

## **ONTARIO RESEARCH FUND INVESTS \$2.24 MILLION IN LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY-LED RESEARCH FOR MINING**

### ***Smart Underground Monitoring and Integrated Technologies (SUMIT) for Deep Mining***

**SUDBURY, ON (July 27, 2011)** – Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI) is pleased to announce that the provincial government is supporting mining research with an investment of \$2.24 million from the Ministry of Research and Innovation’s Ontario Research Fund-Research Excellence program (ORF-RE). The announcement was made by Rick Bartolucci, Sudbury MPP at a news conference held earlier today.

Laurentian University will be working with colleagues at the University of Toronto and Queen’s University in a broad research effort to improve both safety and efficiency in deep mining. CEMI has been instrumental in the design of the research effort and will play a key role in ensuring its successful implementation.

The funding will support the work of more than 75 researchers and students in a project called Smart Underground Monitoring and Integrated Technologies (SUMIT) for Deep Mining, with Laurentian University as the lead applicant in the initiative. Together with contributions from industry and institutional partners, the project is valued at \$6,706,110.

“This research is critical to the future of mining as well as the ongoing prosperity of our northern communities,” said Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci, in outlining the funding commitment. “Investing in SUMIT research will help strengthen Northern Ontario’s economic development for many generations to come, a demonstration of our government’s ongoing support of the North.”

SUMIT’s goal is to apply smart engineering principles to make game-changing advances in the deeper mining operations of the future. Its 14 core projects are focussed on three major challenges of sustainable mining at deeper elevations: Mitigating GeoRisk (safer ground); Rapid Underground Development (more efficient excavation), and Mine Sustainability (better management of energy, materials, and mine waste).

“The kind of research being undertaken by Laurentian and its partners is critically important to the future of the mining industry in Canada and abroad,” said Laurentian University President Dominic Giroux. “There is no question that mines will go deeper in future years as ores are exhausted at current levels. Laurentian will be in the forefront of making that work both safer and more productive.”

Dr. Peter Kaiser, lead researcher for SUMIT, Chair of Rock Mechanics and Ground Control at Laurentian and President/CEO of CEMI, added, “We appreciate the McGuinty government’s commitment to this project and are gratified to have the full endorsement of mining industry partners for this research. By leveraging the collective expertise and knowledge at Laurentian, Queen’s University, and the University of Toronto, we will be able to achieve game-changing knowledge capacity in how the world designs mines and controls mining operations.” Kaiser explained that in the SUMIT network, active mines will serve as “living laboratories” so that researchers can test computer-modeled and early-stage innovations in the underground work environment and produce tested solutions.

# Press Release



## **About Laurentian University**

Laurentian University is one of the fastest growing universities in Canada in the past decade. With its main campus in Sudbury, it now offers a growing number of programs in Barrie to the 1,200 students located on that campus. Laurentian is a bilingual university with a tricultural mandate to support Aboriginal students. The University was ranked first in Canada among primarily undergraduate universities for its sponsored research income for two years in a row.

Laurentian is the first school outside the US accredited for its forensic science program. Laurentian has one of the highest post-graduation employment rates in Ontario and receives high recognition for its enviable class sizes which offers the lowest faculty-to-student ratios in Canada. For more information on Laurentian University visit [www.laurentian.ca](http://www.laurentian.ca)

## **About CEMI**

The Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI) directs and coordinates step-change innovation in the areas of exploration, deep mining, integrated mine engineering, environment and sustainability for the metal mining industry. With a seasoned team of program directors, CEMI scopes and manages industry-focused applied R&D projects that extend from engineering and geology to include mechanical engineering, biology, chemistry, bio-chemistry and more. CEMI offers a single point of entry for collaboration, knowledge resources and human resource capital, creating greater capacity for excellence in innovation and greater value to the economic development of the metal mining industry.

CEMI's mandate is to deliver innovation to the mineral industry, from idea to implementation, with one of the most experienced R&D leadership teams in the country, and core competencies in deep mining, mineral exploration, integrated mine engineering, rapid development, and sustainability. For more information about the SUMIT program, visit [www.miningexcellence.ca](http://www.miningexcellence.ca).

-30-

## **Reference**

Shannon Katary  
Marketing & Communications  
Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation  
[skatary@miningexcellence.ca](mailto:skatary@miningexcellence.ca)  
705.673.6568 x 7