



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

### **Laurentian University's Mineral Exploration Research Centre joins the Discover Abitibi initiative.**

Laurentian University is pleased to announce that its Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC) was awarded \$1.2 million in funding over two years. The funding will enable a team of geologists to conduct geological research designed to improve methods for finding the next generation of gold and copper-zinc deposits in the Timmins and Kirkland Lake areas.

The project is part of the Discover Abitibi initiative, a group of projects designed to help find new mineral deposits in the Ontario portion of the Abitibi region. FedNor, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, private sector individuals, mining and exploration company partners fund the Discover Abitibi Initiative administered by the Timmins Economic Development Corporation.

A team of up to 14 investigators led by earth science professors from Laurentian University's Mineral Exploration Research Centre, the University of Ottawa, the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, the Geological Survey of Canada (Québec City) and the Ontario Geological Survey will conduct the geological studies.

"We are extremely proud of the key role that Laurentian earth scientists will play in shaping the area's economic future," said Laurentian University President Dr. Judith Woodsworth. "This contract, along with the University's new Ph.D. program in geology, reflects Laurentian's growing expertise and international leadership in the field of mineral exploration."

"The Timmins Economic Development Corporation is pleased that MERC is involved in the Discover Abitibi Initiative. The caliber of researchers assembled to complete this project is impressive. The research completed for the initiative will also be a teaching tool through the involvement of students and post doctorate researchers from several universities," said TEDC chair Dave McGirr.

Dan Gignac, chair of the Discover Abitibi management committee, is equally impressed with the team. "The collective years of experience completing this project are unprecedented. The Timmins to Kirkland Lake corridor will be thoroughly investigated by this group. We are confident that the work completed will be an integral part of the foundation of many years of exploration in the area."

Researchers will identify features pointing the way to new deposits through field mapping in the Timmins and Kirkland Lake areas in summer 2003 and 2004 as well as work in the various university labs. The lab work will involve chemical analysis of critical rock units and determination of the age of important rock units.

During the next two years, geologists equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers and computerized mapping devices will toil away on the Canadian Shield. Their efforts will help to develop new ways to find the next generation of mineral wealth.

Results will be released periodically over the next two years as geological maps and reports through the Ontario Geological Survey to ensure access to the data for all mining industry users of geological information.

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