



# Project CLEANS

## Cleanup of Abandoned Northern Sites

The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) is managing Project CLEANS (Cleanup of Abandoned Northern Sites) – a multi-year, multimillion-dollar project aimed at assessing and reclaiming Gunnar Mine, Lorado Mill and 36 satellite mine sites in northern Saskatchewan, near Lake Athabasca. The project is funded by the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada.



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[www.saskcleans.ca](http://www.saskcleans.ca)

These sites were mined by private companies from the early 1950s to the mid-1960s. When the mines were abandoned, there was little decommissioning. Because of this, the sites pose health and safety risks to the surrounding communities and environment.

SRC is working to safely reduce these risks. Remediation work is underway at several satellite sites, as well as at the Gunnar and Lorado mine and mill sites.

SRC's key focus is on securing hazardous materials and demolishing buildings that have deteriorated over time at the Gunnar Mine site. Demolition activities have included taking down more than 20 buildings and structures, cleaning up site debris and constructing a barrier around the open pit. SRC's experts are developing water treatment technologies to remove mine contaminants in the environment.



The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) has provided Smart Science Solutions™ for more than 60 years. We are Saskatchewan's leading provider of applied research, development and technology transfer. Our clients and partners benefit from our multi-disciplinary teams that work together to provide solutions to unique challenges in a variety of industries.

The goal of Project CLEANS is to conduct remediation activities in a manner that meets or exceeds regulatory requirements. Once the sites are cleaned up and made safe, environmental monitoring will be done to ensure remediation activities are successful.

Due to challenges associated with the short field season, cold climate, remote location and delicate ecosystems at the Project CLEANS sites, SRC is developing innovative remediation approaches to overcome these challenges.

SRC's broad scientific and technical expertise provides the technologies and skills required to meet the complex needs of remediation projects, such as Project CLEANS. SRC also has considerable experience working with Aboriginal groups, northern communities, industry and governments.

Our expertise includes:

- Environmental site assessment and remediation
- Groundwater and surface water quality assessment
- Water treatment technologies
- Organic, inorganic and radiochemical analysis
- Toxicity testing

SRC also holds a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licence for a SLOWPOKE reactor, which it has operated safely in Saskatoon for more than thirty years.

## *Community Involvement*

Involvement of local communities is key to successful remediation projects. SRC's Community Liaison maintains working relationships with local residents and their leadership. SRC holds regular community meetings to provide updates and receive feedback from northern residents. Key concerns addressed through this engagement process include human and environmental health, employment and business opportunities, rehabilitation options and potential site end-uses.

A Project Review Committee (PRC), with representatives from Black Lake, Camsell Portage, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids, Hatchet Lake, Uranium City and the Prince Albert Grand Council (Athabasca Vice Chief), has been formed. The purpose of the PRC is to provide a forum that ensures involvement by the local communities with interests in the project.

## *Health & Safety*

Safety is SRC's top priority. The existing mine and mill sites have hazards related to structures, contaminants and low-levels of gamma radiation and ambient radon. SRC is focused on safe work practices and is working with regulatory agencies to ensure the safety of workers and the public during the project.

Additional information and project updates are available online at [www.saskcleans.ca](http://www.saskcleans.ca).