



Discover Abitibi

A project of innovation, cooperation and revitalization

Un projet d'innovation, de coopération et de renouvellement

Découvrons l'Abitibi



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For immediate Release

The Discover Abitibi Initiative is a community based and directed project designed to stimulate exploration for, and eventual development of, mineral deposits within the Abitibi Greenstone belt of Northeastern Ontario. This will be accomplished through an integrated geoscientific investigation of the area. The project will employ the latest in exploration techniques and cutting edge new technologies. The use of new technologies will determine their effectiveness in locating mineral deposits in areas of heavy overburden and areas where surface development makes exploration difficult. The integration of this new information with previous data through GIS coordination will provide prospectors, junior mining firms and major mining companies access to an updated information database which they can use to locate and develop Ontario's mineral wealth. Dave McGirr, chair of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, stated that "it is the goal of the Discover Abitibi Initiative to formulate a **recipe for success** in the Abitibi Greenstone environment".

Discover Abitibi will focus on the Abitibi Greenstone area of Northeastern Ontario with the focal point being the Kirkland Lake and Timmins mining camps. The project will extend the knowledge base outwards, in the hope that the lessons learned near the known deposits can be immediately utilized in the areas of limited exploration and deep overburden cover. Dan Gignac, Chair of the Management Committee, stated that, "the project will address the issue of **knowledge gaps** providing information in areas that at present may seem to have little or poor exploration potential".

"The results of Discover Abitibi will be available to the public and are anticipated to have a positive impact on the regional economy through increased exploration expenditures by firms currently working in the Timmins and Kirkland Lake region and through the attraction of new companies interested in exploring our region", said Don Studholme, Director of Economic Development for the Town of Kirkland Lake.

Phase II of Discover Abitibi will focus on the development of technical projects, building a business plan and formulating an implementation plan for the initiative. The delivery of the business plan is slated for late 2002 with Phase III implementation anticipated to begin in early 2003. Delivery of the project results will be staggered throughout the implementation phase as the projects are completed.

“The success of Discover Abitibi will be dependent on the participation of all levels of government, industry and community stakeholders. Discover Abitibi is intended to assist the mining sector as a whole and encourages industry stakeholders to suggest exploration projects which will generate renewed interest in the Timmins-Kirkland Lake region. The technical projects are not intended to benefit a specific company, or individual but are aimed at providing new information for all stakeholders”, said Robert Calhoun, Project Manager. Calhoun also stated that “anyone wishing to make a project submission should contact him for a copy of the Technical Proposal Submission forms”. The completed forms must be returned on or before September 16, 2002

Successful completion of the Discover Abitibi Initiative will form a basis for a **MADE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO** model that can be applied in other regions across Canada.

The Discover Abitibi Initiative is partly funded by FedNor.

For more information on this exciting and unique opportunity contact Discover Abitibi, Project Manager, Robert Calhoun at the Timmins Economic Development Corporation.

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