

PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

April 6, 2009

Laurentian University appoints Dr. Richard Smith as the CEMI-sponsored Research Chair in Exploration Geophysics

Sudbury (Ontario) - Laurentian University's Department of Earth Sciences (DES) and Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC), in conjunction with the Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI), are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Richard Smith as a CEMI-sponsored Research Chair in Exploration Geophysics. Dr. Smith will begin his duties on May 1, 2009.

In conjunction with industry partners Vale Inco, Xstrata, FNX, Wallbridge, MERC, and CEMI, Dr. Smith will conduct fundamental and applied research directed at the development of new methodologies and techniques for underground and surface exploration using electrical, magnetic, gravity and seismic surveys. Initially, Dr. Smith plans to focus on the Sudbury Structure where there is little information about the crust at depths >1.5 km and where there is an urgent need for the development of geophysical models and techniques to discover new deposits at depth, to more accurately image and assess in mine resources, and to explore for non-traditional PGE deposits within the footwall of the Sudbury Structure.

“Dr. Smith provides a much needed geophysical research component to our initiatives” stated Harold Gibson, MERC Director. “Dr. Smith will make a substantial contribution towards training the next generation of geoscientists through DES's undergraduate and graduate programs and nationally and internationally through MERC's intra Ontario university modular course curriculum”.

“CEMI is excited that it could respond to industry's need for research leadership in the geophysics area with the sponsorship of such an experienced and accomplished individual as Dr. Richard Smith”, stated Dr. Peter Kaiser, President and CEO of CEMI. “We are excited to work with Richard to build a strong Geophysics research group in Sudbury and to embark on projects that will enhance our ability to better understand orebody formation and thus find new mineral resources”. To date, CEMI's Board of Directors has committed \$1 million for the Chair.

Dr. Smith received a first-class honours degree in Economic Geology from the University of Adelaide, Australia. He obtained Masters degrees from the University of Adelaide and the University of Toronto and a PhD in Physics from the University of Toronto. After working for Lamontagne Geophysics in Toronto, he held a post-doctoral fellowship at Macquarie University in Australia. He has also worked in the exploration industry for Pasminco Ltd, mainly in Australia. Richard has worked in the geophysical survey business and has experience as a

research scientist in ground and airborne geophysics. Since 2000 he has been the R&D Manager at Fugro Airborne Surveys in Ottawa. Currently, he is the Chair of the Mining and Geothermal committee of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). He is also recognized internationally as a leading authority in airborne electromagnetic methods and in techniques for interpreting magnetic data.

Dr. Smith will be joining Laurentian university as a member of both DES and MERC. Both organizations collectively include graduate students, post-doctoral research fellows, faculty and two Senior Research Chairs (Magmatic Ore Deposits, Precambrian Geology), all of whom are actively involved in research projects directed at mineral exploration. Through local, regional and international linkages via the DES, MERC and CEMI, Dr. Smith will have unique opportunities in which to collaborate with global exploration companies and mining-related research centres around the world.

In his new role as CEMI-sponsored Research Chair in Exploration Geophysics, Richard is looking forward to working closely with the sponsors of the Chair (Vale Inco, Xstrata Nickel, FNX Mining, Wallbridge Mining, and the Ontario Government), teaching at Laurentian University, and participating in the exploration community in the Sudbury area and beyond.

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References

Andy McDonald
Chair, Department of Earth Sciences
Laurentian University
(705) 675-1151 ext 2266
amcdonald@laurentian.ca

Harold Gibson
MERC Director
Department of Earth Sciences
Laurentian University
(705) 675-1151 ext 2371
hgibson@laurentian.ca

Shannon Katary
Marketing and HR Specialist
Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI)
(705) 675-1151 ext 1329
skatary@miningexcellence.ca