



## JOB GOALS

- Safety is first. Every member of the team looks out for each other on the blast pattern, there are buddy checks, and they always section off the work area
- They work as a team and safely provide blasted rock to keep the mining tools digging and the process plant processing

## SKILLS THAT PLAY A PART

- Teamwork is key when out in the field, Daniel's team is a small team that look out for each other so that everyone returns home safe at the end of each rotation
- Communication is also important, making sure everyone is aware of the blast time, telling other departments of where the blast zone is and using a series of checks and sirens to ensure that the blast area is clear and that once complete the 'all clear' is given

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDED

- High school (grade 12 diploma)
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission explosives ticket
- Heavy equipment training, loaders are used for stemming (placing aggregate in the top of blast holes)

## TRAINING RESOURCES

- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission explosives course
- Heavy equipment operator training – NWT Mine Training Society



# DANIEL ACTON

## Driller Blaster

*GAHCHO KUÉ DIAMOND MINE  
(De Beers Canada/Mountain Province Diamonds)*

Daniel is a member of Gahcho Kué's drill & blast team, organizing, setting up and safely detonating daily blasts to keep the process plant running. Each day begins with a safety meeting where the plans for the day are laid out. The team then arrives at the blast pattern and checks hole depths to make sure they blast to the desired grade. Daily blasts help provide ore for the process plant.

Once the bulk explosives truck arrives from the emulsion plant, Daniel primes the charges and measures the explosives for each hole. Once every hole has been loaded, they pour crushed rock into the collar of each hole to contain the energy in the ground. He will then instruct the crew on how to connect the delayed surface blasts and then, once the blast area has been cleared and everyone is safe, the blast is detonated.

After the blast, the team returns to check for dangerous gases and to confirm all the explosives have detonated, before allowing the mining crew to come in and start digging.

Daniel got into mining after his father worked at a mine, so he applied when he was 19 and started working underground at an NWT mine.

Over the years, he moved from blaster's helper up to his current position on the blast crew. He said he is happy to work with a great crew and looks forward to each rotation.