technical Report on the Sheep Creek Project” by Robert A. Lane, MSc, P.Geol. with an effective date of August 17, 2017. Robert A. Lane, MSc, P.Geol. is independent as defined by NI 43-101 — Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects. Qualified Person: Jill Maxwell, P.Geol., Exploration Manager, is a "Qualified Person" as defined under NI 43-101 and has reviewed and approved the technical content of this report

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*At Cassiar Gold, we acknowledge the trust others place in us to protect and use resources wisely and are committed to operating at the highest level of environmental, social and governance standards. Through transparent and respectful stakeholder engagement, we aim to be responsible stewards of the environment and to serve as a catalyst for sustainable local economic development and value creation for all.*

”

# Message from our CEO

At Cassiar Gold, we acknowledge the trust others place in us to protect and use resources wisely and we pride ourselves on operating at the highest level of environmental standards. We aim to serve as a catalyst for local sustainable economic development through transparent and respectful stakeholder engagement and to act as responsible stewards of the environment.

Our partnerships with local environmental groups expand our knowledge and resource base as we constantly pursue the best sustainability practices in our office operations and our field work. Our efforts include working together with groups such as the Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society and Keefer Environmental to keep our projects operating under strict environmental guidelines. This work involves everything from water sampling and monitoring to wildlife and biodiversity management.

We continually acknowledge that we are on traditional First Nations lands, and our environmental work and community relations help build strong relationships and establish our Company as a responsible steward of the lands we operate on. Through collaboration with local First Nations groups, we work to ensure continual First Nations access to traditional hunting grounds overlapping our project boundaries and employ community members in our exploration programs.

As a growing company, we are continually developing and implementing our internal strategies and regulations, from employee and contractor safety to ethics and responsibility relating to human rights, diversity, and environmental issues. We are an equal opportunity company, and do not discriminate in any level of our hires, from seasonal staff to upper management. We have been fortunate to be able to include local community members alongside our own staff in off-site safety training, and have participated in trainings including underground mine rescue, wilderness first aid, and watershed management.

Through this inaugural ESG report, we are excited to showcase our strengths in these fields, and are already making plans and strategies to improve our reporting for future years.

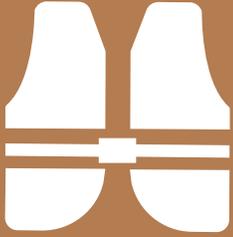
Sincerely,  
Marco Roque



President, Chief Executive Officer and Director



# Our Commitments



## Wellness & Safety

We will take care of our safety, health, and wellness by recognizing, assessing and managing risk in order to mitigate potential injuries and illnesses within our business. We will achieve the creation of a safe workplace by putting systems, practices and policies in place to ensure we are properly trained and equipped to do our work safely.



## Collaboration & Community

We aim to establish productive and ethical working relationships along with transparent, respectful and responsive dialogue within our team along with the surrounding communities and public agencies for the benefit of all stakeholders. Through active and sustained involvement with our neighbors and partners – generously sharing our resources and human talent – we grow alongside our communities.



## Sustainability & Environment

We aim to serve as a catalyst for local sustainable economic development through transparent and respectful stakeholder engagement and to be responsible stewards of the environment. We acknowledge the trust others place in us to protect and use resources wisely and we rely on scientific principles, valid data, the best knowledge and sound systems, processes and practices to inform our decisions and meet our environmental obligations.



## Curiosity & Accountability

We are committed to a culture of best business practices and encourage our employees to be curious and deliver on their commitments. We trust our employees to make good choices and challenge ourselves to greater individual responsibility. We empower our employees to execute their responsibilities with purpose and determination and to take our achievements and shortcomings with humility.



## Excellence & Respect

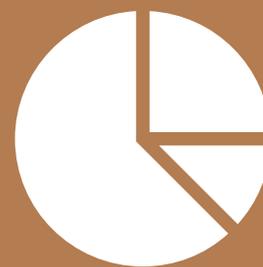
We are committed to excellence in everything we do, providing learning and development opportunities, pursuing best business practices, and creating a diverse and inclusive culture for all employees with transparent processes founded on dignity and respect that encourage a sense of pride and ownership.

**As a British Columbia Exploration Company, Cassiar Gold operates under the following reporting standards:**

- ❖ CDP - Carbon Disclosure Project
- ❖ GRI - Global Reporting Initiative
- ❖ GRI Comprehensive - Global Reporting Initiative
- ❖ Comprehensive GRI Core Global Reporting Initiative - Lite
- ❖ GRI MM Supplement - Global Reporting Initiative
- ❖ Mining and Metals Supplement ICMM – The International Council on Mining and Metals IFC - IFC ISS - ISS
- ❖ ESG Governance Quality Score
- ❖ ONYEN - Institutional and Investor Questions PRI - Principles of Responsible Investing
- ❖ UN Funded SASB - Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- ❖ SASB - Modified Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- ❖ Modified UGC - UN Global Compact

**Our stakeholders:**

- ❖ Civil society organizations
- ❖ Employees and other workers
- ❖ Governments
- ❖ Local communities
- ❖ Shareholders and other capital providers



*Figure 1. Steve Letwin, CGC Chairman, gives a thumbs up while standing next to the power lines that serviced the historical Main Mine at Cassiar South*

# Introduction

*This report covers the Sustainability efforts put forth by Cassiar Gold Corp, in regards to Environment, Social, and Governance in 2021. Though the company maintains two orogenic gold properties in British Columbia - the Cassiar Gold Project and the Sheep Creek Gold District; all work done in 2021 was focused on the Cassiar Gold Project. The material covered in this report will pertain to the Cassiar Gold Project only.*

The Cassiar Gold property is an orogenic gold prospect in northern British Columbia approximately 75 km south of the BC/Yukon border, within the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena First Nation. The property covers approximately 59,000 hectares made up of 223 mineral claims, 2 placer claims, and 18 crown granted mineral claims. The property is bisected by the paved BC Highway 37, which provides the main access to the property.



Figure 2. Location of the Cassiar Gold Project

The Cassiar Gold property has seen a long history of exploration and development with placer gold discovery in late 1800s, and mineral exploration beginning in the 1930s. The property intermittently produced gold from 1979 until operations ceased in 2007. Production was mainly from high-grade veins of the Cassiar-South area. Later in the exploration history of the property, the potential for near-surface, low-grade, bulk tonnage gold mineralization was recognized, particularly in the Taurus area. In 2019, a mineral resource estimate was completed for the Taurus deposit inferring 21,830,000 tonnes at an average grade of 1.43 ppm gold using a cut-off grade of 0.7 ppm (Zelligan 2019). During the 2020 season, Cassiar Gold Corp. (the Company) completed 4,712 m of drilling on the Taurus area of the Cassiar Gold Property. The 24-drillhole program confirmed and expanded the known mineralization beyond the extent of the 0.5 g/t Au gradeshell for the 43-101 inferred resource estimated for Taurus in 2019.

Cassiar Gold Corp's 2021 drilling program consisted of 11,289 m of diamond drilling, with 4,098 m in the Taurus area and 7,191 m in the Cassiar-South area. The company continued using oriented core data collection methods due to previous success improving geological interpretations by accurately defining the orientations of veins, contacts, and structures.



Figure 3. Drillers in action during the 2021 program.

*The Cassiar Gold Project operates within the Kaska Dena Nation. We have established informal agreements with the Dease River First Nations Development Corporation and engage partner companies in coordination with leadership of the Dease River First Nation which is a member of the Kaska Dena Nation.*



In the Taurus area mineralization was confirmed and expanded to the North, West, and South-West from the inferred 2019 resource. This was done by infill diamond drill data gaps in the resource; and by expansion drilling where mineralization was expected to continue beyond its defined extent.

Underlying lithological contacts, and the Taurus West Shear Zone were intersected in multiple drillholes, refining the geological model and aiding in understanding of structural influences on grade distribution. To date, mineralization has not been intersected below the underlying lithological base contact; however, there remains potential for mineralization to occur in lower thrust panels of the Cassiar North area.

The 2021 Cassiar South drilling targeted lateral and down-dip extensions of historically producing veins near the Bain, and Cusac areas. Additional high-grade targets included prospective open and previously untested areas with favourable geology within the Hot vein, Bain-Cusac Bridge and Vollaug vein areas, which were sparsely drilled by previous operators. Modern oriented core processing methods were employed for the first time in this area, improving the understanding of subterranean veins and structures.



*Figure 4. A view of Cassiar South*

In addition to the drill program, Cassiar Gold Corp. carried out exploration sampling and field mapping at the regional Snow Mountain prospect and targeted infill sampling on historic drill-core. The Company also made advancements in historical site remediation and reclamation programs, including environmental monitoring programs. The Company also commissioned Dam Safety Inspections (DSIs) for tailings storage facilities (TSFs) on the project.

Within the Taurus area, the 2021 program identified mineralization in gaps within the deposit gradeshell, extended mineralization beyond the extents of the resource model, and opportunity for expansion remains in all directions. Within the Cassiar South area, the 2021 program confirmed historic drill intercepts, increased confidence in the continuity of high-grade mineralization, and identified extensions of known vein systems with room for further expansion. Additional drilling is warranted.

# Environment

The Cassiar Gold Property is located within the Cassiar Ranges Ecoregion of the Boreal Mountains and Plateaus Ecoregion of the Northern Boreal Mountains Ecoprovince of the Sub Arctic Highlands Ecodivision of the Polar Ecodomain. The sub-arctic climate is characterized by short, warm summers and long, cold winters. Daily mean temperatures recorded at Jade City range from -20°C in January to +15°C in July. Summer temperatures can be as high as 25°C and lowest winter temperatures may occasionally reach -50°C. There is an average of 120 frost-free days, concentrated in the period late-May through mid-September. Precipitation averages 750 mm annually and falls equally in the form of rain in summer and snow in winter. Eighty percent of the total annual precipitation falls between July and February with rain yielding to snow in mid-October. Total snow accumulation recorded between October and May averages 227 cm.

The region is characterized by rugged mountains and plateaus separated by wide glaciated valleys and lowlands. Valley floors are up to one-kilometre wide with swampy areas separated by low rolling hills with elevations between 800 m and 1,000 m. Valley slopes rise steeply to rugged peaks over 2,000 m in elevation. Overburden varies from thin till on the steeper slopes to deeper deposits in the valley bottoms.



*Figure 5. A CGC Geologist conducting a survey*

The claims forming the Table Mountain Site are bordered to the north by McDame Creek and the broad northeast-southwest trending McDame Creek valley. McDame Creek is a tributary of the Dease River. The majority of historic disturbance on the site is on the north slope of Table Mountain. Streams and seasonal run-off from this area flow to the north, into McDame Creek and McDame Lake. Streams and seasonal run-off from the western part of the property flow west into Vines Creek and Vines Lake, while from the southern part of the property drainage is to the south into Rapid River.

The Table Mountain Mine Site is within the Spruce-Willow-Birch and Alpine Tundra Biogeoclimatic Zones. Vegetation consists of forests of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), thinning to shrubs and alpine meadows at 1,450 m to 1,500 m. Valley bottoms comprise shallow lakes and swamps with dense, stunted growth of jack pine, lodgepole pine, and black spruce.

Fox, beaver, marmot, marten, weasel, mouse, and voles are among the smaller species observed in the area. Resident large mammals include moose, grizzly, and black bear. Local bird species include Ptarmigan, Canada Jay, Ruffed Grouse, and Common Raven.

**In 2021, Cassiar Gold was  
in full compliance of all  
applicable environmental  
laws and/or regulations.**



*Figure 6. A resident black bear*

Field studies to determine fish presence were undertaken in 1995. Fish species inhabiting McDame Creek include Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), Burbot (*Lota lota*), Whitefish (likely Mountain Whitefish -*Prosopium williamsoni*), Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), and Slimy Sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*).

We are privileged to work in areas of existing biodiversity in flora and fauna, and to be surrounded by natural waterways. Our collaborations with groups such as [Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society](#), [Keefer Ecological Services](#), and [local First Nations communities](#) maintain our position at the ever-evolving front of environmental management.



*Cassiar Gold recognizes the environment as a high-priority asset within our planning initiatives.*



*Figure 7. An old miner's boot found on site. Our environmental footprint will last for generations.*

Through adaptations to our waste, water, and natural resource management, we can eliminate or mitigate negative impacts to the environment or even provide positive impacts to existing systems. These efforts include water quality sampling, studies to ensure we are not damaging the habitat of the endangered Little Brown Bat, and wildlife management plans.



Figure 8. (R) A bat is held by a certified wildlife biologist during a portal survey. (L) Bat monitoring equipment set up in a portal.

***Cassiar Gold's Biodiversity Management Plan was approved in 1996 by the Ministry of Energy Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation. It was revised in April 2021 in accordance with the Mines Act Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia.***





**Our team has received environmental related training and education in**

- ❖ watershed system management
- ❖ bear awareness and risk reduction
- ❖ stream sampling and monitoring procedures

Figure 9. A CGC employee conducting a stream sampling protocol

Guided by a thorough Wildlife Management Plan, Cassiar Gold operates in such a way that it will not cause unnecessary negative impacts to wildlife in the area through the proposed exploration activities associated with the Cassiar Gold Project. Mitigation efforts include ecological and biodiversity impacts, waste generation, noise impacts, discharges to water, and natural resource consumption.

2021/06/28	Office	Moose Cow + calf	observed from distance, took photos
2021/08/26	Taurus TSF-2	Bear + cub walking on tailings, cub ran into pond. Not sure if they were black or grizzlies.	Stopped + observed. They smelled/saw me and ran away.

Figure 10. An example of a CGC wildlife encounter log. Employees have been trained to mitigate disturbances to wildlife

We are proud of our ongoing dedication to site reclamation and have reclaimed many sites within our project boundaries through waste removal, hydrocarbon inventory and removal, and revegetation. When the creation of new disturbance is necessary for our work programs, we operate under strict guidelines with respect to riparian areas, tree removal, and access roads.



Figure 13. Local Company "Scrappy Larry's" assisting with reclamation efforts, through hired heavy machinery



Figure 12. CGC employee using a magnetic tool to remove any traces of scrap metal, such as nails or screws from a reclaimed site



Figure 11. Heavy machinery at work to reclaim a Cassiar North site

## Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Maintenance

- Removing small woody vegetation (i.e., trees and shrubs **smaller** than 25 mm butt diameter) from the crest, the top three meters of sideslopes, and the spillway, ensuring that the roots are pulled out. Some earthfill and compaction may be required if large root bulbs are removed
- Removing larger woody vegetation (i.e., trees and shrubs **greater** than 25 mm butt diameter) from the crest, the top three meters of sideslopes, and the spillway, ensuring that the trunks are cut off close to the ground surface and all cut material is removed from the dam. The surfaces should be recompacted, if necessary, after vegetation removal to restore a flat surface
- Repairing, re-grading and/or backfilling gullies, depressions, rilling, cracking, or similar features where the dam has been distressed, eroded or otherwise damaged. Additional fill should be placed as required to maintain design grades.

The historic Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) on the project are maintained under thorough regulations and undergo annual third-party reviews to ensure we mitigate all potential risks to the environment and the public.



Figure 14. Before (L) and After (R) of brushing work conducted on a Tailings Storage Facility for proper maintenance.

It is up to us to decide on the legacy that we will leave on the environment, and we are constantly working hard to ensure we make a positive impact.



*Figure 15. A CGC geologist taking a moment to appreciate the scenery*

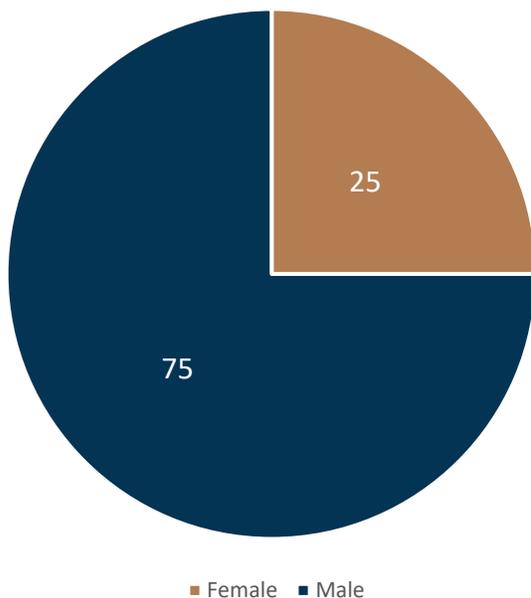
*Cassiar Gold is dedicated to the communities we live in, the communities we work with and the lands we work*



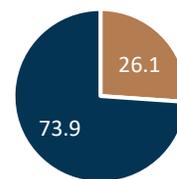
Figure 16. CGC employees and Local Community members engaging in a cultural exchange during a property tour.

From the people we hire, to the businesses we support, we are connected to the local economy. Local, non-discriminatory hiring and the use of local suppliers and businesses connect us with our communities. Our team members are dedicated to strengthening the local economy, not only in our purchasing and hiring, but also through our volunteer organizations and lifestyles.

Management Diversity (%)

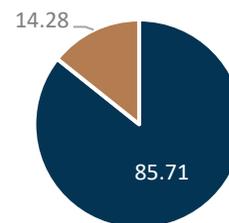


Employee Diversity (%)



Female Male

Technical Employees by Age (%)



Under 30 Between 30 and 50

Cassiar Gold conducts annual community consultation workshops and triannual leadership updates on operations. During these engagement opportunities, Cassiar Gold receives feedback from First Nations on the monitoring and evaluation of our projects.

*Through partnerships with local First Nations groups and communities, we have been able to:*

- ❖ Locally source equipment and supplies, such as the many **core boxes** used in our drill programs
- ❖ Provide off-site training to community members in Underground Mine Rescue.
- ❖ Provide support to community initiatives, such as a new skating rink in Good Hope Lake.
- ❖ Maintain access to traditional hunting territories which encompass our project boundary.
- ❖ Work with the **Dease River First Nations Development Corporation** to procure contractors.



*Figure 17. CGC team members and community members during Underground Mine Rescue training*

- ❖ Invest in environmental stewardship training for members of First Nations.
- ❖ Engage with First Nations to educate our staff on cultural-historical issues that are of importance to First Nations. These cultural exchanges have resulted in restrictions on operations that interfere with traditional hunting activities.



*Figure 18. CGC Management, crew members, and community members in front of the new skating rink in Good Hope Lake*

With a strong commitment to safety, Cassiar Gold conducts daily safety assessments for potential work-site hazards, and crew members have been trained in Underground Mine Rescue, Basic and Wilderness First Aid, and other safety and wellbeing topics.

*Out of approximately 21,372 hours worked in 2021, only 9.4 hours (1 shift) were lost to injury.*



Hazards are determined through daily assessment of work sites, lunchbox/tailgate meetings, training, and learning from previous incidents. Cassiar Gold internal polices in effect for all staff, contractors, and visitors relating to hazard determination include:

- ❖ Site Safety Orientation
- ❖ Task Orientation
- ❖ Job Hazard Assessment
- ❖ Risk and Event Classification
- ❖ Hazard Identification
- ❖ WHMIS Log
- ❖ Heavy Lifting Procedure
- ❖ Working in Confined Spaces
- ❖ Working Alone Policy
- ❖ Fire Safety and Prevention
- ❖ General Housekeeping
- ❖ Visitors Safety
- ❖ Emergency Alarm Procedure
- ❖ Infectious Disease Prevention Protocol



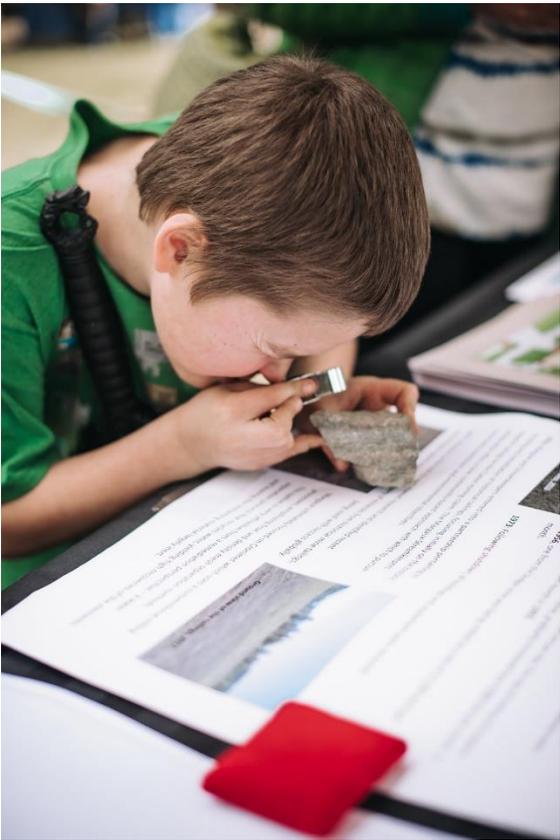
Figure 19. CGC Staff during a brisk morning safety meeting

*Cassiar Gold's Health and Safety Management Program complies with the provincial Work Safe British Columbia and the Mines Act.*



Cassiar Gold relies on a strong social license to operate – and we maintain this through our professional operations, as well as within our personal and volunteer activities. During time away from the project, our staff can be found:

- ➔ Volunteering on their children’s school PAC boards
- ➔ Working with local Chamber of Mines to provide expertise and donations
- ➔ Volunteer fire fighting and ski patrolling
- ➔ Coaching youth sports
- ➔ Supporting and contributing to organizations such as the Bear Smart Community and Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society
- ➔ Acting as a member of the board for multiple organizations
- ➔ Volunteering with and fostering for local dog rescues



*Figure 20. Photos from a community Earth Day event, where CGC provided education and information on our projects. The booth drew in attention from all ages.*



# Governance

Cassiar Gold embraces the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct in all activities. The Company's reputation for honesty and integrity among its stakeholders is key to the success of its business and we are fully committed to adhering to all applicable laws and principles of sound corporate governance. All employees are onboarded through a comprehensive process which includes a review of all policies and safety programs to ensure compliance with the policies that the Company has in place.



Figure 21. Part of the CGC Exploration Team with an active drill rig

The Company has established a Sustainability Committee which is tasked with fulfilling the ESG mandate and the committee meets on a regular basis. Frequency of these meetings may increase depending upon the state of the Company's affairs and in response to changing risks and opportunities.

*Oversight and review of ESG matters are integrated through all levels of the Company, including Cassiar's board, executive and operational levels.*



Cassiar Gold has established a formal [Code of Ethics and Business Conduct](#) to promote high standards of integrity by conducting its affairs honestly and ethically. The purpose of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is to promote a culture of transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability and outlines the basic principles and policies with which the Company and its directors, officers, employees, consultants and contractors are expected to comply.



Figure 22. Members of CGC Management, Exploration Team, and Site Visitors

Audit & Risk Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Directors of the Company is responsible for ensuring that a confidential and anonymous process exists whereby persons can report any accounting concerns relating to the Company. [Cassiar's Whistleblower Policy](#) governs the process through which the Company's directors, officers, employees and consultants, or any member of the public, can anonymously and confidentially report any potential violation or concern contrary to the Company's policies or local laws or regulations. This Policy establishes a mechanism to support and promote the Company's values by encouraging its directors, officers, employees and consultants to talk to their managers or other appropriate personnel about any concerns they may have in respect of illegal or unethical behaviour or the appropriate response to any such behaviour.

*In 2022, Cassiar Gold plans to formalize operational procedures regarding board oversight of ESG matters implemented in 2021. In 2021, field staff identified and managed economic, environmental and social impacts, risks and opportunities. Field staff reported these matters to the CEO and Board of Directors.*



Cassiar's [Equal Opportunity Policy](#) expresses the Company's commitment to promote equality and conduct its business according to principles of social justice, respect and freedom of expression when dealing with diversity in the workplace.



*Cassiar Gold's Board Of Directors are advised of all ESG related issues pertaining to the company's projects through weekly meetings with field staff.*



*Figure 23. The wonderful Cassiar Gold crew along with members of the Dease River First Nations, and visitors during an analyst tour*

# Contact Information

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**CAUTION**  
**ACTIVE DRILLING**  
**AHEAD**

View our 2021 ESG Report Scorecard [here](#)

