Nova Scotia, Canada, is situated on the Eastern Seaboard of North America. With a long history of mining coal, metallic minerals and industrial minerals, Nova Scotia offers many advantages to the mineral industry. For example, Nova Scotia has:

- some of the lowest costs for exploration in Canada
- an attractive land tenure system, including map-based claim staking
- a ‘One Window’ approach to permits and regulations
- an excellent transportation infrastructure linked to several deep-water, ice-free seaports strategically located for North American and European markets
- a skilled workforce with experience in mineral development and exploration
- a dynamic business climate
- comprehensive geological, geochemical and geophysical databases
- a highly competitive regime of mineral royalties and taxes
- an active mineral industry that has proven the economic success of Nova Scotia mineral deposits.
Destinations for Nova Scotia Mineral Products

Deep, ice-free harbours ensure Nova Scotia’s mineral products economical and fast transport to the world.
Highlights of the Nova Scotia Mineral Industry

Mineral Production
Nova Scotia’s mining history has included the production of coal, gold, copper-lead-zinc, tin, iron, antimony, manganese, and a great number of industrial mineral commodities. In terms of current production, Nova Scotia can claim the following:

- Greatest number of mines per unit area, and second greatest value of mineral production per square kilometre of all Canadian provinces (data from Mining Association of Canada).
- Most productive gypsum-mining region in the world, responsible for 80% of Canadian and 7% of world gypsum production (data from Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources).
- Accounts for 12% of total value of Canadian coal production (data from Mining Association of Canada).
- Major producer and exporter of salt, aggregate, limestone and dolomite.
- Producer of barite, dimension stone and peat.

Exploration and Development
Several gold deposits are currently in the feasibility or pre-production stages of development. In addition to these development projects, active exploration in Nova Scotia has focused on the following targets:

- Cretaceous kaolin and silica sand deposits in central Nova Scotia. Recent drilling has revealed new laterally continuous deposits.
- Industrial mineral commodities including gypsum, limestone and dolomite, surficial and bedrock aggregate, peat, and building stone.
- Sediment-hosted disseminated gold deposits in the Meguma Group of southern Nova Scotia, host to 64 former gold districts. Gold has traditionally been produced from narrow, high-grade veins (averaging 7.15 g/t), but recent exploration has revealed low-grade gold with high tonnage potential.
- Paleoplacer gold deposits in Witwatersrand-type environments with very little history of exploration.
- High-grade auriferous quartz veins hosted by sheared Precambrian gneiss and diorite in the central Cape Breton Highlands.

- Copper-gold (nickel-cobalt) deposits associated with iron carbonate veins along the trace of the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone, a regional transform fault system. This environment includes the past-producing Londonderry deposits.
- Copper-nickel-cobalt occurrences associated with mafic to ultramafic bodies in northern Cape Breton Island. Recent airborne vertical gradiometer surveys have revealed large anomalies, some associated with known ultramafic intrusives, Cu-Ni stream sediment anomalies, and Cu-Ni-Co occurrences.
- Volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits in the Stirling belt of eastern Cape Breton Island, host to the past-producing Stirling Cu-Pb-Zn-Ag-Au VMS deposit.
- Stratiform massive sulphide deposits with associated gold (<0.38 oz/t) near Cheticamp, Cape Breton Island. Deposits are hosted by shallow-dipping sericite schist bounded by chlorite schist.
- Surface coal deposits with open-pit potential in northern mainland Nova Scotia.
- Coalbed methane deposits associated with the coal basins of northern Nova Scotia.