



FOR RELEASE

July 4, 2014

Government of Yukon appoints new chair of Yukon Minerals Advisory Board

WHITEHORSE—Minister Scott Kent announced the appointment of Mark Ayranto as the new chair of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board (YMAB).

"Mr. Ayranto brings many years of project development and hands-on Yukon mining experience to the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board," Kent said. "His experience and leadership skills will be put to good use as he leads the board to facilitate a healthy and prosperous mining industry."

Mr. Ayranto succeeds Susan Craig, a professional geologist who served as chair since 2011. Craig was first appointed to the YMAB in September of 2005.

"I would like to thank Ms. Craig for her able leadership as chair of the Minerals Advisory Board over the past three years and for her service to the Yukon mining industry as a board member for the better part of the last decade. She has helped guide Yukon's minerals sector through an era of unprecedented prosperity and development," Kent added.

The YMAB was established in 1999 by an Order in Council under the *Economic Development Act* to advise the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on matters related to mineral development in the territory.

"I am looking forward to this new challenge, and I hope the board will continue to contribute to the development of Yukon's mineral resource industries using a positive, collaborative and sustainable approach," Ayranto said.

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See backgrounder.

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Background:**Mark Ayranto, executive vice president, Victoria Gold Corporation**

Mr. Ayranto joined the Victoria Gold Corporation management team in 2009 as vice president of Corporate Development. In August 2010 he was named vice president-Yukon. Previously he also held the role of vice president Corporate Development with StrataGold Corporation. Ayranto holds a B.Sc. from Dalhousie and a MBA from Royal Roads University. With over 15 years of project development experience, he has been working in the Yukon for the past six years. Ayranto is past president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines; since 2011 he has served on the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board which advises the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding mineral development matters in the Yukon.

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