

Ethical Sourcing & Mineral Stewardship: The BC Free Miner Standard

Dug by Hand. Crafted by Heart. | Fall 7, Stand 8.

Public home: <https://uniqueperspective8.com/ethical-sourcing/bc-free-miner-stewardship-standard/>

Purpose

This paper is the long form of how Unique Perspective 8 collects, verifies, and documents stone. It is not a mine permit, not a claim, and not an assay certificate.

Transparent provenance

The commercial mineral trade often hides treatment, origin, and method. We document from river corridor to bench. If a sentence cannot be tied to a date, a place, and a method, it does not belong on a listing.

Recreational vs commercial

Governed by the BC Mineral Tenure Act.

- Recreational rockhounding: small amounts for personal use. Not a right to sell. Not mechanized work.
- Free Miner Certificate (FMC): standing required for small-scale commercial collecting and lawful prospecting. Not a mine permit.
- Method: hand tools only — hammers, chisels, pans. Zero motorized disturbance.

UP8's founder holds an FMC. That number belongs on a provenance card when the extraction was done under that standing. It does not travel onto every shop object.

Mineral Titles Online (MTO)

Before fieldwork:

- Identify unencumbered Crown land.
- Check active mineral and placer claims.
- Distinguish public land, private property, and protected parklands.
- Respect existing tenure boundaries.

Territory and heritage

Work takes place on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation in the South Okanagan and Similkameen valleys.

Under the BC Heritage Conservation Act: artifacts, historic structures, rock art, pictographs, and fossil sites stay in place. Unexpected cultural discovery protocol: leave untouched, record GPS, notify provincial authorities immediately.

Riparian protection

Similkameen and Okanagan river systems first.

- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Backfill every test pit to natural contour.
- Leave no lasting visual or physical scar.

Provenance architecture

Permanent field ID at discovery (example: UP8-050-SIM).

A physical provenance card carries:

- Date and location of the find
- Geological formation
- FMC registration number when applicable
- Artisan signature

Studio work: recycled copper or recycled 925 sterling wire, depending on the piece. No synthetic resins or artificial coatings. Drop-shipped goods are labeled and sit outside these claims.

Website homes

- <https://uniqueperspective8.com/ethical-sourcing/bc-free-miner-stewardship-standard/>
- <https://uniqueperspective8.com/ethical-sourcing/>
- <https://uniqueperspective8.com/provenance.html>
- <https://uniqueperspective8.com/ethics.html>