

Lake, Geraldton - Beardmore, Kirkland Lake and Cobalt areas. One third of the cost of exploration to a maximum of \$33,000 is provided to junior- and medium-sized companies to explore in these areas.

The Mineral Research Branch is composed of the Assay Laboratory in Toronto and the Temiskaming Testing Laboratory in Cobalt. The Assay Laboratory provides assay and analytical services and conducts mineralogical investigations to aid in the discovery and development of mineral deposits. Its services are available to the mining industry and public at large. The Temiskaming Testing Laboratory situated at Cobalt operates a bulk sampling and assay laboratory to assist the producers of the area in marketing their silver-cobalt ores.

The Mines Engineering Branch administers Part IX of The Mining Act which calls for regular examination of all operating mines, quarries, sand and gravel pits and certain metallurgical works with a view to ensuring the health and safety of employees as well as the public. Regional geologists and mines engineers provide advice or support to the line organization of the Ministry. The Lands Administration and Surveys and Mapping branches of the Lands Division handle matters dealing with the recording of mining claims, assessment work, etc. and the preparation of title to mining lands.

Manitoba. The Mines Branch of the Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management offers the following services: recording the staking and acquisition of Crown mineral rights and other relative material associated with minerals, compiling assessment information and inspecting mineral rights dispositions; compiling geological data pertinent to mineral occurrences, issuing reports and maps covering geological and geochemical surveys, operating an analytical and assay laboratory to assist prospectors and geologists in the evaluation of mineral occurrences and the classification of rocks and minerals; giving engineering approval of mining works and inspecting mining operations regarding the health and safety of employees, controlling in-plant environmental and safety regulations related to mining and quarrying operations, training mine rescue crews and inspecting mine rescue facilities; inspecting oil well drilling sites, abandonment and reworking and maintaining records of each operation.

The Mineral Exploration Assistance Act (1966) provides for limited financial grants to prospectors who have carried out previously approved exploration programs at specified locations; such grants are repayable if the program leads to a profitable mining operation.

Saskatchewan. The Mineral Lands Branch of the Department of Mineral Resources is responsible for the disposition of all Crown minerals and maintains records respecting areas let out by lease, permit, drilling reservation, claim or claim block. Recording offices, located at Regina, La Ronge, Uranium City and Creighton, assist the public in determining the lands available and accept applications.

Officers of the Mines Inspection Branch, under the authority of The Mines Regulation Act, make regular examinations of all mines to ensure proper conditions for the health and safety of the men employed. Safety education, particularly in the form of first aid and mine rescue instruction, is also a part of the work of this Branch. All Branch officers are stationed at the Regina headquarters.

The Precambrian Geology Division of the Geological Sciences Branch conducts geological surveys in the Shield areas of the province and publishes maps and reports for the information and guidance of the industry. Resident geologists are stationed at Uranium City and La Ronge and at the latter centre a laboratory provides for storage and examination of core and samples. The Division processes exploration data and assessment work to be made available for inspection by the industry.

Alberta. The Energy Resources Conservation Act, proclaimed January 1, 1972, provided for the transfer to the Energy Resources Conservation Board of responsibility for the administration of The Pipe Line Act, The Coal Mines Regulation Act and The Quarries Regulation Act. This transfer brings under one administrative authority all aspects of the energy resources of Alberta including their conservation, regulation and transmission. The Board regulates coal mines and quarries and maintains standards of safety by inspection and certification of workers. The oil and gas industries are served in a similar way but regulatory measures are also concerned with preventing the waste of oil and gas resources and with giving each owner of oil and gas rights the opportunity of obtaining a fair share of production. The Board compiles periodic reports and annual records which are of invaluable assistance in oil