

Issues Facing Canada's Mining Industry



1. **Negative Impact on the Environment** – for example, acid precipitation – over the last 20 years, over \$1 billion has been spent controlling harmful emissions from mines and processing plants. However, the emissions still find their way into the air and water.
2. **Abandoned Mines** – What happens to the land after an ore body runs out and a mine closes? There are dozens of abandoned mines across Canada that have left scars on the landscape and are continuing to be sources of pollution as wastes from the mines leak into rivers and lakes
3. **Loss of Jobs** – About 50% of the minerals mined in Canada are exported before any processing is done. Therefore, any potential processing jobs are lost to the various countries we export the minerals to.
4. **Echo Effect** – What happens in one country can be felt in other countries. If the market for minerals is slow in Japan, it is felt in our markets here in Canada and we lose money.
5. **Exhausting the Supply** – Canada must develop new ways to mine lower grade ores and remote ore deposits because the higher grade minerals are being depleted quickly.
6. **Staying Competitive** – In order to compete with other countries, we must start lowering our production costs and processing our minerals at a lower cost.
7. **Boom-Bust Towns** – Towns must diversify in order to stay alive after a mine closes.