

# MUSIC

## *Cape Breton's Diversity in Unity*

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### *Coal Town Road*

Words and music by Allister MacGillivray  
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1. We get up in the black, down the coal town road;  
And we hike along the track, where the coal trains load.  
And we make the ponies pull 'til they nearly break their backs,  
And they'll never see again, down the coal town road.

2. We hear the whistle call, down the coal town road;  
And we take our towels and all, where the coal trains load.  
In the cages then we drop 'til there's nowhere else to fall,  
And we leave the world behind us, down the coal town road.

3. We never see the sun, down the coal town road;  
At a penny for a ton, where the coal trains load.  
When the shift comes up on top we're so thankful to be done,  
We head home to sleep and dream, about the coal town road.

4. There's miners' little sons, down the coal town road,  
Playing with their cowboy guns, where the coal trains load.  
For they'd better make the best of their childhood while it runs;  
There's a pick and shovel waitin', down the coal town road.

5. If there's a God for us, down the coal town road,  
All the miners He can bless, where the coal trains load.  
For we're sweatin' in the hole suckin' down the devil's dust,  
Just to keep the fires a-blazin' down the coal town road.

*Repeat first verse*

*Recording:*

[Coal Town Road](#). The Men of the Deeps. John C. O'Donnell Tape Collection. Beaton Institute, Cape Breton University.