



Mining and Sustainable Development –

“Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of future. Far from requiring the cessation of economic growth, it recognizes that the problems of poverty and underdevelopment cannot be solved unless we have a new era of growth.”

REPORT OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, OUR COMMON FUTURE

Economic development in many parts of the world has been closely tied to mining. Mining can provide an economic basis for sustainable development and a foundation for basic infrastructure (i.e. roads, railways, ports, etc.) for future development.

In the “new economy,” mining provides a comparative advantage that can be used to create sustained growth. The mining cycle, from exploration to mine rehabilitation and everything in between, has many important links to other industries and sectors, including banking, geology, transportation, remote sensing, mine construction, drilling technology, legal services and environmental management – just to name a few. Together, the primary industries and allied industries create business, employment opportunities and a platform that can be used for achieving economic diversification and creating sustainable development.

Sustainable development is about economic activity in an environmental and social context. Many nations and regions have created sustained growth by developing their natural resources (i.e. mining and minerals) because they have made the transition from reliance on their resources and the export of raw materials, to further processing

of these resources in order to create higher value-added products and services.

One approach that has attracted substantial attention around the world is called the cluster approach. A cluster is defined as a group of inter-related industries and institutions that not only compete, but also cooperate. The cluster approach requires that government, industry, NGOs, suppliers, and communities work together. Few companies have all of the necessary resources and skills to develop unique products and services on their own; working in a cluster provides access to the critical mass needed to develop the value-added products and services.

Clusters drive wealth creation primarily through export of goods and services. For example, the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster drives wealth by exporting goods and services produced in Ontario including primary industries, allied industries, associations, suppliers, financiers, education and vocational institutions, and communities... the list goes on.

The end result is that natural resources (i.e. minerals) in the manner in which they are produced and used can have a beneficial impact on human society, its culture and its standard of living. Some of the



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A cluster is a concentration of inter-related organizations and institutions that mutually reinforce and enhance each other's competitive advantage by acting as each other's consumers, competitors, partners, suppliers and sources of research and development.

Ontario's industry cluster is a province-wide engine of sustainable wealth creation and tremendous growth potential.

Rich mineral endowment, untapped resources, new and expanded use of minerals and the increasing worldwide-demand for minerals, mining equipment, expertise and cutting-edge technologies together are creating new, unprecedented opportunities!



www.omicc.ca



Shebandowan Mine and Mill, Hagey Township, Ontario. Cottagers and anglers on Lake Shebandowan can appreciate Vale Inco's rehabilitation of the Shebandowan Mine and Mill site. After 17 years of operation, the site has been reintegrated into the surrounding natural environment ensuring enjoyment of the land and lake for many years to come.

ways to ensure mining supports sustainable development include:

- sharing the value realized from mining and mineral development production with the communities closer to the mines;
- promoting best practices that ensure environmental stewardship;
- engaging citizen/community support to ensure the kind of growth and environmental stewardship that sustains the quality of life and economic success; and
- educating and training the next generation of employees to meet the needs of a modern mining industry.

In terms of sustainable development, mining/mineral resources are not renewed in the traditional sense; however, the practices used to extract these resources can be sustained. The key is to ensure that non-renewable mineral resources are used efficiently through recycling and re-use, and that the economic benefits these resources bring are converted into other benefits – human and social capital that can outlive resource dependency.

“Sustainable development is maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve lifestyles and feelings of well-being on one hand, and preserving the natural resources and eco systems on which we, and future generations, depend.”

The Global Development Research Centre, <http://www.gdrc.org>. ☒



Shebandowan – Moose.



Falconbridge Sudbury Smelter, Ontario; Nickel, Copper and Cobalt – Xstrata. Following nearly eight decades of mine and smelter operation, cattails and reedgrass now cover 95% of 170 hectares of active mark land around the Xstrata Smelter. Plants act a final biological filter between the smelter and surrounding land, and also provide habitat for a vibrant wetland community. Canada geese, mallards, black ducks, great blue herons, red winged blackbirds, killdeer, muskrats and moose now frequent the marsh.


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