



NICKOLUS MINDE

Maintenance Machinist

DIAVIK DIAMOND MINE (*Rio Tinto/Dominion Diamond Mines*)

Nickolus works two weeks on and two weeks off rotation. When he is at the mine site, he is the only machinist so this can keep him very busy, especially in the winter months when more parts get broken and need to be made and replaced. It's a sub-arctic location at 64 degrees and frigid temperatures take a toll on equipment. "It is important to always be thinking about your safety and the safety of others," he said.

Nickolus was first accepted as an apprentice, then after nine months, and 900 hours work, he was able to take the trade entrance exam. He passed and then was able to go to school for his trade through a company program. While off site, work is completed by his cross-shift. Every day is a new challenge and that is what Nickolus enjoys most about his job. Nickolus is also a role model for Indigenous youth in his community.

"I never expected to be a role model, but I take it very seriously. People that are close to my age tell me that they look up to me. I feel very honoured and can see that my hard work is paying off." His advice to any young person trying to pursue a career in the mining industry is to be positive and never give up.



JOB GOALS

- Responsible for repairing key components in process equipment in a safe, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective manner to ensure equipment availability is maximized
- Fabricate customized parts at the mine site including new parts, remakes broken parts, or duplicates old parts for machines so that the mine equipment can continue to function

SKILLS THAT PLAY A PART

- Be able to read blueprints, work with tools, and be imaginative and creative when there is a need to engineer new parts
- Safety is another important part of his learning

EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDED

- Journeyperson red seal certification
- Interprovincial certification
- Valid driver's licence
- Proficiency in English
- CNC experience preferred

TRAINING RESOURCES

- Apprentice
- Trades entrance exam and training
- Company trades training support