



NEWS RELEASE

Nunavut Mining Week – mineral resources a part of territory’s past, present... and future

(Iqaluit, NU – May 8, 2020) Nunavut has a rich history of exploration and mining. Modern mining commenced in the territory with the Rankin Inlet nickel mine which began production in 1957. Since then, several mines have been built, and today, Nunavut boasts four operating mines, three gold and one iron.

To commemorate its mining industry, the territory’s Nunavut Mining Week begins Monday, May 11.

“Mining week is an opportunity to reflect upon Nunavut’s rich mining history, to learn more about the minerals industry, and to look ahead to the future of exploration and mining in the territory,” said NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines President Ken Armstrong.

“Mining is an extremely challenging business. Perhaps never more so than today. Despite the challenges faced by our industry, we have seen many successes and remain optimistic about the minerals industry’s future and its ability to continue to deliver benefits to Nunavummiut,” he added. “Amid the COVID-19, pandemic, I would like to acknowledge all the excellent work industry is doing, together with government and Inuit Organizations, to protect workers and communities.”

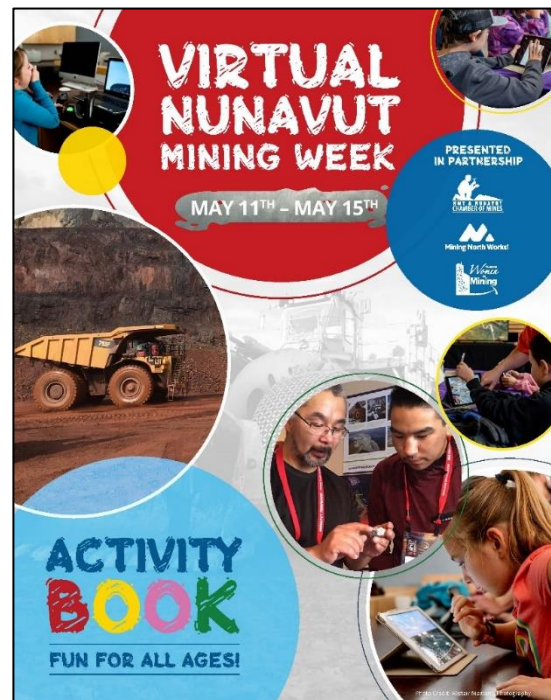
For Nunavut mining week, a new [on-line Nunavut mining booklet](#), with several fun and informational activities for Nunavut youth, has been developed.

Produced through a partnership of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines Mining North Works! public awareness program, Yukon Mining Alliance, Yukon Women in Mining, and Mining Matters, the booklet provides a resource activity youth can complete at home. We encourage you to join the Nunavut Mining Week celebration and we look forward to your on-line submissions!

To learn more about all things mining, explore [Mining North Works!](#) which includes the [Explore for Your Career catalogue](#) profiling several Nunavut mine workers. The minerals industry offers over 150 different types of employment. The website also features the Mining North Works for Nunavut [video](#).

Backgrounder

Over the past decade, Nunavut’s mineral resources industry has experienced a resurgence. Nunavut currently has four operating mines making the mineral resources industry the largest private sector part of the territory’s economy. The value of the territory’s mineral production has grown to \$1.3 billion in 2019 from zero production in 2009. With this growth, employment and business benefits have been created for Nunavummiut.



Click [here](#) or on the image above to download the Nunavut mining week activity booklet for youth.

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Nunavut's operating mines

- Meadowbank (Agnico Eagle Mines) – gold
- Meliadine (Agnico Eagle Mines) – gold
- Mary River (Baffinland Iron Mines) – iron
- Hope Bay (TMAC Resources) – gold

Nunavut mines production 2019 (Source: NRCan)

- Gold: 14,473 kilograms worth \$850,710,000
- Iron ore: 5,205,000 tonnes worth \$463,242,000
- Silver: 3 tonnes worth \$2,027,000

Value of minerals produced 2019 (Source: NRCan)

- \$1,315,978,000
- 2.7% of Canada's mineral production

Employment 2018 (Source: NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines)

- Nunavut jobs: 689 (16%)
- Southern jobs: 3,648 (84%)

Business Spend 2007-2018 (Source: NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines)

- Nunavut: \$4.0 billion
- Southern: \$4.6 billion

Business Spend 2018 (Source: NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines)

- Nunavut: \$765.9 million
- Southern: \$795.7 million

Economy (Source: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics)

- Mining is 23% of Nunavut's GDP
- Largest private sector contributor to economy

National facts and figures (Source: Mining Association of Canada)

- In 2018, Canada's mining industry contributed \$97 billion, or 5%, to Canada's total nominal GDP
- The industry's direct employment was 409,000 jobs and an additional 217,000 indirect jobs
- Largest private sector employer of Indigenous peoples providing over 16,500 jobs
- Canada ranks among the top five countries in the global production of 15 minerals and metals, many of which are integral to the low carbon technology needed for a greener future
- Valued at \$105 billion in 2018, mineral exports accounted for 19% of Canada's total domestic exports
- Average annual pay for a mining worker in 2018 was \$123,000

Click on these links for more details about Nunavut's mineral resources industry.

- [Nunavut Mining Infographic](#)
- [History of Mining in Nunavut](#)
- [Nunavut Mineral Production](#)
- [Mining Cycle](#)



For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the website at www.miningnorth.com or contact Terry Dobbin, General Manager Nunavut Office at Tel: 867-979-5291 or email: generalmanagernu@miningnorth.com.

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