**Attributes of nickel**
- Corrosion and oxidation resistant
- High melting point
- Extremely ductile
- Easily forms alloys with other metals
- Durable with long lifespan
- Magnetic at room temperature
- Can be used for electroplating

Source: Nickel Institute

**Uses of nickel**
Nickel is mainly used as an alloy with other metals, such as chromium, to make heat resistant and stainless steels. These steels are then used to make everything from domestic appliances to jet airframes.

![Graph](image)

**Contact Information**
Vancouver Mineral Development Office
www.empr.gov.bc.ca/mining/investors

Suite 300, 865 Hornby St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2G3
Tel: (604) 660-3332
Fax (604) 775-0313
Selected Nickel Deposits in British Columbia

Although nickel is not currently being mined in the province, the Giant Mascot (Pacific Nickel) mine operated north of Hope between 1958 and 1974. The former mine site might hold exploration potential at depth although the current owner (Barrick Gold Corporation) considers it a reclamation site. Surrounding prospects remain at early stages. Two projects in the northern part of the province (Turnagain and Decar) have reached advanced stages.

Geology and Deposit Types

The British Columbia Geological Survey’s MINFILE inventory lists 69 occurrences with nickel as a primary commodity. Four are listed as past-producers, however three were exploited as part of the same Giant Mascot operation (MINFILE 092HSW004, 093, 125) between 1958 and 1974; this was the province’s only significant producer of nickel.

The most significant nickel occurrences identified to date belong to a newly recognized and underexplored group of magmatic Ni-Cu-PGE sulphide deposits at convergent margins. The Ni-sulphide deposits are contained in narrow subvertical conduits (e.g. Giant Mascot) or form bulk tonnage deposits amenable to open pit mining (e.g. Turnagain).

Currently there are two advanced active nickel exploration projects in B.C. Turnagain (MINFILE 104I 014) is an Alaskan-type ultramafic with a disseminated Ni-sulphide deposit (Horsetrail zone) and a separate Cu-PGE prospect (DJ-DB zone). Decar (MINFILE 093K 039) is also a disseminated, bulk tonnage target, however nickel is in the form of the naturally occurring nickel-iron alloy awaruite. Host rocks are serpentinized peridotites of an ophiolitic ultramafic complex. Other, less developed examples of these deposit types exist within the province.

Ultramafic intrusions near the Giant Mascot mine are prospective for mineralized bodies similar to those exploited during production (e.g. Jason, MINFILE 092HSW076; Big Nic, MINFILE 092HSW168).

The E&L (MINFILE 104B 006), a gabbro-hosted sulphide Ni-Cu prospect, has a historical resource estimate but has not been intensively explored since the late 1980s. In 2013, work on the Ben project identified large nickel sulphide-in-serpentine targets in the Cache Creek Terrane. The Ben project has been the subject of recent exploration drilling campaigns.

For more information on B.C. mineral deposit profiles, visit:
www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/MineralDepositProfiles