

MINING INDUSTRY HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL

Unearthing Students' Potential with Mining Curriculum

Canada is one of the world's leading mining nations. It produces over 60 minerals and metals, many of which are crucial to the production of clean technologies and the ongoing shift to a low-carbon future. Unfortunately, Canada's mining industry continues to face reputational and labour market challenges resulting from historically poor perceptions of the industry and the nature of the work itself. The sector is facing a tight (and tightening) labour market, further challenged by issues such as an aging workforce and dwindling post-secondary mining program enrolment. It is now more important than ever to change negative perceptions by showcasing that modern mining in Canada is safe, innovative, sustainable, inclusive and responsible to help attract the next generation of mining workers and help transition Canada to a clean economy.

Inspiring youth to consider a career in mining starts with K-12 educators encouraging students to explore a broad range of employment opportunities, including those within the mining industry. From Classroom to Mine Site: A Review of Canada's Postsecondary Education Pipeline for the Mining Sector – 2023, a study by the Mining Industry Human Resource Council (MiHR), found that most students are currently not learning much about mining and its wealth of career opportunities until they enter post-secondary education. To help introduce mining to youth well before they choose a university or college degree, MiHR developed Careers in Mining: A Teaching Resource to help Canadian teachers unearth the potential in their students. Aimed at grades 7 – 10, this interactive mining career awareness curriculum resource for educators offers 12 unique and high-quality lesson plans in a variety of formats that include themes and interactive, hands-on activities that provide students with a feeling of what it's like to work in Canada's mining sector.

The lessons also provide information about mining's opportunities and the sector's role in environmental sustainability, social responsibility and technological innovation, helping youth learn more about the industry as they make decisions about their future employment. A suite of curriculum connections identifies how each lesson fits within each province and territory's curriculum standards.

Career choices are among life's biggest decisions. This teaching resource includes engaging activities to help students learn about mining while discovering various occupations that draw on diverse skillsets and interests.

Students will also learn how modern mining is safe and uses high-tech equipment and processes, all while remaining environmentally conscious. The lessons and activities make real-world connections to items that use mined material (phones, tablets, smoke detectors, surgical equipment, etc.) to demonstrate the importance of mining in our everyday lives. Careers related to each lesson's topic are highlighted within the lesson plans.

The curriculum is virtual classroom friendly and includes environment-focused and innovative thinking activities. It was also designed to be able to fit seamlessly into existing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curricula.

Introduce exciting opportunities in the mining industry to young minds and help prepare the next generation for a sustainable future! Download a copy of Careers in Mining: A Teaching Resource to learn more.

Careers in Mining: A Teaching Resource



Unearth the potential of your students!

MiHR's curriculum resource is the perfect tool to teach grades 7-10 about exciting career paths in the mining industry and the importance of mining in the journey to a clean economy.

Visit MiHR.ca to learn more.