



# Discover Abitibi

A project of innovation, cooperation and revitalization

Un projet d'innovation, de coopération et de renouvellement

## Découvrons l'Abitibi



### **MAYORS RELEASE JOINT STATEMENT**

DECEMBER 20, 2002

#### **Press Release**

#### **For immediate Release**

The Discover Abitibi Initiative is a regional economic development initiative which will stimulate the mining sector by encouraging increased exploration in the Timmins – Kirkland Lake corridor.

Timmins Mayor Jamie Lim stated “the western Abitibi Greenstone belt of Northeastern Ontario has been a prolific mining area for over 90 years and is recognized worldwide as one of the highest potential areas in the world. Mining has been and continues to be one of the cornerstones, of the regional economy and of the economic stability of the City of Timmins”.

Mayor Bill Enouy of Kirkland Lake echoed those remarks saying “this project has the potential to develop new opportunities in the mining sector, which is vital to the economic health of the region and Kirkland Lake”.

Mayor Ken Graham of Iroquois Falls said “recent census information indicates that the population base of Northeast Ontario is declining and an initiative like Discover Abitibi has the potential to stem that decline. Any increase in economic activity in the area will have a positive effect on all communities in the region”.

Reeve Gilbert Hebert of Black River-Matheson, said “this project will have a positive effect on his area as well. Black River-Matheson is in the centre of the project area and the township is prepared to help any exploration effort”.

Mayor Lim went on to say that “we recognize that without exploration there will be no new mines and Timmins City Council realizes the potential of this project to provide regional economic revitalization and stability to the exploration sector”.

The community leaders stated that, if this region is to continue to be a vibrant contributor to the economy of Northeastern Ontario and the province then we must combine our knowledge with new technologies to develop additional mining opportunities.

Mayor Lim concluded “we encourage the business leaders of the region to investigate how they can become project partners. The potential economic impact of this initiative could be enormous if it leads to the discovery of new mines in the area”.

To learn more about this project contact Robert Calhoun, project manager at 705-360-8485 or visit the website at [www.discoverabitibi.com](http://www.discoverabitibi.com).

Background information attached

This project is partly funded by FedNor.

In partnership with FedNor and  
En partenariat avec FedNor et

 Industry Canada Industrie Canada

 Canada



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### AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

The Discover Abitibi Initiative is regional economic development project based on geoscientific investigations of the western Abitibi greenstone belt (Timmins to Kirkland Lake corridor). The project is a cluster economic development initiative in which the federal and provincial governments are forming a joint venture with private sector companies, regional municipalities and individuals to enhance the region through investment in the exploration and mining sector. The vision is a sustainable mining industry in the Timmins to Kirkland Lake area.

This will involve completion of 19 proposals which were submitted by the regional prospecting groups, local prospectors, academia and the two government geological surveys. These projects were evaluated by a local technical committee who evaluated them on technical merit, regional applicability and economic development factors. The 19 proposals, which were vetted from a total of 42 submissions, will fill knowledge gaps, provide the latest in technology and will decrease the amount of higher risk exploration by the private sector. The 19 proposals involve the completion of airborne electromagnetic surveys, airborne high resolution magnetometer surveys, ground geophysics and mapping projects. There will also be compilation of new and old data into a geographical information system (GIS) which will incorporate the data into a single data set.

The proposed funding model is a total of \$ **5.0 million from FedNor**, \$ **5.0 million from NOHFC** and \$ **2.5 million from the private sector of which \$1.0 million must be cash** and the remainder will be in-kind data and personnel support.

The project will incur expenditures in excess of \$12.5 million, which will provide jobs during completion support the local service industry and increase the visibility of the Abitibi greenstone belt in the international exploration and mining community. The project will also focus increased attention on the Timmins/Kirkland Lake region as a place to do business especially in the service sector.

As stated above the management team for the Discover Abitibi Initiative must **raise \$1.0 million from the private sector to leverage >\$ 10.0 million in government funding**. The private sector partners will include senior and junior mining and exploration companies, service industry companies and individuals. The information collected will be used by the exploration industry to generate an increase in exploration activity which will provide an economic boom to the local and regional service industry.

**This project is partly funded by FedNor.**

You are encouraged to invest in your future and the future of the region by becoming a project partner. For further information on the initiative or becoming a project partner contact:

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