

Mineral Exploration in Nunavut

Abstract

Nunavut's mineral potential is substantial, which is why large and small companies are investing millions of dollars for prospecting and exploration in the volcanic and metamorphic rock of the Canadian Shield, particularly for gold, and more recently diamonds. This map locates the main exploration sites in 1998.

The start-up of a mine is a lengthy and laborious process which is always preceded by a number of stages, including exploration, of course. There are various levels of exploration, comprising initial exploration (from the earliest drilling to discovery of the ore), more thorough exploration (second drilling program and evaluation of the ore reserves present) and finally advanced exploration (preliminary market study, operating costs, production costs and so on). Each of these stages has as its precondition the results obtained in the preceding analyses, with the feasibility studies being the most advanced exploration phases, just before the development stage.

Nunavut is seen as a favourable region for investment in mineral exploration. Within Nunavut are a number of projects which have completed the very expensive second drilling phase. The mining industry must therefore be perceived as a new industry in Nunavut, with promising assessments for the exploitation of certain minerals, such as gold and diamonds, in the volcanic and metamorphic rocks of the Canadian Shield.

Map Sources

Active and Closed Mines in Nunavut

Natural Resources Canada, Minerals and Metals Sector, Minerals and Mining Statistics Division, 1999.

Geological Provinces

Geological Map of Canada - Map D1860A [CD-ROM]. 1997. Ottawa, Ontario: Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada.

Major Rock Categories

Geological Map of Canada - Map D1860A [CD-ROM]. 1997. Ottawa, Ontario: Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada.

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Natural Resources Canada, Minerals and Metals Sector, Minerals and Mining Statistics Division, 1998.

References

Canada. Statistics Canada. 1998. Canada's Mineral Production, Preliminary Estimate. no:26-202, Ottawa.

Nunavut Implementation Commission. 1995. Footprints in New Snow: A comprehensive Report from the Nunavut Implementation Commission to the Department of Indian and Northern Development, Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Concerning the Establishment of the Nunavut Government. Iqaluit, Northwest Territories. 263 pp.

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Minerals and Metals Sector - Publications
<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/mms-smm/pub-pub-eng.htm>

Natural Resources Canada. Minerals and Metals Sector
<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/mms-smm/index-eng.htm>
MMS is the federal government's primary source of scientific and technological knowledge, and policy advice, on Canada's mineral and metal resources and on explosives technology.

Natural Resources Canada. Minerals and Metals Sector. Minerals and Mining Statistics Division.
<http://mmsd.mms.nrcan.gc.ca/stat-stat/index-eng.aspx>

Natural Resources Canada. Statistics on Natural Resources
<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/stat/index-eng.php>

Other

The Mining Association of Canada
<http://www.mining.ca/www/>
MAC's mission is to promote, through the collective action of members, the growth and development of Canada's mining and mineral-processing industry, for the benefit of all Canadians.