

CANADA'S MINING EXPERIENCE GENERATES THRIVING COMMUNITIES



In Canada, gold mining is a well-established and regulated industry, adding almost CDN\$60 billion to the economy in 2015 and helping bring prosperity to communities across the country.

The Abitibi region, about 300 miles north-west of Montreal, is one of the richest areas in Canada for gold deposits and is geologically similar to Northern Ireland and Scotland. Since 1901, the region has been home to around 100 mines and has produced more than 170 million ounces of gold.

But the Abitibi region isn't just home to gold fields, it is also renowned for its scenery and is a popular destination for fishing and hunting, with a tourist industry built up around those activities.

For more than 100 years, gold mining has taken place in an area of natural beauty and pristine fishing

lakes, allowing both the mining sector and tourism to flourish side-by-side. Many of the mines are located next to towns and approximately 1 in 6 local people are directly employed by the mining industry, with at least one indirect job created for each direct job.

The town of Val d'Or in the Abitibi region grew up around the discovery of gold. The town's many businesses provide supplies and services to many mining companies. Agnico-Eagle, which operates three underground gold mines in the region, employs 99% of their workforce from the local area and contributes over CDN\$83 million to the government through taxes and royalties.

In Canada the mining industry is well advanced and plays a major role in the economy, with Canadian mining expertise being exported around the globe.

This week in Toronto, the annual PDAC (Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada) conference is taking place. The event is the largest of its kind, with almost 25,000 people attending in 2017 from 130 countries.

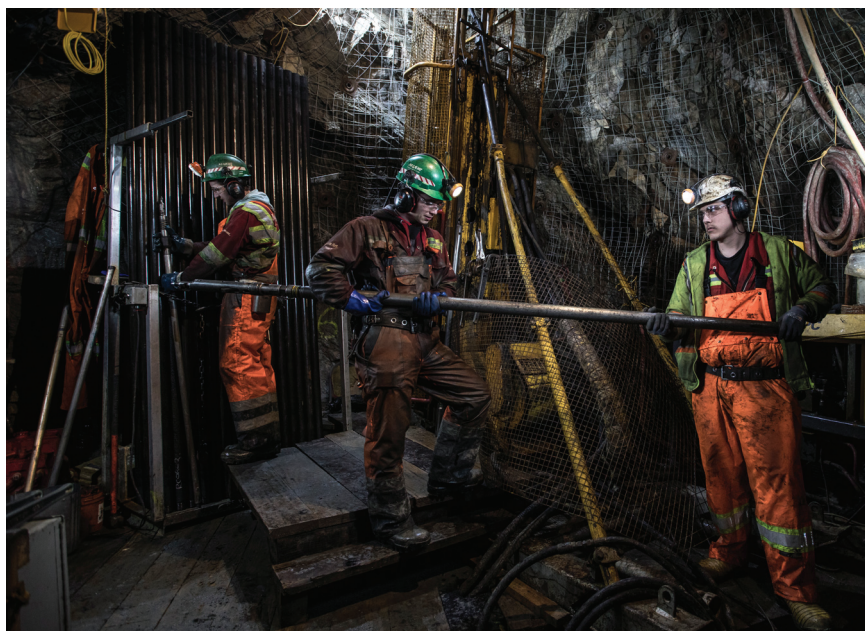
Since 1938, the PDAC has brought together mining companies, investors, geologists and government officials from across the world, highlighting opportunities for mining companies and new developments in the sector. Commercial mining for precious metals has existed on the island of Ireland since the 1970s and due to the growing economic potential of the sector, PDAC now hosts an annual 'Ireland Day'.

Ireland Day brings together government officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as well as geologists and companies with mining interests

on the island to discuss ongoing activities and opportunities. It is an acknowledgement of the rich resources the country holds and a recognition that mining presents a real opportunity for Northern Ireland.

Indeed, in Ireland there are communities which have benefited and prospered from mining, including in County Meath at the Tara Zinc mine, Europe's largest base metals mine, now in operation for over 40 years.

Our underground gold mine will bring 350 direct, well-paid jobs to west Tyrone and provide many opportunities for local businesses and suppliers, with more than \$1 billion in spending anticipated over the 20-25 year life of mine. We have designed a safe, modern and environmentally responsible mine and we are committed to working with the local community to bring investment and jobs to the area.



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