

GEOLOGIST

IF YOU ARE FASCINATED BY ROCKS, ROCK FORMATIONS, MOUNTAIN BUILDING, PLATE TECTONICS, FAULTS AND EARTHQUAKES, THEN YOU ARE GOING TO LIKE GEOLOGY.

Do you enjoy solving complex puzzles? As a mining geologist, you are given a series of clues on the surface of the earth (or even fewer clues from drill holes, underground workings, etc.) to solve the mystery of where you can find valuable minerals and metals. You are the person who helps determine where our future resources will come from or make sure that we develop our current deposits efficiently and effectively.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- **Geologists play a part in all aspects** of the mining exploration/discovery/evaluation/production cycle. In exploration, geologists are responsible for finding new mineral sources that will become the mines of the future.
- On the mine site, the geologist is **responsible for daily control over the mining activities**, making sure that the miners are in the right places, that good sampling is carried out and other related activities.

COMPENSATION

2007 NEW GRADUATE GEOLOGIST
(UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE)

Average Annual Salary: **\$58,000**

CHIEF MINE GEOLOGIST

Average Annual Salary: **\$95,000**

WHY ARE PEOPLE ATTRACTED TO THIS CAREER?

- The opportunity to **work anywhere in Canada (or the world)**. (Relocation allowances are generally provided.)
- Independent thought and work
- **Financial rewards** for high achievers.
- Opportunities for training and career advancement and **continuous learning**
- **High demand** for the best and the brightest
- An opportunity to **participate in technology development** – mines tend to develop new technology and solutions to address unique problems for which no solutions already exist.

LIFESTYLE EXPECTATIONS

[WITH SOME POSITIONS IN SOME COMPANIES]

- **BE WILLING TO WORK IN AND TRAVEL TO REMOTE LOCATIONS. FOR EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS, LIVING CONDITIONS CAN SOMETIMES BE QUITE BASIC.**
- **WORK MAY BE ON AN ON-CALL BASIS-GEOLOGISTS MUST BE READY TO RESPOND AT ANY TIME.**
- **SOME JOB INSECURITY-WHEN A PROJECT ENDS, GEOLOGISTS MUST BE READY TO MOVE ONTO ANOTHER PROJECT**
- **READY TO WORK SHIFTS**
- **IF MINE IS IN REMOTE LOCATION:**
 - i) Time away from family for extended periods
 - ii) Live with work colleagues on a 24/7 basis for 2-3 weeks at a time, with 2-3 weeks off between work schedules.
- **MINE MAY BE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY, WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, HUNTING, FISHING, HIKING AND SO FORTH**

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

SOMEONE GOING INTO THIS LINE OF WORK SHOULD:

- i) Be enthusiastic and have a positive outlook
- ii) Have a strong interest in earth sciences and math and have an inquiring mind.
- iii) Able to visualize three-dimensional layouts
- iv) Be a team player and communicate well with others
- v) Enjoy working with people from different cultures and from different parts of the organization
- vi) Be adaptable to working in challenging physical environments, especially enclosed and confined (if working in underground mining)
- vii) Like analyzing and problem-solving
- viii) Have a high level of respect for established safety procedures and regulations.
- ix) Accept challenges (such as a variety of working conditions, some severe) with patience, flexibility, adaptability, and fortitude
- x) Embrace new techniques and technologies
- xi) Possess strong computer skills
- xii) Be physically fit and mobile

CAREER PROGRESSION OPTIONS: GEOLOGIST

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Initial university degree in geology or earth sciences required and an advanced degree (i.e. Masters) would be beneficial.
- Initial positions will be considered junior until after 2-3 years of experience.
- Membership in a professional organization (e.g. APEGGA, NAPEGG, etc.)
- Senior Geologist positions require 5-10 years of related experience.
- Specialized on-site training as needed

