



Discover Abitibi

A project of innovation, cooperation and revitalization

Découvrons l'Abitibi

Un projet d'innovation, de coopération et de renouvellement

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Press Release

.....for immediate distribution

## Regional Stakeholders Open Data Vaults raising \$148 Million for Discover Abitibi

The Discover Abitibi Initiative (DAI), a regional economic development, mining project, has been made possible through funding from FedNor-Industry Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, municipal governments, the private sector and individuals. Each of these financial contributors recognizes that supporting the exploration and mining industry is important to the economic stability of Northern Ontario and to the province of Ontario. The mining industry in this region has been a cornerstone of the economy for nearly 100 years and will continue to be with successful exploration. Data provided by DAI could help lead this exploration.

Over the past two years the Discover Abitibi Initiative has been bringing and testing new innovative technologies to the area, thereby stimulating the adoption of advanced exploration techniques and in producing new data for stakeholders in the Timmins-Kirkland Lake region. This data has yielded investments in the area economy by prospectors, junior mining companies, and senior mining companies. As an example, over 11,000 claims have been staked to date in the area as a result of the project. This creates jobs, investment and economic growth. The initiative is well supported by regional stakeholders who have participated financially and have made proprietary data available to support the work being done.

We are pleased to announce that, to date, an unprecedented \$148 million dollars in proprietary data has been provided to the Discover Abitibi Initiative from the private sector. This data has and will be used to further enhance the work undertaken by the project. The donated data includes access to deposit models, supporting data for those models, regional geological, geochemical and geophysical data; drill hole locations and logs not previously made public with assay data and rock geochemistry. The availability of the data will provide the public with a fresh interpretation of the geology in the area through the "Architecture of the Greenstone Belt" project. The "3D Models of Deposits" project will provide a view of several deposits in the region. These models will provide stakeholders with the ability to view the deposit in a fully interactive format allowing them to compare known deposits to their exploration data. This provides the user with one more evaluation tool in their search for new mineral deposits. This data will be transferred to the public domain through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and Natural Resources Canada. In addition to stakeholder data there has also been a significant quantity of data donated to the initiative from contractors. Fugro Airborne surveys and Sander Geophysics Ltd have donated over-fly data collected outside of the contracted project areas. This data has also been added to the public database and has been released.



Shown seated Cheryl St Amour, MNDM/NOHFC, Renée Latulippe, FedNor-Industry Canada. Standing left to right Robert Calhoun, DAI Project Manager, David McGirr, Chair TEDC and DAI committee members Damien Duff, Bill MacRae and Wayne Reid.

Members of the management team for the Discover Abitibi Initiative and government officials met in Timmins to discuss the in-flow of donated data. Robert Calhoun, project manager stated “over the past two years we have engaged our regional partners and contractors in a relationship that has led to this unprecedented data donation. Everyone realizes increasing the public database will help facilitate the search for new mineral wealth in the region, new discoveries will boost the regional economy and encourage others to re-discover the Abitibi as a viable exploration option”. David McGirr, chair of the TEDC said, “the initiative is a regional economic development project garnering positive results. The unbelievable support of the regional stakeholders will pay dividends for many years to come. It’s a true model of community capacity building, whereby it is the first time in the history of the region we have had over 60 stakeholders working together in a collaborative mining initiative. The exploration and mining expertise in the area is renowned and this initiative has brought this expertise together with economic development professions to have a long-term positive effect on the regional economy. We feel confident that as explorationists fully utilize the data from DAI the discovery of a new mineral deposit is eminent.” Louise Paquette, Director General for FedNor stated, “Several years ago, we invested in a good idea because we recognized its potential to stimulate economic development in Northern Ontario, as well as encourage communities to work in partnership with industry to develop initiatives which could enhance and support economic growth and prosperity. Today, we are beginning to see the results of that investment.”

Renée Latulippe, FedNor- Industry Canada Mining lead and representative for the Discover Abitibi initiative stated, “the project model required that the management team acquire donations of data from area stakeholders, but the value of data leveraged far exceeds expectations. This truly demonstrates the level of commitment of stakeholders in this initiative. This real collaboration is an example of what can be achieved in the North when we work together. It marks the beginning of tremendous opportunities for expanded partnerships.”

“The data received from stakeholders was evaluated to determine the actual benefit to the community. We have valued the new airborne data at full value and the remaining data is valued at a very modest percentage basis. The valuation has set the actual community benefit at \$22 million dollars. We will, over the next few months, continue to acquire more data and will evaluate it using the same process,” said Robert Calhoun. The management team thanks those stakeholders who have donated data to date and looks forward to working with additional regional partners to enhance the public database and securing a stronger regional economy.