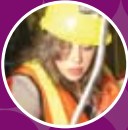




JOBS IN Mining

OUR LAND. OUR POSSIBILITIES.

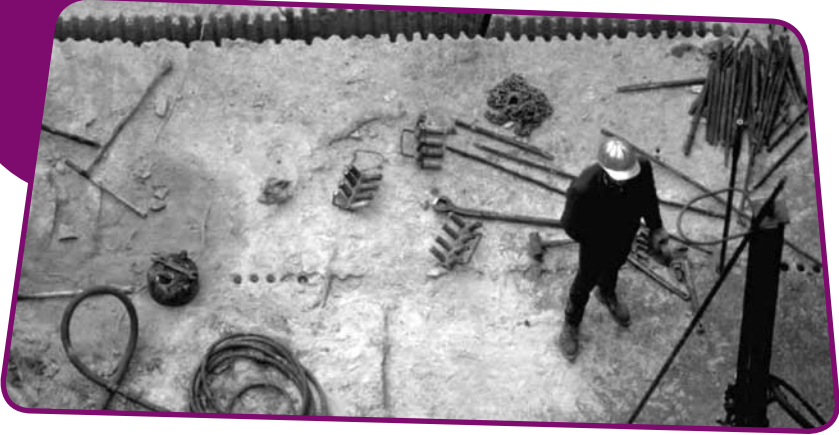




JOBS IN Mining

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Introduction

Nunavut has major potential for mining. The mining industry is growing and will play a major role in our communities. According to the Fraser Institute, Nunavut placed fourth in Canada for mineral potential. Nunavut's mineral potential is large, which is why some companies are spending millions of dollars on exploration, particularly for gold and diamonds. Other minerals like copper, iron, nickel, silver, lead, zinc and uranium have been found in various locations throughout the territory.

The presence of minerals will bring many mining companies to the north to explore the riches of "Our Land". The mining industry will offer Nunavummiut career opportunities that suit many interests and backgrounds.

What is mining?

Mining is the finding, digging, sorting, sending out and selling of the earth's valuable minerals and resources. Often these are metals such as gold, zinc, lead, nickel, uranium and tungsten, sometimes they are diamonds, silicon, or coal.

The fact that these minerals and resources are in demand by people around the world makes mining a worthwhile industry. The mining industry is one of the main industries in the resource development sector and covers a wide range of occupations.



Will there be jobs in the mining industry?

According to the 2008 Nunavut Mining Symposium, 1500 new mine-related jobs could be created in Nunavut over the next 10 years. This would employ 12% of the territory's workforce. Clearly, there is a growing need for trained workers within the mining industry. In 2007, the mineral strategy of the Government of Nunavut was released. This will attract attention from mining companies and will lead to further discussion with industry to work together to build Nunavut's economy. However, many jobs require skills that are not readily available at the community level. In order to benefit from the natural resources of our territory, we need skilled people to occupy these positions.

Are there opportunities for beneficiaries under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*?

In Nunavut, the land claims agreement provides a number of benefits and obligations for Inuit organizations with respect to the mining industry. The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) requires an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) be agreed upon between mining companies and Inuit on lands owned by Inuit. Within the IIBA contract, Inuit are given priority for hiring and training for jobs.

Watching out for the environment and community

In Nunavut, all communities that have a more traditional lifestyle and economy – dependent upon hunting, fishing, arts and crafts – are much more careful about embracing the thought of mining opportunities. Concerns about the environment, the potential impact upon wildlife – especially caribou – and the waters, are voiced in every community. New mining activity often requires extensive consultations with the community. Inuit participate in reviews conducted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board to make sure that the interests of Nunavummiut are protected. Inuit also provide input to environmental impact statements and rules that mining companies must follow.

What jobs will there be in the mining industry?

There are many different types of jobs within the mining industry and they require varying degrees of education, skills and experience. The skills and experience needed by workers in the mining industry differ by occupation. Some jobs may be entered directly from high school, while others require extensive specialized training.

Entry-level jobs

Some entry-level jobs in this industry require little or no previous training. Some mines provide on-the-job training. You must be able to read and write, and some require at least a Grade 12 level of education.

Job	Description
Labourer	Loads, moves, cleans up, etc.
Janitor/Dryman	Keeps the mine clean
Blast Helper	Helps load explosives into drill holes, makes sure everything is safe before blasting
Driller's Assistant	Helps operate/move the drill, handles drill core
Equipment Operator	Drives dozers, graders, loaders, trucks, etc.
Geophysical Assistant	Operates geophysical equipment, records data
Mechanic's Helper	Helps clean, oil, test, and fix equipment
Electrician's Helper	Helps run wires, check and fix electrical equipment
Surveyor's Helper	Holds stakes and rods, carries equipment
Crusher Operator	Runs the controls setting the amount of rock going into the crushers
Sampler	Collects ore samples for testing
Grinding Operator	Runs the equipment which does the rock crushing
Flotation Operator	Runs the tanks which mix chemicals into crushed rock and water

Reagent Operator	Works with a machine that mixes chemicals into tanks filled with powdered rock and water
Dewatering Operator	Runs the filter that gets water out of crushed rock before shipping
Cook's Helper	Helps prepare and serve food
Warehouse Person	Works in warehouse, stocking inventory

Skilled jobs

These jobs require that you be able to read, and have previous mining experience.

Job	Description
Driller	Drills holes into rock to get core samples for geologists
Blaster Hole Driller	Drills holes into rock for blasting
Blaster	Decides how many holes and how deep to drill, packs explosives into holes, makes sure everything is safe before blasting

Apprenticeship trades

These jobs require that you be a journeyman or certified tradesperson. The majority of jobs within the mining sector fall within trades and equipment operator occupations requiring skills-specific training and certification.

Job	Description
Carpenter	Builds and repairs buildings
Cook	Cooks meals for workers
Electrician	Installs, fixes electrical equipment
Mechanic	Fixes machinery
Machinist	Makes, fixes equipment parts
Plumber	Installs, fixes water pipes and fixtures
Steamfitter/pipefitter	Puts steam and water pipes together
Welder	Welds metal together to make/fix equipment
Millwright	Installs and repairs mill machinery

Office (administrative) jobs

For these jobs you must have at least a Grade 12 education and have some training or experience.

Job	Description
Mine Clerk	Keeps mine records, time sheets, etc.
Accounts Clerk	Works in payroll and costing
Secretary	Does word processing, records mail, files, and makes appointments

Technical jobs

These jobs need a technical college diploma. Generally, these are one- or two- year programs.

Job	Description
Mining Technician	Helps mining engineer with underground surveys, plans where to mine, figures out how much mineral is left
Environmental Technician	Makes sure environmental rules are followed
Engineering Technician	Makes drawings of machines, buildings, systems, helps keep them working



Semi-professional jobs

These jobs require a college diploma. Technology programs are generally two to four years in length.

Job	Description
Mill Maintenance Foreman	Makes sure mill equipment is maintained in good working order
Electrical Foreman	Supervises electrical workers, trains them
Mine Foreman	Supervises mine workers, makes daily work plans, trains workers
Mill Foreman	Supervises mill workers, makes daily work plans and trains workers
Safety Officer	Ensures healthy working conditions, sets safety rules
Warehouse Supervisor	Keeps warehouse in order, keeps records of materials stocked

Professional jobs

These jobs usually require a university degree.

Job	Description
Geologist	Explores for ore bodies, advises whether to mine and where ore is to be found in a mine
Mechanical Engineer	Designs new machinery
Mining Engineer	decides on best way to get ore out of ground, helps to design whole mining operation
Accountant	Keeps financial records
Nurse	Tends to injuries, ensures safe, healthy work environment
Manager of Training	Plans, teaches training courses
Human Resources Manager	Recruits, hires, plans what workers are needed, pay levels and training, and hire workers
Materials Manager	Decides what supplies are needed
General Manager	Makes sure everything in the whole business is running as best it can

Serving the mining industry

There are many other jobs that are associated with the mining industry. A lot of companies sub-contract out different parts of the mining process. You can create your own opportunities by providing goods and services to the industry. Some examples of jobs related to mining are:

- Prospecting
- Camp Construction
- Staking Claims
- Line Cutting
- Geophysical Surveying Sampling
- Trenching
- Cooking
- Remote Communications Airplane
- Passenger and Freight Handling
- Supplying Construction Materials
- Making Special Clothing or Equipment
- Maintenance
- Expediting
- Security
- Trucking
- Supplying Food
- Camp Management
- Diamond Drilling
- Road and Airport Building and Maintenance
- Equipment Rental

Working conditions

Hours. Mine companies often hire miners who work regular 8-hour shifts year round (except for holidays). Some workers are required to fly in and fly out of the mine, usually working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. Some will be working on-site for two weeks on and two weeks off. Depending on the company, you may be required to work different hours or shifts.

Environment. Most workers have jobs around large equipment which can be noisy. For mineral exploration, workers live in tents and work out on the land. People who like working outdoors enjoy the exploration part of the mining industry.

Wages. All wages in the mining industry are very competitive. There are operating mines in the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions.



Where to get training

The majority of jobs fall within the trades and equipment operator occupations requiring skills-specific training and certification. The remaining occupations are either entry-level positions, requiring at least a Grade 10 education (although a high school diploma is usually preferred), or engineering and management occupations requiring professional college or university education.

Nunavut Arctic College

Nunavut Arctic College offers two mining-specific courses: An Introductory Mine Training Course and Mineral Exploration Field Assistant's Program.

Nunavut Arctic College and Aurora College in the NWT offer many courses that could be useful in getting a job in the mining area. Some of these courses are: Heavy Equipment Operator, Pre-employment Carpentry, Pre-employment Trades, Management Studies, Office Administration, Environmental and Natural Resources Technology, Driver Training, Hospitality and Cooking, Welding, Electrical, Plumbing, and Small Business Management.

Southern colleges

Other mining courses that can be taken at colleges in the south are: Mining Technologist, Instrumentation Engineering Technician, Metallurgical Engineering, and Surveyor. Check with your local career development officer for college information.

University programs

For professional mining jobs, a university education is required. There are many Canadian universities that offer courses. These would be mostly in Geology, Geophysics and Mining Engineering programs, although Chemistry, Geography, and Biology are related to the mining industry.

Academic programs for professions common to most large businesses such as Human Resources, Business Management, and Accounting can also lead to mine employment. It is best to check out the university calendars. Most university calendars are accessible online. Try a basic Internet search for a university course calendar, which lists all programs with course descriptions.

Apprenticeship training and occupational certification

Many jobs in the mining industry require trade certification. Apprenticeship is a high-quality, post-secondary option that gives you the opportunity to combine on-the-job and in-school technical training. Once completed, you will have the skills to become a certified tradesperson.

Many of the jobs in the mining industry and its service industries require certification in a trade. With certification, you can make more money, work independently and find jobs much more easily. It is important to pick a trade that suits you based on your interests and skills.

What steps do I take to start an apprenticeship program?

There is not a set level of education needed to take an apprenticeship but many employers want apprentices with high school diplomas.

You need to pass the Trades Entrance Exam.

Find an employer to hire you, or take a pre-employment trades program through Nunavut Arctic College.

Register as an apprentice and sign a work agreement with your employer.

Contact your local career centre to get more information about apprenticeship or occupational certification or go to www.apprenticeshiptrades.ca and learn more about becoming an apprentice.

On-site training

Mine sites commonly offer on-site training programs for apprenticeship positions as well as upgrading and advancing. Pre-trades training or education upgrading may be required.

Exploration camps offer very limited on-site training for anything beyond entry-level positions. Government-supported prospector development and field assistant programs can provide Nunavummiut with the basic skills for employment with mining companies.



Financial assistance

The Nunavut Student Financial Assistance Program is available if you require financial help during your studies. To see if you qualify, contact:

FANS (Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students)

Nunavut Department of Education

PO Box 390

Arviat, NU X0C 0E0

Telephone: (867) 857-3085

Toll-free line: 1-877-860-0680

fans@gov.nu.ca





How to apply for a job in mining

Send your résumé and a cover letter to all of the mines where you would like to work, or to a company that provides services to the mining industry, such as mine exploration companies. Make sure you indicate which job or jobs you are interested in and why you think you are qualified for those jobs. If you want help in applying for a job, ask your local Career Development Officer.

For information on operating mines or general updates on the mining industry, contact the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines at the following website: www.miningnorth.com/default.htm.

You could also try talking to someone who works in the field to see if it is right for you. Look for mining sector jobs advertised in newspapers or on company websites. Your local Career Centre can help you to prepare for your job search and to write your résumé and cover letter.

Career Planning

Take control of your career and future

Career planning starts in your youth and continues throughout adulthood where you decide what training and education you want. In order to be successful in your career, you need to find the best fit between your interests, skills, and values. Planning today will help you find a job that you truly love doing in the future.

Nunavut Apprenticeship Contacts

Career Development Officers

Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) region (800) 567-1514

Kivalliq region (800) 953-8516

Kitikmeot region (800) 953-8516

Iqaluit (867) 975-6573

Supervisor of Apprenticeship (867) 975-5658

Registrar of Apprenticeship (867) 857-3079

Skills Canada Nunavut

P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 940

Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

☎ (867) 975-6574

✉ (867) 975-6572

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