



Discover Abitibi

A project of innovation, cooperation and revitalization

Découvrons l'Abitibi

Un projet d'innovation, de coopération et de renouvellement

May 8, 2003

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Discover Abitibi Takes Flight

Robert Calhoun, project manager of the Discover Abitibi Initiative, announced today that the first surveys are presently underway. "The MegaTem II surveys are presently underway, with the acquisition aircraft having arrived at the end of last week. The survey contractor, Fugro Airborne Surveys Inc. completed the initial start-up flights and the plane is now flying the first block northwest of Timmins, Calhoun said. "We are pleased and excited that the surveys are started," he said.

The Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development and FedNor stated, "Discover Abitibi is an important regional development project for Northern Ontario and FedNor is pleased to support this initiative." He added, "FedNor is playing a lead role in delivering the Government of Canada's national innovation agenda to Northern Ontario, and working with community partners to attract investment and create economic growth is an important component of this strategy."

Mines Minister Jim Wilson, chair of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation said, "the Discover Abitibi Initiative is a very important regional economic development project. The benefits of this partnership will reverberate across many sectors of the area economy and beyond, particularly in this region of Ontario, which is highly dependent on the mining industry," said Wilson. "It builds on the strengths of our government's previous investments, as well as policy and fiscal initiatives that support mineral exploration in Ontario. It also reaffirms our province's standing among the world's most inviting jurisdictions for mineral exploration investment."

Dave McGirr, chair of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, added "a number of people have worked very hard to make this project a reality and it is great to see the efforts

rewarded. These surveys will take about six weeks to complete and there are four areas to be covered. The aircraft will be flying every day initially flying out of the Timmins airport and later from Kirkland Lake”, he added.

Dan Gignac, chair of the management committee added, “the MegaTem II surveys are being conducted over areas identified as having “knowledge gaps” which will be filled using the latest technology available to us. We are pleased that the work is underway so that the data can be made available to the stakeholders as soon as possible.”

Don Studholme, Director of Corporate Services for the Town of Kirkland Lake stated, “we are also pleased to see the project is moving forward. The MegaTem will provide an excellent new database for exploration companies and prospectors, which could provide a number of new target areas.”

The Discover Abitibi Initiative is a \$ 12.9 million regional economic development initiative involving the completion of nineteen geoscience projects in the western Abitibi Greenstone belt.

The initiative is funded by \$5.0 million from FedNor announced in February and nearly \$5.0 million from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation announced in March. The remainder of the funds are gathered through contribution from the private sector.

