

## CAREER PROFILE: METALLURGIST PAUL WEST-SELLS



Metallurgy is the investigation of the chemical and physical properties of metallic elements, compounds and alloys. Mining typically employs process metallurgists, who are responsible for the methods used to extract metals from ore and refining those metals into forms for everyday use. Metallurgists have a great understanding of the physical properties of ores, metals, milling processes, as well as the chemical processes associated with a mining project. They have a knack for improving efficiency and the systems for extracting minerals and metals.

Paul West-Sells has a Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of British Columbia. Prior to his role as President and CEO of Western Copper and Gold, Paul worked for 20 years as a metallurgist. He worked for BHP, Placer Dome, and Barrick, initially in research and then in project development. When he joined Western Copper and Gold, he was responsible for all metallurgy and managing the early studies on the Casino deposit until transitioning into an executive role.

### KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, & SKILLS

- Awareness of industrial and commercial processes and practices
- Critical reasoning skills and problem solving skills
- Scientific literacy
- Attention to detail
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

### EDUCATION, TRAINING, & CERTIFICATION

A four-year bachelor's degree in Chemical or Metallurgical Engineering, or a closely related field. A graduate degree in a relevant field is an advantage for advancing to a senior level.

### SALARY RANGE\*

\$70,000 - \$147,000/year

\*Wage average as of March 2023.



*"As a metallurgist, my excitement comes from creating something of value out of what starts as rocks in the ground. It is a profession that has held magic for centuries, from times when alchemists were making gold, until today. I found pursuing that as a career has been exciting and rewarding."*

*- Paul West-Sells*