

PROSPECTS IN MINING



TOP 10

- Mine Design Engineer
- Blaster – Surface Mining
- Driller
- Foundation Drill Operator
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Elevator Operator
- Rescue and First Aid Provider
- Security Officer
- Geologist
- Industrial Mechanic



There are no ‘monsters from the center of the earth’ when you’re mining but the real monster right now is the demand for skilled workers in a variety of trades in the mining industry. With prices for some metals at an all time high – and growing markets in Asia, India and Russia – there is huge demand for metals.

Mines in Manitoba are growing and the growth is fueled by near record prices for nickel, zinc, copper and gold.

San Gold Corporation operates a mine in Bissett, Manitoba and recently poured their first gold brick in years. To meet the challenge of extracting more gold, they are training people within their geographic area for work in the mine.

Dale Ginn, President of the San Gold Corporation, said they have hired around two hundred workers since they bought and re-opened the mine last year. “There are a variety of opportunities such as first aid personnel, hoist operators, security people, machinists, heavy equipment operators, mechanics and, of course, miners,” said Ginn.



MIINE YOUR OWN BUSINESS

San Gold has decided to develop a pool of available labour with an aggressive recruitment and training program. Rewards include career advancement and a higher rate of pay.

San Gold employee John Lockhart, with 35 years of mining experience in Canada and Africa, trains many of the new miners.

Many of the new workers come from surrounding communities where unemployment is high including First Nation communities. “Jobs near First Nations and rural communities are very much needed and allow young people to stay close to home,” explains Ginn. •

For more information, visit:

www.infomine.com/countries/canada.asp



Profile

Mining Trainee
San Gold Corporation

DARREN HELGASON

“I Love Gold”

There’s nothing scary about going underground 100 or 1,000 feet says Darrell Helgason. He credits his brave outlook on his training as a miner at San Gold Corporation’s mine just out of Bissett, Manitoba. His first experience put him 850 feet underground and now he estimates that the crew he is in regularly goes down about 4,200 feet these days.

Darrell now possesses a Miner 2 level certificate and looks forward to completing more training.

When asked why he does it, Helgason says, “It’s the lifestyle and the excitement of working in a mine. Earning around \$70,000 a year doesn’t hurt,” he adds. Not bad for someone who has yet to complete his training.

John Lockhart, who is in charge of employees and training for San Gold, says they use a model where the miners earn a salary while training at the same time. Each miner is responsible for completing modules at their own pace.

The mine uses a five point safety system that all employees are to follow before heading into the mine. Helgason says there is one safety person per group and that person has the power to shut everything down until their concerns about safety are met.

Darrell hopes to be mining for a long time and says that it’s a great career that allows him to provide for his growing family. •

NOC 7372 (NATIONAL OCCUPATION CODE) | **DRILLERS AND BLASTERS SURFACE MINING, QUARRYING AND CONSTRUCTION**

EARTH MOVING EXPERIENCE

Drillers operate mobile drilling machines to blast holes in open-pit mines and quarries and for building foundations at construction sites. Blasters fill blast holes with explosives and detonate explosives to dislodge coal, ore and rock or to demolish structures. These workers are employed by mining, quarrying and construction companies and by drilling and blasting contractors.

Drillers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Drive and operate drilling machines to bore large blast holes to specified depths
- May measure location and stake out pattern of holes to be drilled

Blasters perform some or all of the following duties:

- Read diagrams, lay out drill pattern and determine depth and diameter of blast holes and conduct field tests to determine type and quantity of explosives required
- Assemble primer charges using selected detonators, fuses and detonating cords
- Load explosives in blast holes
- Connect electrical wires, detonating cords or fuses and detonate charges
- Handle, store and transport explosives and accessories in accordance with safety regulations

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum high school graduation or equivalency
- On-the-job training is provided
- Experience as a heavy equipment operator may be required for drillers
- Experience as a blaster helper in surface mining and quarrying or construction may be required for blasters
- Provincial blasting licence

For more information, visit:

www.mihir.com