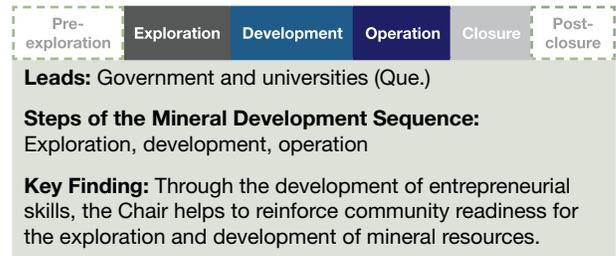


UQAT-UQAM Chair in Mining Entrepreneurship

Context

One of the challenges faced by the mining industry concerns the availability of entrepreneurs capable of ensuring the development and growth of businesses operating in the mining industry and the economic benefits resulting from the implementation of projects and the creation of wealth. The mining industry must be prepared to attract competent, young entrepreneurs with well-established management and entrepreneurial skills.



The UQAT-UQAM Chair in Mining Entrepreneurship (Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue/ Université du Québec à Montréal) is giving Quebec the means to develop the capabilities of existing entrepreneurs and the skills of new entrepreneurs in the mining industry through an academic program that integrates scientific, technical, and managerial aspects specific to mining companies, including financing.

The Chair receives financial support from the Quebec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. The research partnership with the Chair is one of the goals of Quebec's mineral exploration strategy, which consists of improving competitiveness and increasing the economic spinoffs of the mining sector. The Chair is especially concerned with promoting the emergence and development of new Quebec businesses involved in mineral exploration, operations, and refining.

Description of the Measures Implemented

The Chair in Mining Entrepreneurship brings together professors, researchers, and representatives of industry, associations, and the Quebec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. The activities of the Chair are designed to address broader objectives, including the creation and promotion of new Quebec businesses involved in the development of mineral resources. More specifically, the Chair is focused on identifying management and technology best practices, testing innovative management and operations models, supporting innovations in sustainable development, and training managers in the mining industry.

Research is carried out through partnerships involving professors and university students, various associations, industry, and the community. The Chair ensures knowledge transfer through seminars, symposia, forums, workshops, and courses, in addition to the publication of articles, research papers, and professional newsletters.

Results

The Chair in Mining Entrepreneurship has carried out research projects that have been instrumental in gaining a better understanding of the governance of small mining companies, innovations in the mining sector, performance indicators applicable to businesses, and the social acceptability of mining projects. It also conducts studies on governance models and analyses of relations with surrounding communities. In addition to being a leader in the research and development of mining business models, the Chair oversees student training and the dissemination of knowledge and expertise. The Chair thus contributes to the elaboration of a model for the responsible development of mineral resources that promotes respect for the environment while leading to the creation of wealth in communities.

In the fall of 2012, the Chair created a graduate program in management applied to the mining industry. This program allows participants to:

- Acquire knowledge on the operational environment of the mining industry and the companies that are part of it, i.e. all companies directly or indirectly involved in all stages of development of the mining process from exploration to the primary processing of minerals, as well as the businesses that provide goods and services resources to those companies;
- Acquire modern management skills in the specific context of businesses opening in the mining industry;
- Learn how to better reflect the principles of sustainable development in decision making; and
- Learn how to cope with the challenges related to the globalization of markets.

Currently, 17 students are attending the program at the UQAT.

Lessons Learned

The Chair's training approach adapted to the mining sector helps develop a local mining entrepreneurship and contributes to the success of mining exploration and mining development companies operating in Quebec.

For more information:

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Chair on Mining Entrepreneurship

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