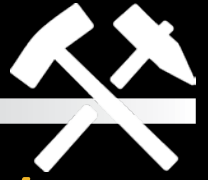


# ONTARIO

# MINING Review



e-newsletter

ISSUE 1 • 2024



Over 20 teams from  
across Ontario compete  
in official mine rescue  
competition

Agreement reached  
to develop community  
infrastructure projects in  
Ring of Fire region

An engineered approach  
to solving dust  
containment problems  
at conveyor transfers

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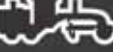
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President & CEO **DAVID LANGSTAFF**

Managing Editor **KELSEY JAMES**

kelsey@delcommunications.com

Advertising Manager **DAYNA OULON**

Sales Representatives

**BRIAN GEROW**

**MIC PATERSON**

**ANTHONY ROMEO**

Contributing Writer

**SHANNON WALKER**

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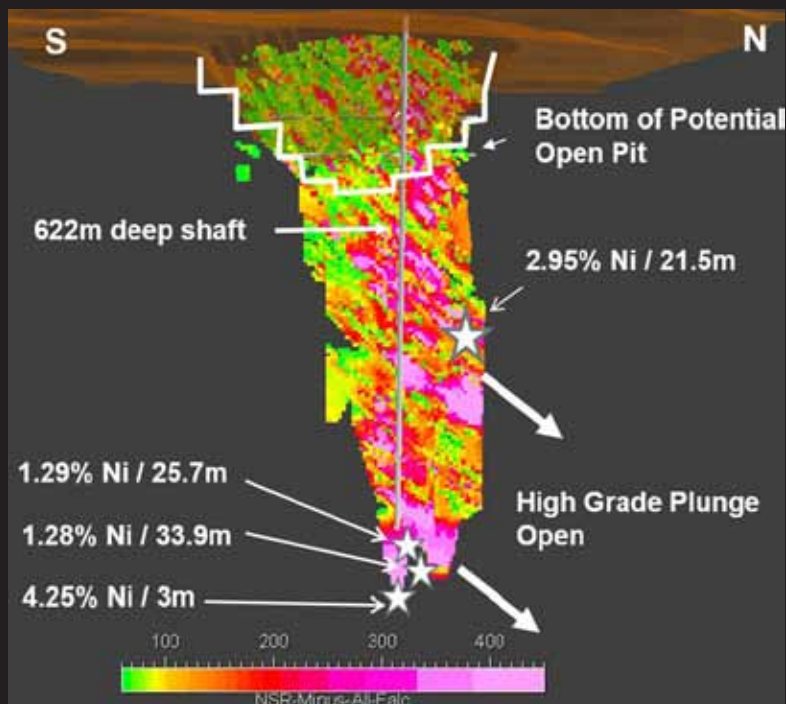
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# TARTISAN NICKEL CORP.

CSE:TN, OTCQB:TTSRF, FSE:8TA



Tartisan Nickel continues exploration and development at its flagship Kenbridge Nickel Project.

Tartisan Nickel Corp's flagship Kenbridge Nickel Project is a high grade nickel sulphide deposit covering 4,110 hectares in the Atikwa Lake area, Kenora Mining District, Ontario. Hosting a 622 meter shaft, Tartisan Nickel is continuing exploration and development as we look to expand our mineral resource estimate. Tartisan Nickel Corp. trades on the Canadian Securities Exchange symbol "TN".

**info@tartisannickel.com**  
**tartisannickel.com**



Tartisan Nickel looks to complete 13km all-season access road to the Kenbridge Nickel Project.

Message from the editor

**KELSEY  
JAMES**

## Welcome to another edition of the *Ontario Mining Review* e-newsletter

**T**his issue features a wide variety of stories and news taking place in the Ontario mining industry.

On page 32, you'll get a sneak peek at what's in store for this year's Canadian Mining Expo, which takes place June 5 to 6, 2024 at the McIntyre Community Complex in Timmins. This year's event will introduce the new Indigenous Partnerships Forum, which will be hosted by Wabun Tribal Council. Attendees will be able to meet with and hear from successful Indigenous companies, their partnerships, and processes. They can also connect with government officials, industry leaders, the Minister of Mines, and Indigenous leaders and organizations who have fostered profitable and sustainable business partnerships.

Workplace Safety North highlights the exciting mine rescue competition, which took place at the beginning of May and included over 20 mine rescue teams from across Ontario. The competition, organized by Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR), creates simulated underground emergencies where teams are evaluated on firefighting skills, first-aid response, use of emergency equipment, and decision-making ability under stress. This also extends to a written theory exam and an assessment of technicians who service vital emergency response equipment. Read more about this interesting event on page 12.

These stories are just a small preview of what we have in store for you in this edition of *Ontario Mining Review* e-newsletter. We wish to thank all the companies who have contributed a story, including:

- SPC Nickel
- Workplace Safety North
- Richwood
- Tartisan Nickel
- Rock Tech Lithium
- The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada
- Laurion Mineral Exploration
- Air Separation Technologies Inc.
- Greg MacDonald Equipment Services
- The Canadian Mining Expo
- WhistleBlower Security Inc.

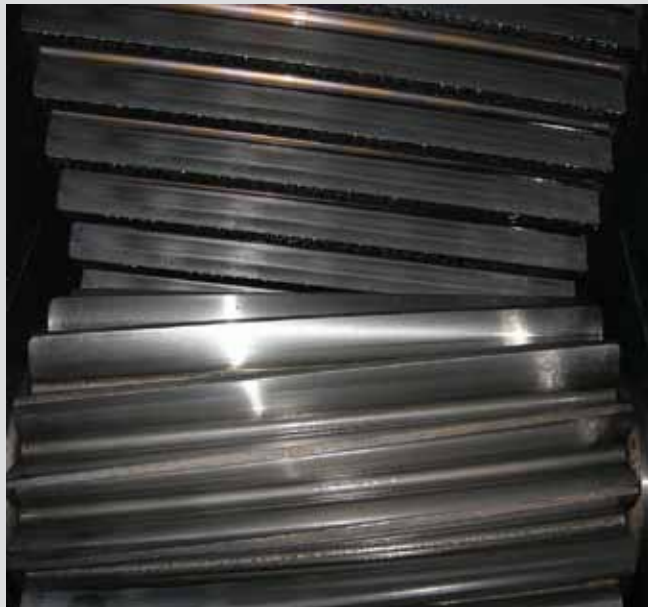
Thank you for reading our e-newsletter. As always, if you have any story ideas, please feel free to email me at [kelsey@delcommunications.com](mailto:kelsey@delcommunications.com).

Happy reading! 

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## *Message from the Ontario Minister of Mines*

# **HONOURABLE GEORGE PIRIE**

**W**hen it comes to mining and exploration for minerals, there are few places more exciting than Ontario. Our government has a sound plan to achieve our goal of making our province the top mining jurisdiction in the world. Ontario is a leading global producer of gold, and we have the potential to become a powerhouse in the critical minerals space.

The world is racing to secure reliable sources of critical minerals for the electric vehicle revolution and to develop the technologies of tomorrow. However, nations that do not share our world-class human rights, environmental standards, and labour practices have a dangerous stranglehold on the supply of the minerals we need. Recent events around the world have highlighted weaknesses in global supply chains and an overreliance on others for what we have here in Ontario.

We do not want to build electric vehicles with nickel mined from countries that burn coal and dump the mine waste into the ocean. We have what the world needs right

here in Northern Ontario – the minerals, expertise, and talent to become the foundation of the growing supply chain for critical minerals and clean technologies in North America and beyond.

That's why we launched our Critical Minerals Strategy that includes \$55 million in targeted investments in everything from exploration to innovation. Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy is laying the foundation for us to build an integrated supply chain for electric vehicles and other clean technologies by connecting mineral producers in the north with the manufacturing might of the south. Our made-in-Ontario supply chain starts with mining, and mining starts with exploration. That's why our government is investing \$35 million in the Ontario Junior Exploration Program to help junior companies find the mines of the future.

Our investments don't stop with exploration; we are also investing in the downstream industries, like processing, to ensure we fill supply chain gaps. Our Critical Minerals Innovation Fund does just that – it helps organizations solve

modern mining and supply chain challenges by leveraging Ontario's highly educated and experienced workers. And, as announced in Ontario's 2024 Budget, we are investing an additional \$15 million over three years in the fund to support research, development, and commercialization of technologies, processes, and solutions for critical minerals. We have an obligation to produce the fuel of the future here in Ontario because we have the best miners in the world.

We know that our government must do more than invest to ensure we maximize the opportunity we have in the mineral exploration and mining sector. That's why our government passed the Building More Mines Act – to cut the red tape that was holding the sector back. The Act ensures government can operate at the pace of business without sacrificing our world-class environmental protections or how we consult with Indigenous communities. This is an important piece of legislation that will help develop the mineral deposits in our province while bringing prosperity to everyone in



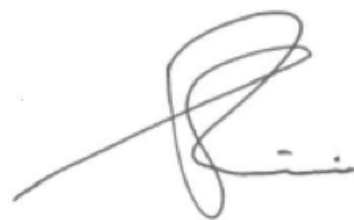
Ontario, especially northern and Indigenous communities.

Developing the resources in the Ring of Fire is another key to building a stronger mining sector. At PDAC this March, I signed a Community Development Agreement with Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation. The agreement will support shovel-ready infrastructure projects, like new training facilities, that will create more local jobs and upskill individuals to prepare them for meaningful careers. Most importantly, the agreement is designed to improve the well-being and readiness

of First Nations partners to participate fully in future economic development, including building roads and mineral development.

Mining is a pillar of our economy because it provides the materials we need for other sectors to thrive, such as the growing electric vehicle manufacturing sector. Ontario also benefits from being one of the largest producers of gold in the world, which is an important store of value during these times of economic uncertainty. Our government continues to demonstrate our commitment to the mining sector

because we have an obligation to the people of Ontario to build a stronger economy. We know that this sector must thrive for us to accomplish that goal and create a better future for everyone in Ontario, especially for those of us who live in the north. I know we still have more work ahead of us, but I am excited to work with industry and Indigenous partners to get it done. 🛠️



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# SPC Nickel: On a path to production



**S**PC Nickel's maiden Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) for the West Graham Project announced in January 2024 represents a major milestone for the company. After a diamond drilling program consisting of 67 holes totaling 14,180 meters, SPC delineated 224.8 million pounds of nickel and 155 million pounds of copper, with inferred resources adding another 86.2 million pounds of nickel and 57.5 million pounds of copper. The geometry of West Graham's mineralization and

its suitability for low-cost open-pit mining methods suggest a promising path to production.

The in-pit resource extends to a depth of 435 metres and consists of indicated resources of 19.3 million tonnes at 0.42 per cent Ni and 0.28 per cent Cu, and inferred resources of 3.3 million tonnes at 0.37 per cent Ni and 0.28 per cent Cu. There is clear potential to expand the higher-grade zones (>0.9 per cent NiEq) in-pit through additional infill drilling. The out-of-pit resource contributes additional scale through indicated resources of 3.2 million tonnes at 0.63 per cent Ni and 0.47 per cent Cu, and inferred resources of 3.9 million tonnes at 0.69 per cent Ni and 0.43 per cent Cu. Potential expansion of the out-of-pit resource could be achieved through further drilling.

In addition to the West Graham Deposit, the larger Lockerby East Property of which it is a part possesses considerable exploration upside. The inclusion of the 100 per cent owned high-grade LKE Deposit, 200 meters down-dip from West Graham, adds to the

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project's value. The LKE Deposit comprises a lens of high-grade Ni-Cu-PGM massive sulphide, where historical drilling returned values as high as 5.60 per cent Ni, 1.26 per cent Cu over 10 metres.

Most projects never become mines because the nature of the deposit or its location makes it uneconomical to bring into production. SPC Nickel's situation is different. Grant Mourre, SPC Nickel's chief executive officer, emphasises West Graham's geology benefits from its geography. The project's strategic advantage is its location at the heart of the Sudbury Mining Camp, a leading nickel jurisdiction. With neighbours like Magna Mining and global giants Glencore and Vale, SPC Nickel knows it is sitting at the nickel industry's top table.

The West Graham Deposit, unlike more remote peers, can draw on the region's skilled local labour, and its proximity to essential infrastructure such as power, transportation, and nickel sulphide mills and smelters. That the majority of the deposit can be accessed via a low-strip ratio open pit precludes the need to build out site-specific infrastructure. Sudbury's 130-year mining history and accompanying development this implies is an enormous advantage for a smaller company like SPC Nickel.

Good management goes a long way towards de-risking a project when assessing a junior miner's prospects, and SPC Nickel ably ticks that box. CEO Mourre's more than 25 years of experience with magmatic nickel deposits is impressive enough on its own, but the proof of the value this brings is in the project's progress. In January 2023, SPC announced an agreement with Vale Canada to consolidate the West Graham and Crean Hill 3 deposits to unlock their joint potential. To produce an MRE only 12 months later is an enormous achievement and tribute to the team's technical prowess as well as Mourre's commitment to delivering results.

SPC Nickel's MRE for the West Graham Project not only underscores the opportunity of the Lockerby East Property generally but also reflects SPC Nickel's measured, strategic approach to developing the deposit. Both in-pit and out-of-pit resources, coupled with the optionality exploration upside brings, presents a robust case for the project's potential. The proximity to essential infrastructure and a focus on low-cost open-pit mining methods further enhance the project's future promise while positioning SPC Nickel at the forefront of nickel development in the Sudbury Basin. ⚒



- **Class 1 nickel projects in Sudbury and Nunavut**
- **Maiden Mineral Resource at West Graham Project, Sudbury**
- **Unique exposure to district-scale Muskox Project, Nunavut**

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# Mine rescue teams brace for competition



Vale East mine rescue team.

## Mine rescuers will compete to showcase their expertise

Over 20 mine rescue teams across Ontario are gearing up to compete at the official mine rescue competitions taking place May 8 to 10. These competitions will demonstrate the emergency response skills and knowledge of volunteers from mines across the province, who undergo rigorous training throughout the year.

Organized by Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR), the competitions create simulated underground emergencies where teams are evaluated on firefighting skills, first-aid response, use of emergency equipment, and decision-making ability under stress. This extends to a written theory exam and an assessment of technicians who service vital emergency response equipment.

Overall, competitions serve as intensive and educational learning opportunities for the teams, which ensures performance standards are maintained across the board.

"We're always finding new ways to challenge the teams," said Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer at Workplace Safety North. "The scenarios go from extracting casualties trapped in collapses to descending a mine shaft with rope gear. These live-action experiences are the best way to put their knowledge to the test."

The public and media are welcome to attend district competitions to give communities a chance to see highly trained volunteers in action. Competitions will take place in:

- Red Lake and Thunder Bay districts – NorWest Recreation Center, Kakabeka Falls, May 9
- Algoma District – Michipicoten Memorial CC, Wawa, May 8-9
- Southern District – Hagersville Memorial Arena, Hagersville, May 9
  - Technicians, Best Western Hotel, Brantford, May 8



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**Goderich mine rescue team.**

- Sudbury and Onaping districts – Dr. Edgar Leclair  
Arena, Azilda
  - Sudbury District, May 8
  - Onaping District, May 9
- Timmins and Kirkland Lake districts – Kirkland Lake  
Community Complex, Kirkland Lake
  - Kirkland Lake, May 8
  - Timmins, May 9

The winner of each district will compete in the 2024 Provincial Competition, June 4 to 7, at Fort Williams Gardens Arena in Thunder Bay.


Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR), a part of Workplace Safety North (WSN), operates under the authority of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Headquartered in Sudbury, OMR staffs, equips, and maintains a network of mine rescue stations across the province that ensure mines within a specified geographic area have adequate emergency response capability.

OMR has trained and equipped thousands of volunteers who have fought fires, rescued injured personnel, and

responded professionally to a wide variety of incidents in provincial mines over the past eight decades.

The role of OMR is to deliver training to mine rescue responders, provide consultations, conduct audits, ensure WSN-owned equipment is maintained to manufacturers' recommended standards, and provide technical consultation to mine operators during mine emergencies.

**About Workplace Safety North:** *An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four health and safety associations in Ontario. WSN provides province-wide government-approved workplace health and safety services for mining and forest products sectors, and administers the Ontario Mine Rescue program. With Health and Safety Specialists and Mine Rescue Officers located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years. Businesses and communities call upon WSN for expert advice.*

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# An engineered approach to solving dust containment problems at conveyor transfers



**S**afety and health hazards make containing dust and fines non-negotiable in today's mining environment. Additional problems associated with dust include environmental risks, increased house-keeping, and damage to equipment, as well as loss of product.

Identifying root causes is the first step to successfully solving the problem of airborne dust. Any time conveyed product is in motion it has the potential to generate dust. Dust and fines can be assumed if the product is moving, if there is an area of material free fall, and at any conveyor transfer areas. Our focus will be on dust that is specifically created at transfer areas where the conveyor is receiving material.

Engineered Passive Dust Containment is a system design that allows airborne dust to "settle" into the main stream of product without auxiliary equipment or additives to suppress or collect the dust particles. The Passive System does not require traditional methods of dust suppression such as water or chemical sprays or vacuum dust collection.

A Passive Containment System keeps material on the belt throughout the length of the conveyor transfer. It employs a series of chambers that are designed to reduce air velocity and allow dust particles to settle back down to the belt before exiting the transfer area.

The Passive Dust Containment

System uses guidelines from CEMA (Conveyor Equipment Manufacturer's Association) to determine the recommended time and distance for material settling at the load zone. This helps determine the general length of the skirtboard beyond the impact zone.

This engineered system is built on three essentials:

1. Establish correct belting elevation for consistent support. The impact-resistant cradle-shaped Impact Saddle with seal bar is recommended along with the use of Cushion Arc impact idlers placed before and after the Impact Saddle bed. According to CEMA standard 575, Impact Saddles are directly interchangeable with impact

**A Passive Containment System keeps material on the belt throughout the length of the conveyor transfer. It employs a series of chambers that are designed to reduce air velocity and allow dust particles to settle back down to the belt before exiting the transfer area.**


idlers and have the benefit of providing full trough support. The full support surface eliminates pinch points or gaps to provide the best foundation for sealing characteristics. Correct belt support and elevation are fundamental to a successful material containment system.

2. Next, a multi-layered approach that contains bulk material with internal wear liners and external skirting media to seal dust. Additional components including

skirtboards or skirt clamps in a variety of configurations and rubber. Ceramic or rubber/ceramic matrix Canoe Liners can be recommended based on the needs of the application.

3. And lastly, once a solid base is in place and bulk materials and fines are contained, additional dust control components, such as entry and exit dust curtains, dust-settling chambers, and end pieces, are added to effectively create a total system design.

When fitted with an Engineered Passive Dust Containment System, busy transfer areas can be well equipped to handle the demands of efficiency, productivity, and safety that are required.

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# Tartisan Nickel Corp. continues exploration and development at the company's flagship Kenbridge Nickel Project, Kenora Mining District, Ontario



*Since 1937, the property has been tested by 685 surface and underground drill holes totalling 120,000+ metres.*

Since 1937, the property has been tested by 685 surface and underground drill holes totalling 120,000 metres, including 40,000 metres drilled by Canadian Arrow Mines and 10,700 metres drilled by Tartisan in 2021.

"We drilled a few 1,000-metre-plus holes in 2021 and discovered that the mineralization does continue at depth and along strike," said Dean MacEachern, Tartisan's chief consulting geologist. "We believe that we can expand the resource and ultimately the mine life. As a result of the 2021 drill campaign, we were able to increase the resource by approximately 20 per cent. We also did borehole geophysics down drill holes, and drilled four holes at a site we call Kenbridge North, three kilometres away. Kenbridge North has similar geophysical and geological characteristics, so it's potentially a secondary deposit."

Tartisan has budgeted for an additional 8,500 plus metres of drilling in 2024 to continue to test the down-dip extension and bring some of the inferred resource into the indicated category.

**T**artisan Nickel Corp. (CSE:TN; OTCQB:TTSRF) has been busy preparing for the next phase of exploration and project development for its 100 per cent owned Kenbridge Nickel Project located in northwestern Ontario's Kenora Mining District. A Preliminary Economic Assessment Report (PEA) has outlined a low-cost, 1,500 to 2,000 tonne per day operation. The study forecasts an initial nine-year mine life, with pre-production capital costs of \$133.7 million and a potential start-up in three and a half years. Kenbridge

hosts a 622-metre shaft that was sunk by Falconbridge in 1954 and is in good condition.

The Kenbridge Nickel Project is located 70 kilometres southeast of Kenora and has a land position encompassing 42 km<sup>2</sup> including a mix of patented and unpatented claims. A 13-kilometre all-season access road to the property is scheduled for completion in autumn 2024. Grid power is within 40 kilometres of the site and a skilled workforce is locally available in Kenora, Dryden, Fort Frances, and neighbouring First Nations communities.

**“We drilled a few 1,000-metre-plus holes in 2021 and discovered that the mineralization does continue at depth and along strike.”**

The PEA, which is focused solely on the current underground mineral resource, reports 3.4 million tonnes of ore at 0.97 per cent nickel, 0.52 per cent copper, and 0.013 per cent cobalt in the measured and indicated categories. Inferred mineral resources total 1.0 million tonnes at 1.47 per cent nickel, 0.67 per cent copper, and 0.011 per cent cobalt.

“Kenbridge is a nickel sulphide, gabbro-hosted deposit similar to deposits that were mined in Lynn Lake, Man. by Sherritt Gordon Mines years ago,” MacEachern said. “At the top, it’s more disseminated and as you go deeper into the zone,


it gets more semi-massive and massive. It gets narrower but the grade gets better.”

MacEachern adds that one of the advantages of the project is that the existing infrastructure makes for a modest capex.

“It’s under \$140 million to get started. That compares with a lot of large low-grade deposits that will take \$2 billion to get going,” he said.

“There are some underground zones that are higher grade that can be brought into the mining plan early,” MacEachern added. “That will allow us to pay back the project in a little more than three years and

if the price of nickel moves up, so much the better. By focusing on the underground, we alleviate risk if the price of nickel goes down to, say, US \$6 per pound.”

Tartisan has support from the First Nations impacted by the project, Naotkamegwaning First Nation, formerly known as the Whitefish Bay First Nation, Northwest Angle #33 First Nation, and Northwest Angle #37 First Nation,” said Kenbridge project manager and First Nations Liaison Greg Edwards. “We maintain contact and look forward to our First Nations community engagement.” 

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# First Nations and Ontario one step closer to building all-season roads in the Ring of Fire

## New agreement includes commitment to build community infrastructure to support economic development in the area



*The Ontario government, Marten Falls First Nation, and Webequie First Nation signed an agreement to develop community infrastructure projects that could support future development opportunities.*



*The Community Development Agreement, signed during a ceremony at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto, commits the province to supporting shovel-ready infrastructure projects.*

The Ontario government, Marten Falls First Nation, and Webequie First Nation have signed an agreement to develop community infrastructure projects that could support future development opportunities in the area, including building all-seasons roads to the mineral-rich Ring of Fire region.

"I want to commend Marten Falls First Nation Chief Bruce Achneepineskum and Webequie First Nation Chief Cornelius Wabasse for their vision and commitment to building stronger communities," said George Pirie, Minister of Mines. "Their leadership and dedication to making progress on these important infrastructure projects is helping to build the corridor to prosperity. These roads would enhance the well-being and livelihoods of their communities by improving access to critical goods and services. The road network would also unlock the generational critical minerals potential in the Ring of Fire region."

The Community Development Agreement, signed during a ceremony at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto, commits the province to supporting shovel-ready infrastructure projects. Those could include construction of health and training facilities, recreation centres, commercial buildings, and labour force



development programs. These projects would help improve the well-being and readiness of the First Nations to participate fully in the construction of road projects that would connect the Ring of Fire critical mineral deposits with manufacturing hubs in the south, paving the way for made-in-Ontario supply chains for batteries and electric vehicles.

“As we move forward to now begin to consider road construction and operations, our commitment remains to be strong stewards of our lands and our environment, in balance with being active partners in growing economic opportunities and benefits for both our communities and other First Nation communities,” said Marten Falls First Nation Chief Bruce Achneepineskum.

“Being at the table in the planning and implementation of road development is key to building a foundation for our future, a future that reflects our community vision, well-being, and prosperity,” said Webequie First Nation Chief Cornelius Wabasse.

Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations are currently leading three Environmental Assessments (EA) for the roads that would become the corridor to prosperity. The agreement would commit the province and the two First Nations to work together to make decisions about the construction, ownership, and operation of the road network, should the EAs be approved. This collaboration will accelerate project timelines and ensure the communities are ready to participate in future economic

development opportunities in the region.

The three parties are all committed to ensuring their collaboration will continue to be grounded in the foundational principles of Bimachiowin. For Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations, that means enhancing the communities’ well-being and livelihoods, including a

focus on long-term sustainability to protect the land and the people’s future in a good way. Both Ontario and these two lead First Nations acknowledge the critical importance of further developing relationships and partnerships with neighbouring First Nations and to incorporate their interests into the plans for road construction. ⚒



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SCHULTE STRATHAUS 

# Rock Tech Lithium: Pioneering Ontario's lithium refining industry

**R**ock Tech Lithium Inc. (TSX-V: RCK) is an emerging cleantech company advancing lithium assets in both Canada and Germany to produce lithium hydroxide for the electric vehicle (EV) supply chain. Rock Tech plans to build lithium converters at the doorstep of its customers, guaranteeing supply-chain transparency and just in time delivery.

In a ground-breaking move, Rock Tech has unveiled its plans to develop Ontario's lithium refining landscape and establish the

province's first lithium converter in Red Rock, Ont. Leveraging its unparalleled expertise through the successful development of Europe's first lithium converter in Germany and its proximity to its Georgia Lake Project, Rock Tech's venture promises to position Red Rock, Ont. as Canada's premier lithium refining hub.

Following a thorough site selection process, Rock Tech has designated the former Norampac paper mill site in Red Rock, Ont. as the optimal location for the lithium converter. This strategic decision is strengthened by a

binding Cooperation Agreement inked between Rock Tech and the BMI Group, entailing a long-term lease for the converter location and a substantial CAD \$5.5 million investment by BMI into the project.

The selection of Red Rock for Ontario's first lithium converter was informed by multiple factors, including the availability of critical infrastructure, support from the local community and Indigenous partners, and its proximity to Rock Tech's mining assets, notably the Georgia Lake Project.

Rock Tech's Georgia Lake Project, situated approximately 60 kilometres north of Red Rock, boasts significant lithium resources. A recent Pre-Feasibility Study underscores its potential, revealing an Indicated Mineral Resource of 10.6 million tonnes of lithium oxide and an additional Inferred Mineral Resource of 4.2 million tonnes of lithium oxide. With a pre-tax net present value of CAD \$290 million, the Georgia Lake Project represents a pivotal component of Rock Tech's vertically integrated strategy, aligning mining and concentration with downstream converter operations.

Most recently, exploration efforts have unlocked potential in the East Conway area of the Georgia Lake Project through the discovery of multiple spodumene pegmatite showings. Numerous



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lithium-bearing pegmatites were discovered over the 2023 summer field program along a North-South corridor approximately one kilometer in length. Rock Tech plans to further its exploration in the region along with other high-priority targets within the property to increase its mineral resources.

The Georgia Lake Project's strategic significance is highlighted by its integral role in Rock Tech's broader vision of advancing collaboration within the North American EV supply chain. By deepening its vertically integrated approach, Rock Tech aims to capitalize on emerging opportunities and strengthen its position as a key player in the lithium market.

Meanwhile, Rock Tech's converter business extends beyond the Canadian borders, with plans to build Europe's first lithium converter in Guben, Germany. Rock Tech broke ground on its lithium hydroxide monohydrate (LHM) converter in March 2023. Site access has been secured and basic engineering for the plant has been completed through a series of three thorough engineering studies including the recent Front-End Loading Stage 3 (FEL 3) study. The FEL 3 study, completed in May 2023, demonstrated a post-tax NPV (eight per cent) of EUR 1,194 million (USD 1,246 million) with a post-tax IRR of 22.3 per cent. Furthermore, Rock Tech's key customer for the Guben converter, Mercedes-Benz

AG, has signed a 10-year offtake agreement under which they are purchasing 10kt of LHM per year.

In conclusion, Rock Tech's recent milestones, from the ground-breaking Guben lithium converter to its vertically integrated Ontario operations, exemplify its commitment to building critical mineral supply chains in both Canada and Europe. As the company navigates regulatory hurdles and continues to forge strategic partnerships, it continues to set the pace in the lithium industry. Ultimately, Rock Tech's vision is to supply the battery industry with sustainable and locally produced lithium targeting a recycling rate of 100 per cent. ⚒

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# PDAC 2024 Convention welcomes the world to the premier mineral exploration and mining event in Toronto

**T**he Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) was thrilled to welcome 26,926 participants to Toronto for the best business, investment, and networking opportunities in the mineral exploration and mining industry. With more than 1,100 exhibitors, including governments, companies, and leading experts from around the world, PDAC 2024 was one of the largest events in the association's history.

"PDAC 2024 carried forward the convention's 92-year legacy, serving as the premier venue for unveiling new trends, technological innovations, and industry discussions," said Ray Goldie, PDAC president. "Once again, PDAC was proud to showcase a rich array of programming including capital markets, Indigenous relations, student and early career development, and sustainability."

Keynote speakers included Jakob Stausholm, CEO, Rio Tinto; Michael Stanley, Mining Lead, The World Bank;

Denise Johnson, group president, Resource Industries Caterpillar Inc.; and Wojtek Wodzicki, the Lundin Group Vicuña exploration team.

The convention provided a venue for dialogue between industry and government. PDAC's leadership seized the opportunity to underscore the important role public policy has in supporting the competitiveness of Canada's mineral sector.

"Canada is poised to lead the green transition as the supplier of choice for responsibly sourced critical minerals," said Goldie. "It is imperative we bolster our critical mineral wealth, and we cannot ignore the foundations of our mineral industry."

Thank you to everyone who participated in PDAC 2024, including our volunteers, speakers, sponsors, and participants. We look forward to welcoming you back March 2-5, 2025 for PDAC 2025.

Visit [www.pdac.ca/convention](http://www.pdac.ca/convention) for more information. 

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# New hazard alert on cyanide use in mining operations

To help raise awareness, Workplace Safety North (WSN), in collaboration with its mining advisory committee, has introduced a new hazard alert and information sheet.

“The goal of these new tools is to talk about the potential dangers linked to cyanide use in mining,” said Judit Nelson, WSN Industrial Hygiene Specialist. “The plan is to teach workers, communities, and industry about the risks of cyanide and how to lower the chances of being exposed to it.”

## GETTING TO KNOW CYANIDE IN MINING

Cyanide is a chemical widely used in the mining industry for processes like gold and silver extraction. It can pose significant risks to both the environment and human health.

The hazard alert and information sheet provide a comprehensive overview of potential health effects and safety measures to protect workers.

## SOURCES OF CYANIDE EXPOSURE

During the extraction process, cyanide is added to create alkaline water, aiding in the extraction of precious metals. The high concentrations of cyanide in solutions can pose risks to human health and the environment. Also, when pure cyanide is exposed to air, it breaks down into compounds like nitrate, leading to environmental and health problems.

## DETAILED GUIDANCE ON SAFETY MEASURES

“The information sheet goes into more detail about using cyanide in mining,” Nelson said. “It’s a guide on how to deal with this chemical safely.”

Cyanide is a quick-acting and possibly deadly chemical that can be a crystal, liquid, or colourless gas. Exposure to cyanide through skin, eyes, and breath can cause symptoms such as agitation, confusion, weakness, headache, nausea, vomiting, respiratory changes, seizures, and coma.

Small amounts can lead to dizziness, rapid breathing, and weakness, while large amounts may cause convulsions, unconsciousness, respiratory failure and, ultimately, death. The short-term and long-term effects can include skin and eye irritation, breathing problems, and harm to important organs.

“To minimize the hazards associated with cyanide exposure, a thorough risk assessment and safety measures are crucial,” Nelson said. “Controlling spillage during transfer and system failures within mine sites is essential. Personal protective equipment, including respirators, chemical-resistant gloves, suits, and eye protection, must be used to ensure worker safety.

“Diagnosing cyanide exposure involves blood and urine tests, although results may only indicate recent exposure. Immediate treatment is recommended if exposure is

suspected, as every minute counts. The treatment varies based on the route of exposure – eye contact, skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion – and involves specific actions to minimize harm.”


## IMPACT AND WHAT COMES NEXT

The new hazard alert and information sheet are an important step to help make mining safer. By presenting technical information in accessible language, the goal is to effectively communicate with diverse audiences, including workers, communities, and industry.

“The next steps involve keeping up education and awareness so everyone connected to mining knows about cyanide risks and can take the right prevention steps,” Nelson said.

The WSN Workplace Environmental Technical Advisory Committee, made up of members from the mining industry as well as technical advisors provided guidance for these resources, along with WSN staff Philip Dirige, Senior Specialist Ground Control, and Judit Nelson, Industrial Hygiene Specialist.

Download and share the Cyanide Hazard Alert and Information Sheet at <https://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/en/resource/cyanide-hazard-alert-and-information-sheet>.

For more information, contact Judit Nelson, WSN Industrial Hygiene Specialist, at [juditnelson@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:juditnelson@workplacesafetynorth.ca). 



# Adapt and achieve: Navigating exploration's ever-shifting frontiers

Laurion Mineral Exploration Inc.'s transformative journey into uncharted territories of opportunity has included pioneering a "one project, one focus" strategy. Our mission is to elevate the Ishkoday project through robust exploration strategies into an economic asset that may unlock millions/billions of dollars' worth of metal and minerals. This journey isn't just about profits – it's about creating enduring value for every stakeholder, reshaping the narrative of prosperity in the heart of Ontario's Greenstone region.

Laurion's Ishkoday Project is a mid-stage exploration project development company focused primarily on its wholly owned 57.43 km<sup>2</sup> flagship property with a rich history of past production Ishkoday, located 220 kilometres north-east of Thunder Bay.

"Our strategic vision centers

on a vast six kilometres by 2.5 kilometres mineralized target area within the heart of our Ishkoday project," said Cynthia Le Sueur-Aquin, chief executive officer and president of Laurion Mineral Exploration Inc. "The Ishkoday Project stands as one of the few remaining 'low hanging fruits,' boasting surface mineralization that has potential extension on strike and at depth."

What sets Ishkoday apart is not just its mineral potential, but its strategic location, offering unparalleled access to essential services and amenities via excellent road networks. As we advance towards transforming Ishkoday into a thriving opportunity, we're not merely shaping the future of the industry – we are laying the groundwork through robust exploration for a new era of prosperity and bringing much needed growth to the Greenstone

Region and its Indigenous communities.

In the dynamic world of the mineral sector, the intricacies and significance of exploration often go unnoticed by many. Yet, the discovery of a mineral deposit holds the potential to revolutionize industries, from technology and housing to sustainable green initiatives.

Having to navigate cyclical cycles makes it very difficult to deliver consistency to employees. Junior exploration companies thus keep our overheads down by retaining expertise from the private sector. These are the relationships we develop and maintain. As Laurion expands and aims to retain a vital workforce, we acknowledge that our most valuable business asset lies in embracing innovative approaches to attract talent and foster diversity, particularly within an underutilized female



**Having to navigate cyclical cycles makes it very difficult to deliver consistency to employees. Junior exploration companies thus keep our overheads down by retaining expertise from the private sector.**



demographic. Moreover, we are committed to exploring avenues for meaningful engagement, employment, and collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Over the past decade, navigating through turbulent waters of “boom and bust cycles” has become the litmus test for survival in our industry. Those who’ve thrived are the ones agile enough to discern shifting needs and swiftly adapt.

Discussing Laurion’s unique position among its peers, Cynthia Le Sueur-Aquin highlights the paramount challenge of effective people management and the imperative of evolving skill sets. Recognizing the diverse generational dynamics at play, she emphasizes the importance of adapting management styles to foster cohesion and growth. Continuously self-critical and holding high standards for herself and her team, Le Sueur-Aquin acknowledges her pivotal role in shaping and nurturing Laurion’s evolving corporate culture.


Rejecting the notion of conformity

and collective thought, Le Sueur-Aquin underscores the invaluable expertise of her team as the cornerstone of the Laurion’s ongoing success. With a comprehensive grasp of both macroeconomic trends and the nuanced intricacies of the mineral sector, Laurion remains adept at securing funding amidst fluctuating market conditions and abbreviated mining cycles.

In the dynamic landscape of exploration, few topics hold as much weight and significance as the concept of social license to mine and sustainable development. From fostering inclusive recruitment practices to engaging in meaningful negotiations with Indigenous communities, the actions we take in these realms profoundly impact our ability to operate responsibly and earn the trust of all our stakeholders.

Today’s CEOs are tasked with a multi-faceted role that extends far beyond traditional boundaries. As the primary representative of the corporation, they must embody its values and vision, serving as the

guiding force behind every decision made. This involves not only understanding the broader context of Laurion’s operations within the Greenstone Region, but also actively shaping the interactions that will define our relationship within our communities for years to come.

While the importance of social license may not be immediately apparent during the exploration phase, it remains a critical consideration as we pave the way for future mining endeavors. As a CEO, it’s imperative to chart a course that not only facilitates growth and economic opportunities but also respects and enhances the moral, spiritual, social, and cultural fabric of our communities. Mining, much like farming, is an essential pillar supporting life and economies. Without it, the very foundations of our existence would crumble. It’s a stark reminder that if something cannot be grown, it must be mined – underscoring the indispensable role that mining plays in sustaining and enriching our lives. 

# Air Separation Technologies Inc.: The experts on dust collection in the mining industry



**T**he Cote Gold Mine has poured its first gold bar, as IAmGold's new flagship operation near Gogama swings into production after nearly a decade of development.

One of the key aspects in the massive project's construction – a 210-hectare open-pit mine with an 18-year operational expectancy – was satisfying federal and provincial environmental assessments, which called for "significant measures to be taken to minimize dust creation at the plant site and to utilize dust collection devices where practical," according to the IAmGold project summary.

Air Separation Technologies Inc., part of the AST Group of Companies, a Burlington, Ont.-based operation offering turnkey

air quality solutions, took a lead role in spearheading the project's dust collection systems – which included engineering, planning, installation, and commissioning of 12 Donaldson dust collectors and associated ductwork.

With its team of engineers, service, and mechanical technicians offering more than 35 years of industry expertise, AST Group is a leader in steering industrial air-quality projects to the finish line and beyond.

"We are able to provide the whole package from start to finish – from engineering to ductwork, installation, electrical, commissioning, and aftermarket service," said Ricardo Collantes, an AST project manager. "Very few companies can supply the whole

package. Some companies supply equipment, but don't install it; others may not provide engineering or support. In our case, we can do the whole thing."

AST Group is the exclusive supplier of Donaldson dust collectors in Ontario, with a growing list of clients in the mining industry that includes Vale, GoldCorp, Harte Gold, and others.

As Donaldson stays up to date with dust collection technologies and equipment, AST Group can offer refined or retrofitted solutions tailored to any project. In the mining industry, which typically features difficult environments operating around the clock, these refined solutions can lead to operational efficiencies and cost-savings.



While traditional (box-shaped) baghouse dust collectors are in place in many industrial facilities, AST Group can utilize Donaldson's RF Baghouse Dust Collectors – energy-efficient, high-volume collectors well-suited to mining environments.

The RF collector's cylindrical shape prohibits dust accumulation and utilizes the Cyclonic Pre-Separation process to separate large volumes of heavy dust before reaching the filters, allowing the collector to handle higher dust volumes.

The single-valve RF collector combines a cyclone precleaner and baghouse into one unit, and features its own powerful and energy-efficient cleaning system, eliminating the need for installation of an external air compressor to clean the bag filters. The use of oval-shaped Dura-Life "Twice the Life" bag filters, as opposed to rounded bags that cannot flex and can be prone to ripping, means more operating efficiency.

The result is often a dust collector with a smaller footprint that works more efficiently and requires less maintenance. The RF collector's cleaning system uses 62 per cent less energy than similar compressed-air cleaning systems and results in energy-cost savings of nearly 50 per cent.


AST Group also has expertise in tailoring projects to make use of an existing dust collection system. As a common example, if a dust collector is in place but plant capacity has expanded to exceed the collector's capacity, AST Group can retrofit a collector by changing filtration from bags to pleated

cartridge filters that allow the collector to handle more air without changing the vessel itself.

Since AST Group's portion of the Cote Gold site preparation was completed, Collantes has found himself more in demand in the mining industry.

"We're spending more time training

and providing education to more companies in the industry so they can implement better projects," Collantes said. "There are not a lot of people who stay in this industry for a long time, but we've been doing this for more than 30 years."

For more information, visit [www.astcanada.ca](http://www.astcanada.ca). 



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veteran Greg MacDonald, GMES was born out of passion for excellence and a strong commitment to serving the unique demands of the Sudbury and surrounding area. Since then, our company has evolved under the leadership of Andrew Balfe, ensuring continuity and an unwavering focus on delivering a safe, superior, and transparent service to our customers. Our current location, situated at 2755 Lasalle Blvd., boasts an 18,000 square foot facility equipped with state-of-the-art mechanical and welding capabilities.

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*This year's Canadian Mining Expo takes place June 5 to 6 at the McIntyre Community Complex in Timmins.*

# The Canadian Mining Expo: Where the world comes to explore

**T**he "Big Event" Canadian Mining Expo (CME) is back larger than ever and there's no better time to shine a spotlight on the host city – Timmins. The event takes place June 5 to 6, 2024 at the iconic McIntyre Community Complex.

Timmins is in the heart of Canada's golden region, along the Golden Highway (better known as the Abitibi-Greenstone Belt), which contains some of the world's largest deposits of gold, silver, copper, and zinc. In addition, platinum group metals and industrial minerals such as talc can be found in the region. The area stretches from Val D'or Quebec,

through Kirkland Lake, to Timmins and Gogama and west to Chapleau, Wawa, Marathon, and beyond.

Since gold was first mined in the area in 1910, Timmins has developed into a prominent global hub for metal and mineral mining and exploration. Almost half of all mines in operation or under development in northern Ontario are in the Timmins region and, given the fact that 38 per cent of the total procurement of goods and services by mines goes to suppliers located close to mine sites, the Timmins advantage is clear.

The Canadian Mining Expo is held within a geographical region where

there are some 54 operating mines within 300 to 400 kilometers. It just makes sense as to why Timmins and the Canadian Mining Expo have grown this event to over 400 indoor and outdoor booths and attracts more of a global audience each year it operates. The event has established a slogan recently: "Where the World Comes to Explore."

Timmins is at the center of a market opportunity in mining.

And it is not just northern Ontario; each year, delegates from the junior and producing mines that are in northwestern Quebec grow the audience. An event like this has



so much to offer the procurement staff from within those mining operations. It becomes profitable for a mine to send its key staff members to these types of events as it can help them source new technologies, products, and services, thus helping them increase their production, reduce their costs and downtime, and do it in a safe manner.

Timmins is the largest producer of gold, which is Ontario's highest valued mineral production at over \$5 billion annually. Timmins' central location between northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec mining centers makes it an ideal location for equipment manufacturers and

service providers to access both Ontario and Quebec markets.

One of the most prominent items in the Timmins region is the strong relationship local mines have with First Nations groups. The Timmins area has a very strong indigenous engagement with mining, which is very positive as the indigenous partners in the region are very entrepreneurial. They want to be part of mining development and see their businesses grow.

Trends come and go, but there's a new trend that looks like it is going to be around for quite some time: partnerships. Samsung partnering with Canada Nickel; the Ontario government partnering with Marten

Falls and Webequie; Mitsubishi and Frontier Lithium; Sibelco and Avalon Advanced Minerals; and the list goes on and on.

Glenn Dredhart, president of Canadian Trade-Ex and publisher of Mining Life & Exploration News Magazine, is the organizer of the Canadian Mining Expo.

"The Canadian Mining Expo has been promoting the mining operations, junior mining, supply and service companies, education and training institutions, investment information, new trends, technology, and the inclusiveness of First Nations in mining for the past 30 years." Dredhart said.



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*The Canadian Mining Expo is held within a geographical region where there are some 54 operating mines within 300 to 400 kilometers.*

This year, that tradition continues as everything that is mining will be on display at the McIntyre Complex, which includes two arena facilities (one skating and the other a curling rink), an auditorium, ballroom, restaurant, breakout rooms, and the Lion's Den Lounge, along with a large

outdoor space for large equipment and pavilions. Timmins is one of northern Ontario's only facilities capable of hosting such a large event.

"We're excited, the industry is excited, and Timmins is excited," Dredhart said. The Canadian

Mining Expo is the premier mining trade show in Ontario and is a boots on the ground type of event that is supported by the mining communities that surround it."

There are many activities to curb one's appetite while attending the event.

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This year introduces the Indigenous Partnerships Forum, which is hosted by Wabun Tribal Council. Meet with and hear from successful Indigenous companies, their partnerships, and processes. Connect with government officials, industry leaders, the Minister of Mines, and Indigenous leaders and organizations who have fostered profitable and sustainable business partnerships.

The very popular and well attended Projects in the Pipeline Conference will showcase Canada's largest gold producers and active juniors (future producers). The Minister of Mines, George Pirie, will also be giving the Ontario State of Mining Address during lunch. You will hear from companies such as Onyx Gold, Gowest Gold, STLR Gold Inc., Canada Nickel Company, Agnico Eagle, Equinox Gold's Greenstone Mine, GFG Resources, EV Nickel, Galleon Gold, and more.

For those planning to attend the mining expo in Timmins, we recommend you register now for the individual events, as space is limited. Visit the website to see what events are sold out. To view the complete agenda and complete your registration online, visit: [www.canadianminingexpo.com](http://www.canadianminingexpo.com).

For group registrations, call 1-705-264-2251 and ask for Rhonda Larochelle or email [info@canadiantradex.com](mailto:info@canadiantradex.com).

Upon registration your name will be automatically entered into a free draw for a chance to win one ounce of gold. 



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# Whistleblowing's significance in preserving ethical standards in mining

By Shannon Walker



*Shannon Walker is the founder of WhistleBlower Security Inc. (WBS) and executive VP of Strategy at Case IQ.*

**A**t its core, ethical mining rests on the assumption that mining companies will implement and abide by clear policies to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all workers. Provincial, territorial, and national laws and regulations create a complex framework for mines in Canada to operate under. Maintaining compliance and a high standard of ethical behaviour requires being alerted to any wrongdoing or compliance concerns at every site before they can manifest into larger safety issues.

## ETHICAL STANDARDS IN MINING

Through the Safe, Healthy, and Respectful Workplaces Protocol, the Mining Association of Canada works to bridge territorial gaps in regulations and raise the standard for ethical mines across the country. Commitments and Accountability, Safety and Health Management Systems, Psychological Safety and Respectful Behaviour, Training, Behaviour, and Culture, Monitoring and Reporting, and Physical Safety and Health Performance are highlighted as core pillars with a set standard of conditions for mining companies to adhere to.





Even with comprehensive regulations in place, wrongdoing can still easily fly under the radar, especially when multiple employees are involved or covering for each other, or if the issue is condoned or conducted by supervisors or upper management. In these situations, it can be extremely intimidating for any one employee to step forward and speak up about the issue at hand, even if they know it is wrong. When these issues go unreported or are swept under the rug due to insufficient protections of reporters, ethical issues can plague mining sites, leading to unsafe conditions and hostile work environments.

### HOW DO WHISTLEBLOWER HOTLINES HELP?

As suggested, when it comes time to speak up about a workplace issue, feeling safe and secure in the act of speaking up is paramount. Not every employee will feel comfortable bringing concerns to their manager, especially if that person is implicated in the incident they are reporting. Alternatively, these employees may be encouraged to go to HR; however, this can also



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## Working toward ethical mines nationwide is an ongoing effort. Implementing mechanisms to facilitate on-site and off-site reporting that employees feel safe utilizing is paramount for addressing concerns efficiently.

be uncomfortable, hard to access, and insecure for employees, causing them to avoid reporting altogether.

Having an anonymous outlet, such as a whistleblower hotline, is the answer for many companies that need an alternative feedback mechanism to regular internal HR checks.

When thinking about making an incident report or effectively “blowing the whistle” on a workplace issue, many people picture a hotline. These phone systems are one of the more traditional reporting systems and are reliable methods for quickly bringing issues forward. However, with more emphasis put on digital platforms in every industry, having an omnichannel system that also utilizes email and web intake forms can make your system more accessible for all employees at all times.

Where possible, secure platforms that maintain anonymity for the reporter are vital elements of whistleblower reporting systems. Having a protocol in place that ensures the right people are notified of an incident report and that it is escalated according to severity will also be crucial for maintaining employee confidence in the system.

### BEST PRACTICES FOR HOTLINE IMPLEMENTATION

When implementing a new process at a mining site or even across multiple sites, top-down training will be essential to ensure everyone is comfortable and aware of how to use the reporting system. Within training, management and supervisors should aim to achieve the following:


- Every employee knows how to use the tool effectively.
- Employees feel comfortable using the tool without fear of retaliation.
- Any privacy concerns around employee anonymity and data collection are addressed.

- Have a system in place to audit employee reports and collect data around usage rates, response times, and common concerns brought forward.

During training, companies should focus on promoting a speak-up culture, which encourages employees to bring forward concerns, either anonymously or to supervisors, no matter how big or small. Promoting a speak-up culture happens over time, and often requires supervisors to lead by example.

One preventative measure you can put in place to ensure people are further encouraged to speak up is an anti-retaliation policy. This policy will effectively outline that no employee can be reprimanded, ostracized, or retaliated against for speaking up against wrongdoing that they witness. In a perfect world, every reporting employee can stay anonymous. However, should anything happen that reveals the identity of an employee, they should not fear their employment or status in the workplace.

Working toward ethical mines nationwide is an ongoing effort. Implementing mechanisms to facilitate on-site and off-site reporting that employees feel safe utilizing is paramount for addressing concerns efficiently. Remember, the importance of comprehensive training when enforcing the use of whistleblower hotlines. Ultimately, the strength of a mining company’s ethical practice hinges on its ability to listen to and act upon the concerns of its workforce, making whistleblowing not just a mechanism for reporting but a foundational element for ethical governance and sustainable success in the mining sector.

*Shannon Walker is the founder of WhistleBlower Security Inc. (WBS) and executive VP of Strategy at Case IQ. WBS provides ethics, compliance, and loss prevention hotlines, along with IntegrityCounts, a proprietary case management platform for organizations globally. Walker frequently speaks around the world on whistleblowing, ethics, corporate culture, and diversity. *