

## The Essential Art of Prospecting

Jessica Bjorkman

### *Bjorkman Prospecting*

Jessica is a prospector who has worked full-time in mineral exploration doing hard rock prospecting for the past twenty years. She has worked across Canada, as well as in Alaska and Norway. Although some believe prospecting is obsolete, Jessica shares how hardrock prospecting is essential to mineral exploration. As an endangered art, support and training are key to creating a future generation of prospectors. *(Please note: this presentation focuses on hardrock prospecting and does not discuss placer prospecting).*

### The Value of Hardrock Prospecting And Its Role In The Canadian Mineral Exploration Industry

Prospectors have a niche skillset comprised of two components, “gold fever” and “boots on the ground,” which makes them successful at finding new showings. Modern-day prospectors combine methodical sampling techniques with these timeless skillsets to become career prospectors who are proficient in the remote wilderness.

In Canadian Exploration, prospectors contribute to building a dataset through reconnaissance prospecting, grassroots prospecting, and defining known targets that help focus drilling and other exploration.

### The Importance of Prospector Training and Support

With society’s focus on university education, ie. geology degrees, the prospecting skillset has been neglected, leading to a shortage of modern-day prospectors. As a specialized trade, it is imperative government and mining companies support a future generation of prospectors through training programs, funding to conduct grassroots prospecting, and mentorship by pairing experienced prospectors with trainees. Supporting prospectors is an investment that will lead to new discoveries and a thriving Mining Industry in any jurisdiction that recognizes the value of it.

### Parting Stories

Jessica gives examples from her career of discoveries made, including some of the myths and biases that had previously prevented others from discovery.