



## **Canadian official in Alaska amid mine development concerns**

### **British Columbia official visits Alaska among concerns about Canadian mine development**

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JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — British Columbia's minister of energy and mines is in Alaska this week, meeting with state officials and hearing from residents concerned about the impacts of potential Canadian mine development on rivers that flow into southeast Alaska.

Bill Bennett is scheduled to attend a press conference with Alaska Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott on Wednesday. Mallott invited Bennett to Alaska after visiting British Columbia earlier this year.

Conservationists, Alaska Natives and fishermen are among those who want Alaska to have a greater say in Canadian permitting decisions for projects that could impact salmon-bearing waters in the state. Currently seven major projects have potential trans-boundary implications.

Some groups want an international commission to review the planned developments and their potential impacts on Alaska's downstream waters. Bennett's office has viewed those calls as premature.