

# Short Course for Minerals South 2024

## QGIS Maps for BC Prospecting and Geology

*Short course duration: 1/2 day*

*Participant level: Beginner-Intermediate (familiar with computers in general and with some experience in GIS or similar programs)*

### Short Description

Digital claim maps are fast becoming the norm in BC mineral exploration. The technical knowledge and software's required to produce them, however, can seem daunting and cost-prohibitive. This course overcomes those obstacles, teaching prospectors and geologists how to represent their data in professional quality digital maps using QGIS, a free, open-source program. This course will provide participants with skills and templates to produce a good map. Whether you are looking to improve your prospect planning, meet reporting submission requirements, or make your prospects more enticing for buyers, this short-course can help.

### Topics to be covered:

Intro/review of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data representation

QGIS and "open-source" (how the heck is this **free**?)

Avoiding common problems

What "good" map design looks like

Importing mineral exploration data into QGIS

Online resources for QGIS

Ministry requirements for reporting

Final map production

### Detailed Description

This course is designed around improving participants general knowledge of and skill at GIS, and on giving them the tools to produce very high-quality maps. It will be structured around producing the kinds of maps expected for mineral exploration submissions to the Ministry in British Columbia.

Participants will complete two modules, each about 1.5 hours long. Module one will be an intro (or hopefully, review) to GIS in general, to QGIS in particular, and on importing a pretend dataset into QGIS. The second Module will focus on processing and formatting those data into visually-useful formats and exporting final maps using the QGIS “print layout” system.

To streamline the course, participants will be given template files and a sample dataset to produce a set of maps from. It will be possible for these template files to be adapted to any project a participant may wish to apply them to in future, including submissions to the Ministry.

A quick-reference PDF guide reflecting the “how-to” of course topics will be provided to participants to ensure they can produce the maps they need to afterwards.

### **Participants will need**

- A (relatively recent) computer; windows preferred
- QGIS' long-term stable release (currently version 3.34) preloaded on their computer; there will not be time to install it on the morning of the course. This is freely available for download from the QGIS project ([qgis.org/download/](http://qgis.org/download/))

### **Bio**

Thomas Maguire (BSc) is a jack-of-all-trades mineral explorationist. He's a proud GIS nerd and Earth scientist, and has worked in BC and around the world at almost all exploration stages of our industry. His company is Alpine-Rockies Consulting Limited ([alpinerockiesconsulting.com](http://alpinerockiesconsulting.com)), based in Kimberley, BC, where he lives.