



PORCUPINE PROSPECTORS and DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 234, Timmins, Ontario, P4N 7C9

NORTHERN PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 535, Kirkland Lake, Ont. P2N 3J5



Mayor Jamie Lim
City of Timmins
220 Algonquin Blvd. East
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 1B3

August 8, 2002

Dear Mayor Lim;

The Minister of Northern Development and Mines is seeking an acceptable framework for a Provincial Mineral Policy from the Ontario Prospectors Association. One major component of the proposed mineral policy, which we strongly favor, is the creation of an Abitibi Mineral Reserve where land use considerations and needs of the Mineral Exploration and Development Community take priority in any future land use planning.

The Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association and the Northern Prospectors Association seek your support and that of your colleagues at city council, as well as those on the Hon. Chris Hodgson's "Smart Growth Committee for NE Ontario" in promoting the concept of an Abitibi Mineral Reserve. We are approaching you because we live within the Abitibi and understand the important role "municipal government" can and should play in making wise and livable decisions at the Provincial and Federal levels.

A critical ingredient in the process of discovering new mines and the ability to harvest the new wealth that this creates is "access to land". The mechanisms used by the current government to establish new parks and conservation sites fail to take this fundamental fact into account. The high mineral potential of the Abitibi in northeast Ontario must be recognized and "access to land" in this region must be preserved. The result of Ontario's current lack of a mineral policy is a highly fragmented land fabric with promising mineral projects thwarted due to inflexible boundaries drawn on paper. The proposed Abitibi Mineral Reserve which would encompass the Abitibi Geological Subprovince of the Canadian Shield in Northeast Ontario (See Figure 1), would both recognize that this high potential geological area has been, remains, and will continue to be a "*World Class Region*" to explore and develop mineral resources.

What is the Abitibi Geological Subprovince and where is it? The Abitibi Subprovince is a unique metal and mineral rich 300-km long, east-west linear belt of metavolcanic, metasedimentary and granitoid rocks, which form a distinctive part of the Canadian Shield. The belt includes a region encompassing the Ontario communities of Searchmont, Sultan, Foleyet, Gogama, Shining Tree, Timmins, Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Matachewan, Kirkland Lake, Englehart, Larder Lake and Viginiatown. It also extends eastward into Quebec past the mining centers of Rouyn-Noranda and Val d'Or, to Matagami and Chibougamau. The Ontario portion of the Abitibi Subprovince covers an area of about 60 000 sq. km equivalent to less than 6% percent of the province.

As illustrated in the attached figures the Abitibi Subprovince hosts a multitude of present and past producing mines with many being of "*World Class Category*". To date these mines, in the Ontario portion alone, have produced over 100 million ounces of gold, 12 million tons of copper/zinc plus, silver, nickel, talc, asbestos, silica, barite, and building stone. "*World Class*" can be readily understood when

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we keep in mind that the by-product silver production from the Kidd Creek Mine in Timmins made it for many years the biggest silver mine in the world!

New technologies and changing markets suggest that diamonds, magnesite and tantalum are near-term possibilities for yet more discoveries within the Abitibi and many of these can be expected to be “*World Class*”. This diverse mineral bonanza is unmatched anywhere in the world. For this reason alone the Abitibi Subprovince is regarded internationally by explorationists as “*one of the best places in the world to search*”. It is prime exploration ground for new mines, new jobs and new tax revenues for Ontario and our northern communities.

We urge you to join with us in proposing to Hon Wilson, the creation of a pro-exploration Ontario Mineral Policy incorporating a Mineral Reserve for the whole of Ontario’s Abitibi Subprovince. Such a Mineral Reserve would recognize the high exploration potential and assist in providing “access to land” by guaranteeing that land use considerations of the Mineral Exploration and Development Community take priority in any future land use planning. The establishment of an Abitibi Mineral Reserve would not negate the creation of new protected areas. The Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index and Mining Claim fabric would control the location and size of any future proposed protected sites. The affirmation of this principal by the “Smart Growth Committee for Northeast Ontario” would also help strengthen our land tenure and guarantee the “access to land” that the Mineral Exploration and Development community requires if we are to remain an important contributor to our communities and Ontario’s economy.

We thank you for your attention and anticipated assistance. Feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss this issue further.

Respectfully,

PORCUPINE PROSPECTORS AND
DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN PROSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION

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