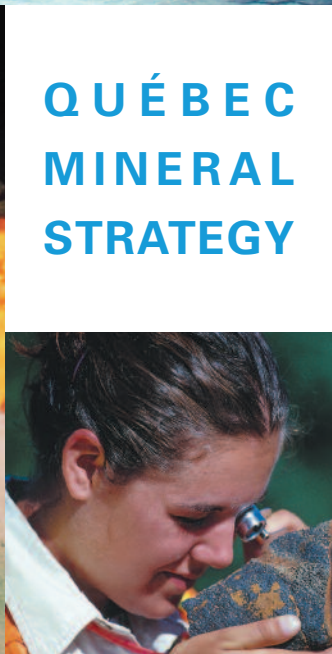


# PREPARING THE FUTURE OF QUÉBEC'S MINERAL SECTOR



QUÉBEC  
MINERAL  
STRATEGY



SUMMARY DOCUMENT

## A WORD FROM THE PREMIER



This first Québec mineral strategy is part of an overall vision of harmonious economic development aimed at promoting social progress, environmental protection, and wealth creation. It is founded on the mineral exploration and mining expertise we have acquired over the generations and opens the door to a bright future through sustainable use of our mineral resources.

Moreover, this mineral strategy is an important tool for the development of Québec's North that will accelerate wealth creation, develop resources sustainably, and build new bridges between Quebecers and the First Nations.

With this mineral strategy, we have set out a vision that shows our ambitions for Québec and our responsibility to future generations.

Jean Charest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean Charest'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Premier of Québec

## A WORD FROM THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE



With this mineral strategy, we are providing the means to boost mining activity and its economic spinoffs. We are putting in place measures that will lead to new mineral discoveries, both in unexplored regions and areas of Québec with long mining histories. We are helping the industry to move forward and embrace new exploration and mining methods as a means of increasing its competitiveness and its appeal to young workers.

Our goal is to make the mineral sector a flagship for sustainable development.

The participation of local communities and First Nations is a central part of this strategy because wealth creation and economic development are meaningless if they do not contribute to the welfare of citizens.

Serge Simard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serge Simard'. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Minister for Natural Resources and Wildlife

## OVERVIEW OF THE QUÉBEC MINERAL SECTOR

### A DRIVING FORCE OF OUR ECONOMY

The mineral industry contributes significantly to Québec's economy and its international standing. Québec is a producer of iron, zinc, nickel, copper, and gold.

Many regions in the province benefit from this activity. Mines are found throughout Québec, but especially in the Nord-du-Québec, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, and Côte-Nord regions, which attract the bulk of investment. However, every region of the province reaps benefits from related activities like transport, technical and financial services, processing, etc.

- In 2007 there were approximately 18,000 people employed in mining-related jobs in Québec, the equivalent of the pharmaceutical sector.
- In 2006 the average annual salary in the mining sector was \$66,500, almost twice that of industry generally.

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- The total value of Québec's mineral shipments increased by more than 54% between 2003 and 2007.
- In 2007 the total value of Québec's mineral shipments was \$5.5 billion, 29% of which was comprised of non-metallic minerals (industrial minerals and construction materials).
- Between 2003 and 2007, exploration expenditures rose from \$134 million to \$470 million, a level unparalleled in 20 years. Growth tapered off in 2008, but the situation is expected to improve starting in 2010.

## THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC VISION: ACTING NOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

As with most industrial sectors tied to natural resources, the mineral industry is cyclical in nature. Considering that it takes around ten years to open a new mine, planning ahead is essential.

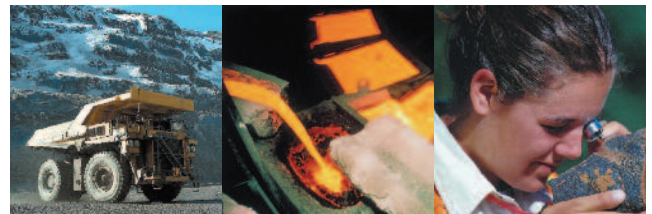
Now is the time to act to ensure that the industry contributes even more to Québec's regional and economic development.

With Québec's first Mineral Strategy, the government seeks to reframe part of its approach and implement structural initiatives with a view to putting the mineral industry on a more solid footing for the future and to develop Québec's North.

The Québec Mineral Strategy is based on the following three policy directions:

- Creating wealth and preparing the future of the mineral sector
- Ensuring environment-friendly mineral development
- Fostering integrated, community-related mineral development

By combining economic development, environmental protection, and community participation, we will ensure the sustainable development of Québec's mineral resources.





POLICY DIRECTION

1

## CREATING WEALTH AND PREPARING THE FUTURE OF THE MINERAL SECTOR

Preparing the future means putting in place measures to ensure the development of Québec's mineral sector. It means ambitiously opening up new areas for exploration. It means being creative to innovate and optimize our mineral potential. It means looking ahead to meet labour needs. And lastly, it means developing the means to achieve our ambitions by creating the Mining Heritage Fund.

Creating wealth means ensuring that the Québec mineral sector contributes to the economy of Québec and its regions, creates new jobs, and provides a fair return on our natural resources.

## INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

Québec's North holds considerable mineral potential. The Mineral Strategy proposes to accelerate mineral development in the region. Over the next five years an ambitious plan to acquire geoscientific knowledge will be carried out in order to stimulate exploration in Northern Québec. This plan will make it possible to identify new deposits and help facilitate the opening of new mines. We will also take steps to improve access to the area.

Investing for the future also means promoting the diversification of mineral resources mined in Québec. Diamonds are one example of a new mineral substance that could be mined here. We will also support research to identify new copper deposits.



## ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS AND INCREASING ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The government believes that rules are important to ensure the mineral sector is developed competitively while providing a fair return on mining and related activities.

Minerals are non-renewable resources, and Québec has a right to ensure it receives a fair return from their mining. In the months ahead, the government will examine the mining royalties regime and ways of encouraging primary processing in Québec. These questions raise a certain number of issues that can affect the sector's competitiveness and the way in which Québec's benefits are maximized.

Different measures contribute to the competitiveness of the Québec mineral sector, including availability of geoscientific knowledge, the quality of worker training, and the fiscal regime. In the face of globalization, we want to help make the mineral sector more competitive by supporting innovation and the development of Québec entrepreneurship.

Innovation organizations will have access to ongoing financial support. We will support technological development in priority areas of the mineral sector and put in place an innovation network.

We will continue promoting the development of Québec companies active in exploration, but will also support increased Québec entrepreneurship to help Québec firms move on to the mining and processing phases.

## MEETING THE NEED FOR WORKERS

For the industry, meeting the need for workers is a challenge. In the medium and long term, several thousand jobs will have to be filled for new mining projects or to replace retiring workers. The government is proposing several measures to meet this challenge.

We will first enhance education and training opportunities.

To do so, we created the Institut national des mines to better coordinate training programs in the mining trades, techniques, and professions in order to ensure that they meet industry needs and are available where needed.

To publicize and promote career opportunities in the mineral sector, promotional campaigns will be organized in partnership with the organizations concerned.

## PAVING THE WAY: THE HERITAGE MINING FUND

The government creates the Mining Heritage Fund, which is financed by a percentage of the mining royalties collected from mining companies.

The Mining Heritage Fund provides stable funding for geoscientific work as well as for innovation and the development of Québec entrepreneurship. The Fund will provide \$200 million in funding over ten years.





POLICY DIRECTION

2

## ENSURING ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

Environmental protection begins at the mining project planning stage and continues through every subsequent phase: exploration, mineral deposit evaluation, mine development, operation, and site rehabilitation once operations have ended.

Despite existing legislation and regulations and the efforts of the mining industry, certain aspects of mineral development can still be improved. The Mineral Strategy includes various measures designed to help erase the traces of the past, improve environmental protection, and protect outstanding sites and areas for future generations.

## REHABILITATING ABANDONED MINE SITES

Over the last several decades, the Government of Québec has seen a number of contaminated mine sites become its responsibility. These sites are an environmental liability for Québec, and not a heritage that we wish to pass on to future generations. We intend to rehabilitate these sites by implementing the government rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation is underway and will be carried out over a ten-year period.

## IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE

We want to act today to ensure that exploration and mining operations are conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner. This is the reason we are adopting new standards to guarantee mine site rehabilitation and avoid passing on the cost of cleaning up abandoned sites to future generations. The threshold for environmental impact studies will also be lowered from 7,000 to 3,000 tons of ore or more per day.

Similar measures will also be implemented for mineral exploration. We will introduce stricter measures to ensure the rehabilitation of exploration sites once work is complete.

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune will publish a new edition of the guide informing companies about their site rehabilitation obligations.

## PROTECTING THE LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In keeping with its commitment, the government plans to expand its network of protected areas. This means that other areas could be set aside and protected from mineral activity. In addition, 50 outstanding geological sites will be designated by 2013.

We will also help evaluate eskers in the Abitibi region and take steps to ensure their protection if necessary.



POLICY DIRECTION

# 3

## FOSTERING INTEGRATED, COMMUNITY-RELATED MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

Local and aboriginal communities want to play a greater role in mineral development. The government stands behind them by encouraging citizen and community participation and involvement in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

## FOSTERING LOCAL AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

The mandate of the regional committees for natural resources and land use includes the drafting of the regional plans for integrated resource and land development. These plans will set regional targets and objectives for the development of land and resources, including mineral resources.

Specific agreements could also be negotiated with the regions based on their particular needs. These agreements would serve as a development tool for the mineral sector.

Géologie Québec will consult with regional committees for natural resources and land use when preparing its annual program of geoscientific activities.

The Mineral Strategy includes special measures for aboriginal communities, including funding for the Native Mining Funds, agreements with the private sector, and measures to facilitate access to employment.

It is both necessary and desirable to inform and consult communities living near areas where mining projects are being set up. Public concerns and solutions to issues raised are easier for mining companies to consider during the project development phase. With a view to sustainable development, a public consultation process for projects generating less than 3,000 metric tons of ore per day has been put in place.



## DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT MINING TITLES

The government's mineral strategy is aimed at increasing mineral sector activity. Keeping local and aboriginal communities informed is one of the keys to making new projects a success. Regional county municipalities and aboriginal communities will be notified about the issuance of new mining titles.

### Photos:

ArcelorMittal Mines Canada, IOC of Canada, Geotech, Glendyne, Luc Corriveau, Marc-André Grenier, Stornaway Diamond, Xstrata Nickel – Raglan Mine, and Xstrata Copper – Horne Smelter

*With the collaboration of Québec Mining Association and Québec Mineral Exploration Association*

## BALANCING LAND USES

Given the difficulty of finding new deposits, companies want the broadest possible access to the land. On the other hand, more and more users share the territory. The Mineral Strategy introduces three measures to help balance mineral activity with other forms of land use. The *Mining Act* will be amended to give the minister the power to set land aside to reduce disputes over land use, to refuse to grant leases for surface mineral substances, and terminate mining titles for those same substances where public interest warrants.



This document is a summary of the Québec Mineral Strategy,  
*Preparing the Future of Québec's Mineral Sector.*  
The full version of the strategy is available on the website  
[www.QuebecMining.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.QuebecMining.gouv.qc.ca)

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

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Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune  
Legal deposit – Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec, 2009  
ISBN : 978-2-550-52912-5 (print)  
ISBN : 978-2-550-52920-0 (PDF)

Distribution code: 2009-5003

