

Press Release

[\(Communiqué en français\)](#)

Opening of parliamentary consultations on the mining industry

A Call to Make Quebec a Model for Responsible Mining

Quebec, May 12, 2010 - The Coalition - Quebec Meilleure Mine! Is calling on all members of Quebec's National Assembly and on Minister Serge Simard to rise above partisan politics and industry lobbying and make Quebec a model territory for mineral resource development. The parliamentary consultation that begins today in Quebec should inform a profound review of Quebec's mining regime that goes much further than the timid reforms proposed in the current Bill 79.

Ugo Lapointe, spokesperson for the Coalition stated that “ Quebec must address the huge gaps in the current mining laws including the need for improvements in the royalty regime, protection of citizens and the environment, and the responsible management of mineral resources. We are talking about a non-renewable resource, and the industry's contribution to the sustainable development of Quebec must be carefully examined.”

“Minister Simard should have the vision to create a mining law that all Quebecers can be proud of. We've been waiting to reform the mining act for a long time, with the last significant change taking place over 20 years ago. Many things have changed in that time and the law is now very out of date, and in need of concrete changes.” explained Nicole Kerouac, retired lawyer and advisor to the Malartic Community Monitoring Committee.

The commission has the opportunity to bring Quebec's mining sector into the 21st Century. Many notable events of the last few years have clearly demonstrated the mining act needs to be reformed down to its core” insisted Henri Jacob of Action Boreale.

“We'll be paying close attention to the presentations made by different organisations and are anticipating some substantial changes that will make Quebec a leader in equitable division of revenues, protection of citizen rights, rehabilitation of mine sites, and the responsible development of our mineral resources” commented Christian Simard of Nature Quebec.

Many of the Coalitions members will be presenting their own recommendations to the commission. “The commission will provide the Coalition members a number of opportunities to examine and expose the significant problems that exist in the current mining framework” explained Mr. Lapointe.

The Coalition will also present it's own submission featuring five principal recommendations to address the existing gaps and launch Quebec towards the responsible development of our mineral resources.

The Coalition is sharing its views and commentary about the commission online using a blog, facebook and Twitter: <http://loisurlesmines.wordpress.com/> and <http://twitter.com/quebecmines/>.

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La coalition *Québec meilleure mine !* a vu le jour au printemps 2008 et est aujourd'hui constituée de plus d'une quinzaine d'organismes représentant plusieurs milliers de membres au Québec. La coalition s'est donnée pour mission de revoir la façon dont on encadre et développe le secteur minier au Québec, dans le but de promouvoir de meilleures pratiques aux plans social et environnemental. La coalition juge essentiel d'engager et de maintenir un dialogue constructif avec les différents intervenants du secteur minier québécois, le gouvernement du Québec, de même qu'avec les communautés et les citoyens qui sont directement affectés.

Les membres actuels de la coalition : Action boréale Abitibi-Témiscamingue (ABAT) ▪ Association de protection de l'environnement des Hautes-Laurentides (APEHL) ▪ Coalition de l'ouest du Québec contre l'exploitation de l'uranium (COQEU) ▪ Comité vigilance Malartic (projet minier Osisko) ▪ Conseil central de la Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) en Abitibi-Témiscamingue et Nord-du-Québec ▪ Écojustice ▪ Forum de l'Institut des sciences de l'environnement de l'UQAM ▪ MiningWatch Canada ▪ Mouvement Vert Mauricie ▪ Nature Québec ▪ Professionnels de la santé pour la survie mondiale ▪ Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire ▪ Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE) ▪ Sept-Îles sans uranium ▪ Syndicat de la fonction publique du Québec (SFPQ) ▪ Société pour la nature et les Parcs (SNAP-Québec) ▪ *Tous nouveaux membres sont les bienvenus.*