

May 24, 2006

## **DISCOVER ABITIBI BUILDS ON SUCCESS**

The third phase of the “Discover Abitibi Initiative” was completed in March 2006. A total of 19 projects were completed across the region from Timmins to Kirkland Lake. Several high profile surveys were done including MegaTEM II, high-resolution low altitude Magnetometer, airborne Gravity and a reinterpretation of the geology of the area. The geological re-interpretation has provided significant new search areas and may lead to important discoveries in the future. The magnetometer surveys, especially the one completed southwest of Kirkland Lake, have provided new targeting data for the exploration companies in the area.

Tres-OR Resources has already made an important discovery of a large kimberlite pipe, which contains diamonds. The company plans on conducting additional research and studies to evaluate the mining potential of the kimberlite pipe. If it proves to contain diamonds of economic grade the resultant long-term impact on the economy of Kirkland Lake and the region will be very positive.

“The results of the “Discover Abitibi Initiative” have started to be felt in the region” said Dave McGirr Chair of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. He continued, “We knew from the beginning that this initiative would be important to the long term sustainability of the mining and exploration industry in the region and the investment we have seen to date shows that the work is bearing fruit. The rise in metal prices began as the new data started to be published adding to the value of the information and helping to fuel the optimism in the industry.”

Tom Laughren, President of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce shares Mr. McGirr’s sentiments. “The health of the exploration and mining industry affects the members of the Chamber every day,” Laughren said. “We have been a strong supporter of the initiative since day one and we feel that the positive effects of the work completed will be felt for an extended period of time”.

The foresight and vision of the financial contributors to this project will be greatly rewarded said Robert Calhoun, Discover Abitibi Project Manager. Funding for the project was received from FedNor-Industry Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the private sector, individuals and municipalities within the region.

For information contact Robert Calhoun, project manager at 705-360-8485 or by email at [rcalhoun@city.timmins.on.ca](mailto:rcalhoun@city.timmins.on.ca).

## **Backgrounder**

The following will provide a short breakdown of the Discover Abitibi Initiative to date.

- The initiative has been directed by the Timmins Economic Development Corporation.
- Funding for the initiative has been provided by the federal government through FedNor and by the provincial government through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.
- Mining companies, prospectors, municipalities and other regional stakeholders, also made funding available.
- In-kind data was given to the initiative by area exploration and mining companies.
- A total of 21 projects have been completed under the initiative, 2 in phase I and 19 in phase III. The total expenditure to date is \$12.5 million.
- A total of 22,236 claim units have been staked within the project areas.
- Companies have reported more than \$14.0 million in follow up investment with an additional \$19.0 million in planned expenditures.
- One discovery based on the surveys has been reported in the Kirkland lake area and the evaluation of that discovery continues.