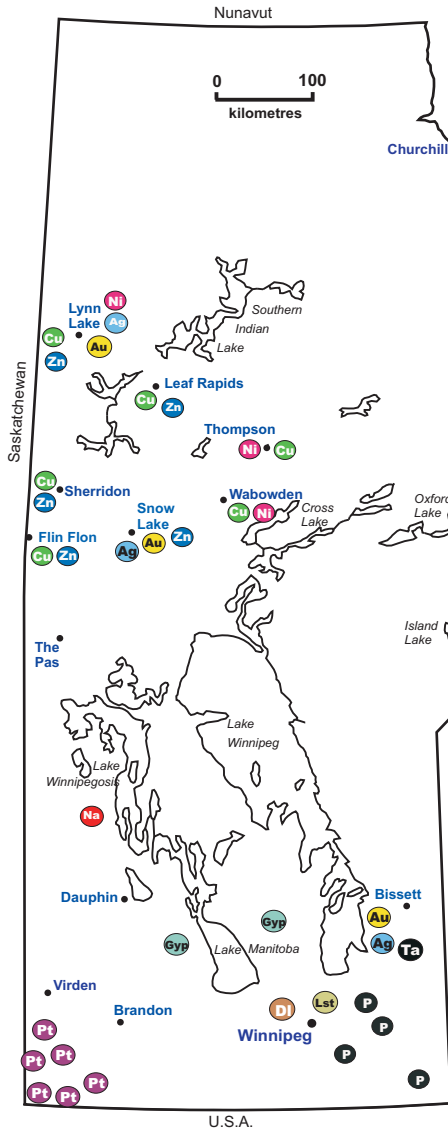


# Manitoba's Mineral Industry: A Rich History



The mineral industry is Manitoba's second-largest primary resource industry. The value of minerals produced in 2011 was about \$3 billion for metals, industrial minerals and petroleum. The province's mineral industry employs an average of 5,800 workers directly, with many more in indirect jobs and generating millions of dollars in spin-off business. The principal metals and minerals produced in Manitoba are nickel, copper, zinc, gold, cesium and petroleum. Manitoba's mining communities include Flin Flon, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Snow Lake and Bissett. Manitoba's petroleum resources are found in the southwestern corner of the province, west of Brandon.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="color: red;">Ni</span> Nickel      | <span style="color: blue;">Ag</span> Silver      |
| <span style="color: orange;">Dl</span> Dolomite | <span style="color: black;">Ta</span> Tantalum   |
| <span style="color: green;">Cu</span> Copper    | <span style="color: red;">Na</span> Salt         |
| <span style="color: blue;">Zn</span> Zinc       | <span style="color: grey;">Gyp</span> Gypsum     |
| <span style="color: yellow;">Au</span> Gold     | <span style="color: green;">Lst</span> Limestone |
| <span style="color: black;">P</span> Peat       | <span style="color: purple;">Pt</span> Petroleum |

**M**anitoba has been in the mining business for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Aboriginal people who settled in Manitoba used to quarry red ochre/hematite from the Red Cliff area on what is now called Black Island. This deposit became a valuable resource for many tribal rituals, as the red rock was crushed to make a pigment used in body decoration and rock paintings.

**I**n the early 1800s, salt was an important commodity for the fur trade industry. Salt from brine springs along the west side of lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis became the first commercially developed mineral in Manitoba. Commercial salt operations continued in Manitoba until 1978.

**M**anitoba has a long history of aggregate production dating back to our earliest communities. Aggregate is produced mainly in southern Manitoba. Sand and gravel and dolomitic crushed stone supply many construction projects. A major crushed stone source for the Winnipeg Capital Region is located east of Stonewall.

**T**he discovery of gypsum in the Interlake area during the 1850s led to the first gypsum plant in 1901. Present production comes from Harcus on the west side of Lake Manitoba.

**I**n 1830, a type of limestone (later called Tyndall<sup>®</sup> Stone) was used to build the bastion of Lower Fort Garry. In 1895, the first commercial quarry was opened in the Garson district. Tyndall<sup>®</sup> Stone can be found in our Provincial Legislative building.

**O**il was first produced in Manitoba in 1951; since then over 296 million barrels or 47 billion litres of crude oil have been produced from rock formations underlying southwestern Manitoba. In 2011, about 14.8 million barrels or 2.4 billion litres of oil were produced from porous limestone and sandstone formations at depths of up to 1 kilometre. Manitoba's petroleum industry provides jobs for many residents in the region, particularly from the towns of Virden, Melita, Waskada and Pierson.

(cont...)

Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines  
360-1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2  
(204) 945-6569 or 1-800-223-5215 or minesinfo@gov.mb.ca

Visit our website at [www.ManitobaRocks.info](http://www.ManitobaRocks.info)

Cette information existe également en français. Composez le (204) 945-6569.



## Manitoba's Mineral Industry: A Rich History (continued)



**M**anitoba's first documented gold discovery occurred in 1911 at Rice Lake in southeastern Manitoba. In 1933, gold production commenced at the prosperous San Antonio Mine in Bissett and continued to 1968. Harmony Gold Canada operated the Bissett mine from 1998 until the fall of 2001. San Gold Corporation reopened the mine as the Rice Lake Gold Mine and started gold production in 2006.

**I**n 1922, a copper-zinc deposit was discovered north of Flin Flon at Cold Lake that later became the Sherridon Mine. As the ore at Cold Lake would be exhausted by 1951, Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited decided to transport the entire mine facilities and townsite of Sherridon to Lynn Lake. From 1946 to 1953, 208 buildings were moved 265 kilometres by tractor train over winter ice and trails.

**P**eat moss has been harvested in southeastern Manitoba since 1939 for the horticultural and agricultural industries.

**T**he Nor-Acme gold deposit was discovered in 1925 on the northeast shore of Snow Lake and produced gold and silver from 1949 to 1958. The New Britannia Mine in Snow Lake produced gold from 1995 to 2004. Snow Lake is also home to HudBay Minerals Inc.'s Chisel North zinc and copper mine that operated from 1998 to 2008 and produced approximately 2.5 million tonnes of ore. The mine was restarted in 2010. In 2007, HudBay discovered the Lalor zinc-copper-gold deposit near Snow Lake and started building the new Lalor mine in 2009 that is expected to begin production in 2012.

**I**n 1956, Inco Limited announced the discovery of the major Thompson nickel-copper deposit and built the first fully integrated nickel operation in Manitoba that mined, concentrated, smelted, and refined in one complex. In 2006, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce purchased Inco and formed a new company called Vale Inco Limited (now Vale) that now operates the Thompson mine. Nickel production at the Thompson operation totals approximately 130 million pounds per year.

**H**udson Bay Mining & Smelting Co., Limited (HBMS) has been exploring and mining in Manitoba for over 80 years. Its first commercial operation, the Flin Flon Mine, was developed from a large copper-zinc deposit. In 1993, HBMS discovered another large copper-zinc deposit right below the City of Flin Flon called the 777. The 777 Mine reached full production in 2004 and is expected to operate until 2016. In 2004, HudBay Minerals Inc. purchased HBMS; however, HBMS continues to operate the mine.

**I**n the 1960s, copper and zinc deposits were found at Fox Lake southwest of Lynn Lake and at Ruttan, east of Leaf Rapids. The Fox Mine operated from 1970 to 1985. The Ruttan Mine began production in 1973 and closed in 2002.

**I**n 1969, the first and only North American tantalum mine was opened at Bernic Lake. In 1986, the Bernic Lake Mine became a producer of spodumene concentrate that is used in ceramic cookware. The mine also produces lithium and cesium products.

**M**anitoba's newest mine, the Bucko Lake Nickel Mine located near Wabowden, began production in 2008. The mine is owned and operated by CaNickel Mining Ltd., and produces nickel to be used in products such as stainless steel, rechargeable batteries and coins.

Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines  
360-1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2  
(204) 945-6569 or 1-800-223-5215 or [minesinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:minesinfo@gov.mb.ca)

Visit our website at [www.ManitobaRocks.info](http://www.ManitobaRocks.info)

Cette information existe également en français. Composez le (204) 945-6569.

