

Cree Mineral Exploration Board
WORK PLAN 2009-2010

Submitted to:

**MINISTÈRE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES DE LA FAUNE ET DES
PARCS, QUEBEC**

And

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY, QUEBEC

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INTRODUCTION

The CMEB activity report is prepared in accordance with Section 7 of the Agreement concerning Mineral Resources Development in the James Bay area, and in accordance with section 6.4 of the QMEAP framework provided as for on Schedule 1 of the Agreement.

The **Cree Mineral Exploration Board** (the CMEB, the Board) was formed pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Agreement entitled *Agreement concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Quebec*. Its functions are aimed at developing and enhancing mineral exploration in the Territory. For this, it will benefit of a minimum annual budget of \$300 000 per year provided by MRNFP (Ministère des Ressources Naturelles de la Faune - Québec).

The CMEB head office was opened in Wemindji in March 2003 and a sub office was opened in Mistissini in 2005. The CMEB is oriented towards the mineral resource exploration in Eeyou Istchee in a context of sustainable economic development. This activity report covers the projects realized by the Cree Mineral Exploration Board (CMEB) for the year 2007-2008 and presents details on the following components: promotion, training, job opportunities, prospecting, autonomous prospectors and developing entrepreneurship.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 5 of the Agreement entitled *Agreement concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Quebec* concerns mining. In particular, referring to Section 5.3:

Quebec will promote and facilitate the participation of the James Bay Crees in mineral exploration activities in the Territory. In particular, Quebec and the Crees will set up before April 1st, 2002 a Mineral Exploration Board which will be largely composed of Cree representatives but with some representation by Quebec.

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board was duly set up in accordance with that section of the Agreement. The remainder of Section 5.3 specifies the purpose of the Board and the financial terms:

This Board benefits as of the 2001-02 Financial Year from the available regular program funding of Quebec for such purposes presently set at three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per Financial Year. The main purposes of this Mineral Exploration Board will be to:

- a) Assist the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities;*
- b) Facilitate the development of mineral exploration activities by Cree Enterprises;*
- c) Facilitate and encourage the access by the Crees and Cree Enterprises to regular Quebec program funding and other encouragements for mineral exploration activities;*
- d) Act as an entry mechanism for offers of services by Crees and Cree Enterprises in the field of mineral exploration.*

On March 22nd 2002, the Cree Regional Authority, the Quebec Government and the Cree Mineral Exploration Board signed an additional and specific Agreement entitled *Agreement concerning Mineral Resources Development in the James Bay Region*. Section 6 of the Agreement on Mineral Resources Development states the obligations of the CRA as, (among others), to:

Cover CMEB administrative expenses from its operating budget may include among others rent and office expenses, accounting and audit fees, the transportation and travel expenses of CRA representatives for meetings of the board of directors of the CMEB.

THE MISSION OF THE BOARD

Shortly after the Board became operational in the fall of 2002, a five year work plan was developed and adopted by the Board. This was the plan submitted to MRNFP for the 2002-03 funding of the CMEB. Activities of the Board address the following five programs:

Awareness and Promotion

The CMEB is working on the first stage with local schools to develop a program with the students based on Eeyou Istchee geology. This can be expanded in the future to include other schools under the jurisdiction of the Cree School Board. We will also be working with other Cree organizations involved in the various fields of the mining industry to raise awareness and promotion, and to inform people about mining activities in Cree Territory. It is also the intention of the Board to attend economic

development related conferences and seminars at the Cree level to enhance awareness and promotion of the industry.

Training and Job Assistance

The Board works very closely with Cree Human Resources Department- Territorial Programs sector to examine various ways of approaching training and job assistance to benefit the Cree population in general. It is our understanding that the MRNFP (Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs) will be involved in assisting us in approaching the different mining companies in the territory about possible job opportunities for Crees. The Board will also be working with the local entities that are embarking on training programs in the mining sector.

Assistance to Prospectors

The geologists of the Board provide technical assistance whenever required by a Cree prospector. The Chief Geologist will also be developing basic prospectors training packages at the local levels to increase the number of prospectors active in the territory. It is the objective of the Board to make this assistance a priority for the future activities of licensed Cree prospectors.

Project Development and Entrepreneur's Assistance

The Board received a tremendous amount of financial requests from this sector. As a result, we will have to develop a system for prioritizing requests and submissions have to be received on a particular date to be considered for funding. The other sector of interest is that of joint ventures between Crees and non-Natives on certain exploration projects. We will have to continue funding similar viable projects in the future.

Geosciences Expertise and Technical Assistance

The Board continues to build its database on mineral exploration activities in Eeyou Istchee. This information is available when required by Cree entities and individuals. We also want to be in a position to respond technically to any environmental concerns that may arise as a result of a particular project. The database building will continue for the next few years.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

The activities summarized in this section include:

1. Meetings and resolutions;
2. 2007-2008 work plan;
3. Awareness and promotion;
4. Training and job assistance;
5. Field project with training;
6. Prospector's assistance;
7. Project development and Entrepreneur's assistance;
8. New projects;
9. Geosciences.

CMEB WORK PLAN 2009

The CMEB has to face the new mining era in Eeyou Istchee. The priority is the application of the Cree Mineral Exploration Board five programs submitted to the Cree Regional authority. This include the preparation training programs and the creation of job opportunities; informing the communities about the mining activities in the trapelines; establishing communication and network between the tallyman and the local authority and the mining industry, helping prospectors and Cree companies to develop exploration projects. The CMEB will participate to ameliorate the environmental aspect related to mining impact and encourage environmentally safe mining activities. The Crees want to develop the mining in the context of the Eeyou Istchee sustainable development; this has to be in the best condition to protect the environment and the wild life. CMEB expects a lot from its programs and takes the best condition to succeed in their realization.

Training

- CMEB has the objective to train a number of prospectors in each community. These trainees will be the reference for the community in terms of “what happens in mining exploration in the territories and in other places”. After Chisasibi, Wemindji, Waskaganish, Mistissini and Whapmagoostui, we will stop next summer 2009 in Eastmain Cree Nation.

- Training for entrepreneurs in mining industry which includes cutting lines, geophysical data and bulk sampling. This program helps Crees seeking opportunities in the mining industry learn about running private companies in mining services and establishing agreements.
- Continue collaborating with CTA in Recognizing Metal Mineralization training for Tallyman and Trappers.
- Continue collaborating with MNRW in exchanging data and visiting the mapping MNRW camps by CMEB and the trainees which ameliorate considerably the knowledge of the students.
- Training built with collaboration of CHRD, NESKAMOON, CSB, SDBJ and TJCM. This concerns a technical level training where the trainees are students on full time or on student summer job.
- DEP in mineral resources with the CEGEP hopefully starting in fall 2009. This could not be possible without the collaboration of Cree School Board (adult education) and CHRD.
- Upgrading Prospector course will keep our prospectors in touch with the mining activities and with the new techniques or and machinery. We will follow this activity in all communities
- Two CMEB training and mapping projects in Category 1 land will start in July 2009.

Activities

- Encourage Cree companies to start new projects;
- Organize several geology and earth sciences activities for the Cree schools in la SEMAINE MINIERE event on April 2009.
- Preparing an information conference and meetings on the Uranium mining matters;
- Encourage prospectors and help them find new projects;
- Help new prospector trainees build prospecting projects;
- Execute the financial help for prospectors (Wages) accepted;

- Finalize and update the ongoing Cree companies' projects;
- Geological report, and update geological map summer 2009;
- Mining activities report will produce for November 2009;
- In the contest of continue amelioration of CMEB website, we transfer the mining data (mines, exploration targets and companies) on Eeyou Istchee Geo-Economic interactive map and trapelines, November 2009;
- Participating and be partner in different promotion and information events. CMEB is a faithful collaborator to Learning Together as member of its board and as strong promoter, to Canadian Aboriginal Mining Association, to Comité de Promotion du Nord, to Exploration Quebec and la "Semaine Minière".

Awareness and Geosciences

- Information visits in the communities with the collaboration of Cree School Board schools and internal events, and CTA (meeting trappers and Tallymen).
- Participate in science fairs in the communities and continue presentations in schools.
- Amelioration of the guideline book for exploration companies already published on CMEB website.
- Promote CMEB via MRNF, CRA, CTA, Comité de Promotion du Nord and the Secretariat Autochthones.
- Promote geology in class and on the field for youth primary and secondary school activities.
- Prepare Learning Together, CAMA, Exploration Québec, PDAC and local Career and Science Fairs.
- Development of the electronic interactive map. Add active and none active mines, and activity of mining companies in each trapeline.
- Make bank of scientific data during the summer mapping projects and mining data such as agreements between industry and the Crees and possible prospecting targets.
- Develop a link of CMEB website in GCC, MNRW, and the AEMQ websites.

The purpose of this section is to provide the Board with recommendations for pursuing its objectives with regards to Training, Job Assistance and Prospecting projects. It may be useful to recall those objectives, as set forth in the CMEB Work Plan for 2010-2015, adopted at its 5th meeting, on March 19th 2009,

Training and Job assistance shall aim at a) promoting, initiating or supporting training programs and activities to increase the skills of native individuals at mineral exploration, and b) providing assistance to job development and placement, including monitoring and on-the-job training programs. The desired impact is, in the short term, to train individuals to the level of accessing the immediate job market in exploration, and in the mid-term, to provide ways to lead to higher education and more developed skills in mineral or natural resources management.

These tasks include:

- *the development of new or the support of existing training initiative in collaboration with Emploi-Québec or other organization certified in the field*
- *establishing working relationships with organization capable of certifying the value of the training programs, especially MNRF, and the Ordre des Géologues du Québec*
- *promote and support as much as possible training program which may lead to higher education, in collaboration with the Cree School Board, Cree Human Resources Development department, various Colleges, or the MEQ*
- *ensure the collaboration and the consultation of the industry on the design of training programs*
- *monitor and disseminate information about job offers and attempt to forecast job demands in collaboration with the industry; set up appropriate instances and committees for that purpose*

New Training Mineral Exploration Project

New grassroots exploration, GIS and mapping training projects: In July 2009 CMEB execute two projects. The first one will be in the area of Eastmain and the other one in the area of Mistissini. The projects are in preparation and aimed at various commodities. The domain selection is based on the needs of the Crees, on the opportunity on the market and mostly the jobs offered in Eeyou Istchee. The field work is based on technical preparation and on data from previous geological compilation and on several known targets.

New prospecting training project with the team of junior prospectors (John Shem and Frankie Dick with the collaboration of Gordon Blackned, all trained by CMEB) from Whapmagoostui and Waskaganish is in preparation. The targets are all in the area of Whapmagoostui and will be visited in June 2009.

Recommendations

For Training and job creation:

- It is time to participate in the training for Cree territory exploration. The business partnerships with the mining companies will be an important reality in 2009. The forward progress of exploration projects, especially in the Opinaca Reservoir and the Otish Mountains areas, will create job opportunities for members of all Cree communities.
- Consolidate and develop prospecting, blasting and drilling courses with interested, motivated and educated young women and men;
- Encourage training in the environmental sciences;
- Organize with CEGEPs and universities a program concerning mineral resources and environment for technicians and Bachelor degrees in mineral resources and the earth sciences.
- Because of their isolation, the communications are difficult with the communities. We have to continue going on the field in the community to find new trainees and new prospectors and news students willing to study out of the communities in Earth Sciences.

For Promotion:

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board has been successful in promoting Cree land mineral resources and especially in raising awareness in Cree communities via schools and several presentations in the communities, and with prospectors in view of developing their expertise. Concerning the new prospectors training, the CMEB finds the way to be effective and completely under the umbrella of CMEB program. However, it is important to inform communities and Cree organizations about mining realities to avoid false expectations. The mining companies also benefit from any information concerning the Cree Territory expectations regarding environmental protection, employment, and economic activities.

Finally:

Therefore, it is recommended that the Cree Mineral Exploration Board:

- Emphasize on developing partnerships agreement with mining companies on advanced projects to reduce the cost for the CMEB;
- Emphasize on grassroots exploration projects from the standpoint of offering more material for exploration and exploitation, and bring new companies in Cree Territories;
- Developing partnerships with the MNRW's resident geologists to generate new projects;
- In reference to the Autonomous Prospectors Program - the CMEB is working closely with the prospectors in the development of their exploration projects by supplying knowledge in geology and business and report-writing services;
- Continue to work with the Cree School Board students and promote the earth sciences;
- Continue to inform Cree organizations and the mining companies about the activities of the CMEB;
- Maintain the North-South mining network.
- Generate new detailed geological data in Eeyou Istchee. Collaborate with Quebec Government for mapping uncharted Cree territory. This will enhance the mineral

potential value and improve the geological database of the territory and of northern Quebec. Collaborate with quaternary expertise organisms, such as the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and la Table Jamésienne de Concertation Minière. This allows access to both glacial movement and mineral dispersion data. The Board is open to work on all detailed proposals concerning this recommendation.