

# Géologie Québec: A first Québec Mineral Strategy to guide future geoscience work

Sylvain Lacroix\*

Géologie Québec, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Val-d'Or, Québec, Canada  
[sylvain.lacroix@mrf.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:sylvain.lacroix@mrf.gouv.qc.ca)

Robert Marquis

Géologie Québec, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Val-d'Or, Québec, Canada

Jean-Yves Labbé

Géologie Québec, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Québec, Québec, Canada

## Summary

In 2009, the Québec government adopted for the first time a Mineral Strategy focusing on sustainable development, which aims to meet economic, environmental and social needs. The Strategy brings into focus the future geoscience activities of Géologie Québec on the following strategic objectives: creating wealth, respecting the environment and involving communities. The creation of a Mining Heritage Fund ensures stable multi-year funding of \$120 million/10 years for upcoming work to collect geoscience knowledge.

Géologie Québec's mission is to acquire, process and disseminate geoscience knowledge about Québec's mineral resources in order to assess and promote the mineral potential of the regions in a sustainable development perspective. This mission is achieved by acquiring integrated, accessible and quality geoscience information, as well as expertise in geoscience knowledge, and making them available to companies, organizations and citizens concerned with the geology of Québec. The aim is to encourage informed decision-making about the multiple uses of land and mineral resources. Géologie Québec's contribution to sustainable development can be illustrated by presenting several recent, ongoing and upcoming geoscience activities in three different regions of Québec.

Since 2005, the Abitibi mining region has been the focus of an extensive program of geoscience activities (Copper Plan, TGI-3 Targeted Geoscience Initiative) targeting base metals in Québec and Ontario, which has been carried out in partnership by Géologie Québec, the Geological Survey of Canada, the Ontario Geological Survey, and university and industry partners. Géologie Québec, the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue and France's École nationale supérieure de géologie de Nancy also set up a new field school in Abitibi in 2008. Every year, it enables a dozen French-speaking students to learn about professional geology in Québec and complete a three-month paid field internship.

Northern Québec will continue to be covered by an extensive, multidisciplinary geoscience knowledge acquisition program, which follows the Grand Nord program (1997-2008), to highlight its mineral potential and encourage mineral development.

Municipalized Québec (Montréal-Québec-Chicoutimi) will be the focus of future survey work on Quaternary deposits to build geological and hydrogeological knowledge about groundwater resources. The project will be carried out in cooperation with the Ministère du développement durable, de l'environnement et des parcs [sustainable development, environment and parks department], the Geological Survey of Canada and several universities.