$600M
to build a 7.6km tunnel that will provide a secure and sustainable clean power supply to our aluminium smelter in Kitimat

1,100
direct jobs

4,855
total jobs

Our employees get paid on average $131K which is about 2.6 times the average salary in the province

$700M
to British Columbia GDP

$109M
of government revenue and

$455M
spent in the province

100% carbon free energy portfolio to produce our aluminium

$6B investment to modernise our smelter, making it the newest and cleanest in our portfolio

February 2020

Figures are from a Deloitte study commissioned by Rio Tinto in 2019 to evaluate our economic contribution to Canada.
BC Works comprises a newly modernised aluminium smelter and the Kemano Powerhouse, a hydropower facility supplied by the Nechako reservoir. From Canada’s west coast, we transport our products by ship and rail, primarily to customers in Japan, South Korea and the United States.

When BC Works opened in 1954, it was the world’s largest smelter powered by hydroelectricity. Today, following a $6 billion investment to modernise the smelter, the aluminium we produce here has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world. The upgrade, completed in 2016, included installing smelting equipment that uses our state-of-the-art AP Technology, making BC Works not only more efficient and commercially competitive, but also cleaner: we now produce twice as much aluminium with half the greenhouse gas emissions.

We celebrated the launch of the tl’ughus tunnel boring machine, a major milestone towards completing the Kemano Second Tunnel Project. The 1,300 tonne machine was named by the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and will dig 7.6 kilometres of tunnel as part of a $600 million project to enhance the long-term security of a clean power supply for the BC Works aluminium smelter in Kitimat, BC.

“While we plan to achieve big things in the next several decades, we know we cannot do it alone. The strength of our relationships with First Nations, our employees, partners and our communities is the key to our success.”

Affonso Bizon
General Manager
Rio Tinto BC Works