



PROSPECTING

Prospecting is the initial search to discover mineral substances and is normally the first exploration activity carried out on the land.

Prospectors walk the land to observe rocks and outcrops, and may collect small samples of material with picks or which may require some digging.

Prospecting can occur during the EX-1, EX-2, and EX-3 stages of exploration (see the [diagram](#)).



The environmental impacts associated with prospecting are generally minimal and temporary (e.g. small holes dug by hand with shovels or picks).

All prospectors must have licences issued by the MERN in accordance with the *Mining Act* and the *Regulation respecting mineral substances other than petroleum, natural gas and brine*.