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# Glossary of Mining Terminology



Canada 

## Glossary of Mining Terminology

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has a broad mandate in Nunavut. This includes resource management on Crown land, economic development and obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Resource development is an emerging industry in Nunavut and improving communications between government, the mining industry and the residents of Nunavut is paramount. Not only is it important for the mining industry to communicate with government, but there also needs to be clear communication with communities.

The majority of Nunavummiut are Inuit, and Inuktitut is the primary language in the territory. Although some Inuktitut terms are available, there is a general understanding that Inuktitut terminology pertaining to resource development is limited. Improving and developing terms in Inuktitut will go a long way to strengthening communication between Inuktitut speakers, governments and the resource development industry.

The *Glossary of Mining Terminology* is a first attempt to improve Inuktitut terminology in the resource development field. In March 2005, Inuit elders from across Nunavut, Inuktitut language specialists and a subject specialist gathered for a three-day workshop to develop the terms in this glossary. The workshop was funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The aim of the glossary is to clarify some technical words associated with resource development using everyday language. The *Glossary of Mining Terminology* is a living document that will continue to be improved as the industry develops and Inuktitut speakers become more accustomed to the language used by the industry.

For more information, contact:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Box 2200  
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0  
tel: (867) 975-4500  
fax: (867) 975-4560  
e-mail: [nuinfo@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:nuinfo@ainc-inac.gc.ca)  
[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nunavut](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nunavut)









<b>Cubic</b>	1. cube-shaped; 2. of three dimensions, length, width, height; 3. involving the cube of a number; 4. having three equal axes at right angles (1. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ ; 2. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ ; 3. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ ; 4. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Cyanide</b>	highly poisonous substance used in the extraction of gold and silver ( $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Deformation</b>	a general term for the process of folding, faulting, shearing, compression, or extension of the rocks as a result of various Earth forces ( $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Deplete</b>	1. reduce in numbers or quantity; 2. empty out; exhaust (1. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ ; 2. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Deposit</b>	a natural layer or accumulation of sand, rock, minerals, etc. ( $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Development</b>	1. an activity ranging from confirmation of a mineral deposit to the decision to build a mine; 2. all geological, engineering and economic work necessary to ensure profitable mining and compliance with applicable laws (1. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ ; 2. $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Diamond</b>	a natural forming crystal of pure carbon ( $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )
<b>Diamond Bit</b>	a rotary drilling bit that uses diamonds as the cutting edge ( $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ $\Delta^3$ )

<b>Diamond Cleavage</b>	the plane along which a diamond crystal splits easily (CΔL <sup>a</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> C <sup>u</sup> ᄆ)
<b>Diamond Cutter</b>	1. an individual skilled in the art of shaping diamonds as gems; 2. a tool in which a single diamond, shaped as a cutting point, is inset (1. CΔL <sup>a</sup> σ <sup>b</sup> Δᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>d</sup> ; 2. CΔL <sup>a</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> )
<b>Diamond Drill</b>	a drill used to collect core samples from rock (CΔL <sup>a</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> Δᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )
<b>Diamondiferous</b>	yielding diamonds (CΔL <sup>a</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )
<b>Dig</b>	1. break up and remove soil, ground, etc., with a tool; 2. break up the soil of (a piece of land); 3. make a hole or a tunnel by digging; 4. obtain or remove by digging; find or discover after searching (1. ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ; 2. >ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ; 3. ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ; 4. ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )
<b>Dike</b>	an intrusion of igneous rock across other rocks (>ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )
<b>Dilute</b>	1. reduce the strength of (a fluid) by adding water or another solvent; 2. weaken or reduce the strength or forcefulness of, especially by adding something (1. Δᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ; 2. ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )
<b>Discovery</b>	the knowledge of the presence of valuable minerals within or close enough to a location to justify a reasonable belief in their existence (ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> ᄆ <sup>c</sup> ᄆ <sup>b</sup> )



<b>Disseminated</b>	ore deposits consisting of fine grains of ore mineral dispersed through the host rock (ᠳᠡᠴᠢᠨᠰᠡᠮᠢᠨᠠᠳᠤ)
<b>Drill</b>	1. a tool or machine with a detachable end that is pointed and revolves rapidly; 2. to make a hole with a drill (1. ᠳᠢᠷᠯᠴᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢ; ᠳᠢᠳᠴᠳᠣᠴᠢ; ᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢ; 2. ᠳᠢᠳᠴᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢᠵᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢ; ᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢᠵᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢ)
<b>Drill Bit</b>	one of a number of different types of detachable cutting tools used to cut circular holes; the cutting end of a drill (ᠳᠤᠴᠢᠨᠰᠡᠮᠢᠨᠠᠳᠤ)
<b>Drill Core</b>	a solid, cylindrical sample of rock extracted from beneath the Earth's surface by drilling (ᠰᠡᠨᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢᠵᠢᠰᠡᠨᠢ ᠳᠤᠴᠢᠨᠰᠡᠮᠢᠨᠠᠳᠤ)
<b>Drill Hole</b>	a hole in rock made with an auger or a drill; a circular hole drilled in any manner (1. ᠳᠢᠳᠴᠴᠢᠳᠤ; 2. ᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢᠳᠤ)
<b>Drilling</b>	the act or process of making a circular hole with a drill; the operation of making deep holes with a drill for prospecting, exploration, or valuation (ᠳᠢᠳᠴᠴᠢᠳᠤᠰᠡᠨᠢ; ᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢᠳᠤᠰᠡᠨᠢ)
<b>Drill Rig</b>	a drill machine complete with all tools and accessory equipment needed to drill boreholes or drill holes (ᠳᠢᠳᠴᠳᠣᠴᠢ; ᠪᠠᠳᠤᠰᠤᠴᠢ)
<b>Earth</b>	1. the planet on which we live; 2. dry land; the ground; the material that makes up the Earth's surface; dirt, soil, etc. (1. ᠰᠡᠨᠠᠳᠤᠰᠡᠨᠢ; 2. ᠰᠡᠨᠠᠳᠤ)

<b>Emery</b>	an abrasive used for polishing metal or other hard materials; sandpaper (ኖሮ ራኖካሃጋቦኑኔ)
<b>Environment</b>	1. the physical surroundings, conditions, circumstances, etc., in which a person lives, works, etc.; 2. the area surrounding a place; 3. external conditions as affecting plant and animal life; the physical conditions on the Earth or part of it, especially as affected by human activity (1. ዲግሮጋሪኖ; 2. ልዩባኑጋሪኖ; 3. ሦረባኖ)
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	an assessment of the impacts caused by a development activity such as mining (ልዩባኖ ኔጋሪኖ)
<b>Environmental Impact Statement</b>	a document outlining the environmental effects of the project on the environment, prepared by the proponent of a project and presented to decision makers and the public (ልዩባኖ ልኮጋልጥሪኖ ጋራኔኔ)
<b>Erosion</b>	the wearing away of the Earth's surface by wind, water, or glacial action (ዎጋገሪኖ)
<b>Evaluation</b>	fixing the value, worth or impact of something (ወጪ ልኮጋልጥሪኖ)
<b>Exploration</b>	the whole range of activity from searching for and developing mineral deposits (ወጪ ልኮጋልጥሪኖ ምጥጥሪኖ)





<b>Geochemical</b>	alterations in the Earth's crust as a result of chemical changes (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ)
<b>Geochemical Exploration</b>	the search for economic mineral deposits or petroleum by searching for abnormal concentrations of chemicals in the Earth's surface (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ ለመግኘት ምርመራ)
<b>Geochemical Survey</b>	analyzing the chemical composition of samples of rock, soil, stream sediments, plants, or water (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ ለመግኘት ምርመራ)
<b>Geochemistry</b>	the chemical properties of the Earth, its rocks, minerals, etc. (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ)
<b>Geographic Information System (GIS)</b>	a computer map linked to different types of information (ኬሚስትሪ ማህተም ለውጥ ለመግኘት ምርመራ)
<b>Geological</b>	of, pertaining to, or derived from geology (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ)
<b>Geological Survey</b>	1. a detailed investigation of the geological features and resources of a region; 2. an official body responsible for such surveys (1. መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ ለመግኘት ምርመራ; 2. መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ ለመግኘት ምርመራ)
<b>Geologist</b>	one who is trained in and works in any of the geological sciences (መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ)
<b>Geology</b>	1. the science of the Earth, including the composition, structure, and origin of its rocks; 2. the geological features of a district or area (1. መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ; 2. መደጋጋ ለረድድ ጠቅላላ ለውጥ)

<b>Geophysical Exploration</b>	exploring for minerals or mineral fuels, or determining the nature of earth materials, by measuring a physical property of the rocks and interpreting the results in terms of geologic features or the economic deposits sought (መደገፍ ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)
<b>Geophysical Prospecting</b>	mapping rock structures by measuring magnetic fields, force of gravity, electrical properties, seismic-wave paths and velocities, radioactivity, and heat flow (መደገፍ ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)
<b>Geophysics</b>	study of the various physical properties of the Earth and the composition and movement of its component layers of rock, applied to mining exploration to detect zones characterized by their physical properties such as magnetism, gravity or conductivity (መደገፍ ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)
<b>Geoscience</b>	earth sciences, e.g., geology, geophysics, geochemistry (መደገፍ ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)
<b>Glaciated</b>	1. marked or polished by the action of ice; 2. covered or having been covered by glaciers or ice sheets (1. ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ; 2. ለግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)
<b>Global Positioning System (GPS)</b>	a portable receiver able to pinpoint the receiver's location anywhere on the Earth's surface utilizing a system of satellites to navigate and for surveying (የግብርና ለመግለጫ ለሚያገለግሉ የፊዥካል ባህሪ ለመለካወጥ ያለውን ምርመራ)

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<b>Gold</b>	a yellow malleable ductile high density metallic element resistant to chemical reaction, occurring naturally in quartz veins and gravel (ገጋ)
<b>Gold Mine</b>	a mine containing or yielding gold (ገጋፍርፍልግ)
<b>Grab Sample</b>	a sample taken at random generally containing a mineral of interest; it is assayed to determine if valuable elements are contained in the rock (ፍጠራዎች ለግንባታ)
<b>Grab Sampling</b>	a collection of specimens of ore taken more or less at random to examine the mineral quality but not the monetary value of the ore (ፍጠራዎች ለግንባታ ፍርፍጥ)
<b>Granite</b>	a hard igneous rock comprised mainly of quartz and feldspar used in building construction, as steps, kitchen countertops, etc. (ግግግ)
<b>Gravel Pit</b>	a pit from which gravel is obtained (ግግግ ፍርፍጥ)
<b>Hardness</b>	a material's (rock or mineral) capacity to scratch another or be itself scratched (ግግግ)
<b>Hardness Scale</b>	the scale by which the hardness of a mineral is determined as compared with a standard (ግግግ ፍርፍጥ ፍጠራዎች)

<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	material that, given its quantity, concentration and composition or its corrosive, inflammable, reactive, toxic, infectious or radioactive characteristics, presents a real or potential danger to human health, safety and public well-being or poses a danger to the environment if it is not stored, treated, transported, eliminated, used or otherwise managed (ካሪካ ስጋ ለሕይወት ግዴታ ያሰጥ)
<b>Hectare</b>	a metric unit of land measure, equal to 2.471 acres or 10,000 square metres (ዘጠቅል)
<b>Ice</b>	1. frozen water; 2. a sheet of ice on the surface of water (1. ማህጸን; 2. ገጽ)
<b>Impregnated</b>	a mineral deposit in which the minerals fill the pores of the host rock (ሙሉ ገጽ)
<b>Indicator</b>	a geologic or other feature that suggests the presence of a mineral deposit (አሳይኒያ)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	physical improvements to support mining, such as buildings, gas pipes, water lines, sewage and water systems, telephone cables and reservoirs. It may also include roads, railways, airports, bridges and electrical cables (አገልግሎት ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉ ነገሮች)
<b>Ingot</b>	a bar of cast metal, especially of gold, silver or steel (ጠቅላይ)
<b>Iron</b>	a heavy ductile magnetic metallic mineral that is silver-white in pure form but rusts easily (ካሪካ)











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<b>Permafrost</b>	a permanently frozen layer of soil or subsoil, or even bedrock (ᄇᄆᄋᄌ ᄌᄋᄌᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Permit</b>	a document issued by a regulator authorizing an activity on or use of a specific site (ᄌᄌᄌᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Permitting Process</b>	a process in which an applicant requests and acquires a permit from a regulatory agency (ᄌᄌᄌᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Placer</b>	a deposit of sand or gravel that contains particles of gold, gemstones, or other heavy minerals of value (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ ᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Placer Gold</b>	gold that is obtainable by washing the sand, gravel, etc., in which it is found (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ ᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ ᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Precious Metal</b>	any of several relatively scarce and valuable metals, such as gold, silver, platinum and palladium (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ ᄌᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Precious Stone</b>	a term commonly used for diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires, especially expensive ones of gem quality (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Prospecting</b>	to search an area for valuable minerals and ores, such as gold, silver, or oil (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)
<b>Prospecting Licence</b>	authorization granted by a government to an individual or company, granting permission to prospect for minerals and to register (stake) a claim (ᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎᄎ)

<b>Prospector</b>	a person engaged in exploring for valuable minerals or in testing supposed discoveries of the same (ᐃᓪᓵᑦᑦᑲᑦᑲᐃᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Pumice</b>	a light-coloured volcanic rock containing abundant trapped gas bubbles formed by the explosive eruption of magma. Because of its numerous gas bubbles, pumice commonly floats on water (ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Quarry</b>	an open or surface mine site where stone, rock and construction materials are extracted (ᐃᓪᓵᑦᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Quarrying</b>	the extraction of stone, rock and construction materials from an open-pit or surface quarry (ᐃᓪᓵᑦᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Reclamation</b>	restoration of disturbed and/or mined land to its original contour, use, or condition (ᐃᓪᓵᑦᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Reserves</b>	an estimate within specified accuracy limits of the valuable metal or mineral content of known deposits that may be produced under current economic conditions and with present technology; that part of the reserve base that could be economically extracted or produced at the time of determination (ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)
<b>Resource</b>	a concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous material in or on the Earth's crust in such form and amount that economic extraction of a commodity from the concentration is currently or potentially feasible (ᐃᓪᓵᑦᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)

<b>Rock</b>	1. the hard material of the Earth's crust, exposed on the surface or underlying the soil; 2. any natural material, hard or soft, e.g. clay, granite, consisting of one or more minerals; 3. a mass of rock projecting and forming a hill, cliff, reef, etc.; 4. a stone of any size; 5. a precious stone, especially a diamond (1. ᄃᄆᄃᄆᄆᄆᄆ; 2. ᄆᄆ; 3. ᄃᄆᄃᄆᄆᄆᄆ/ᄃᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ; 4. ᄆᄆᄆᄆ; ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ 5. ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Rock Type</b>	a particular kind of rock having a specific set of characteristics, including composition, history and age (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄃᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Sedimentary</b>	formed from sediments laid down by water, wind or ice, then compacted and cemented (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Sedimentary Rock</b>	rock formed from the consolidation of sediments transported by water, wind or ice (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ; ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Soapstone</b>	a soft metamorphic rock with a smooth greasy feel which could easily be carved; a generic term used to describe carving stone (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Steel</b>	an alloy of iron, which is mostly pure iron combined with some other elements, such as carbon (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Stockpile</b>	an accumulation of rock gathered or piled in one area (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)
<b>Stratum</b>	a layer or bed of rock (ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ)

<b>Surface Rights</b>	the rights to use the surface of the land, excluding mineral rights; whereas, sub-surface rights are rights to the minerals under the surface of the land (ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ)
<b>Survey</b>	1. examining and outlining the physical or chemical characteristics of the Earth's surface, subsurface, or internal constitution by topographical, geological, geophysical, or geochemical measurements; 2. the associated data or results obtained in a survey; a map or description of an area obtained by surveying (1. ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ; 2. ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ)
<b>Table</b>	the flat surface on the top of the diamond (ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭ)
<b>Test</b>	to search for mineral deposits in an unproved area by means of boreholes; to obtain samples of soil or rock from which the physical characteristics of the soil or rock can be determined, such as in foundation testing (ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ)
<b>Whetstone</b>	a shaped fine-grained stone used to sharpen tools and cutlery, etc. by grinding (ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ)
<b>Yard</b>	a unit of length equal to 3 feet (0.9144 metres) (ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ)



