

# Research Chair on Northern Biodiversity in a Mining Context

## Objective 1 - B

### WHAT IS THE BIODIVERSITY THAT CAN BE FOUND ON MINING SITES?

#### Who we are

We are a group of university researchers, mainly from the University of Quebec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT), who want to better understand the biodiversity of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Eeyou Istchee-James Bay and better understand the influence of mining activities on this biodiversity.

#### What are we doing ?

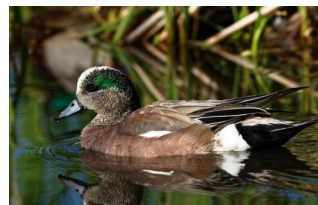
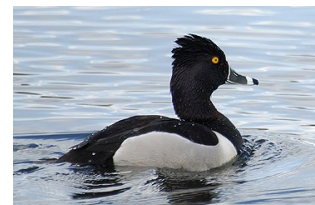
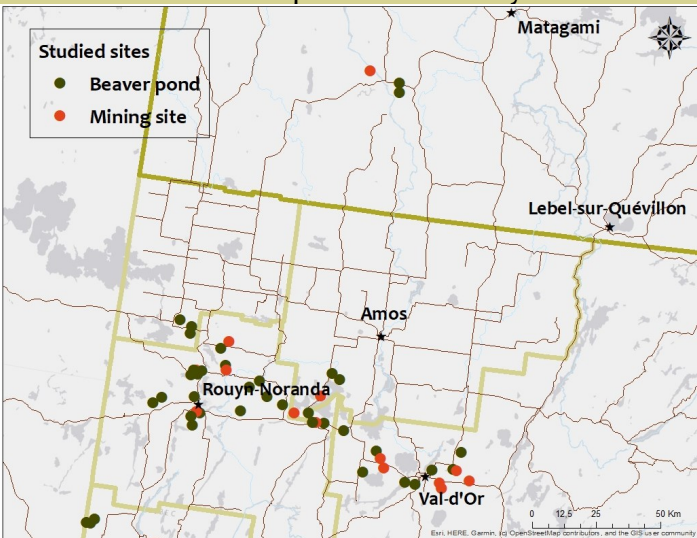
To answer this question, the research team studies mining sites directly. The researchers look at the species present and try to better understand the differences between mining sites and natural environments. Could some species prefer mining sites?



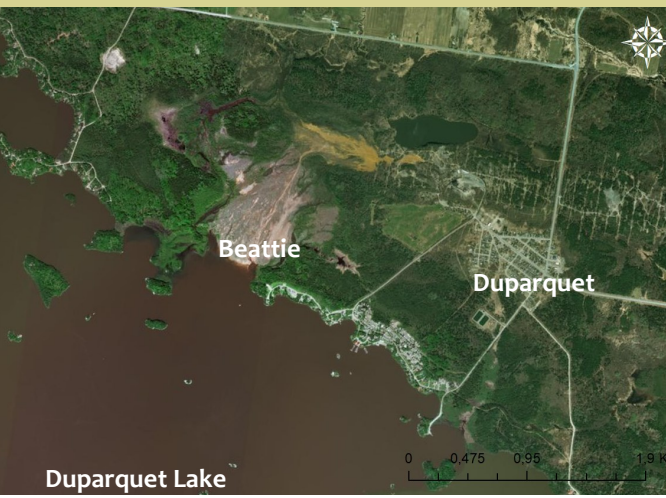
#### Émilie Desjardins

Émilie studies waterfowl, mainly ducks and divers, which are present in mining ponds. She tries to see if they are the same species as those present in beaver ponds and if they seem able to breed broods in the mining ponds. She will try to see if there is a link with the food available for these birds in both types of sites, mining and natural.

#### Mine sites and ponds studied by Émilie



## Duparquet site



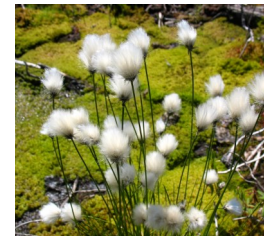
## Supun Madhumadhawa Pawuluwage

Supun studies the trees that grew naturally on a former mine site, the Beattie site in Duparquet. He tries to understand what would be the factors that explain the presence of a particular tree species and whether there are mechanisms that facilitate or prevent trees from settling there. In particular, he is interested in the connection between the roots and the tiny fungi found in the soil, the mycorrhizae.



## Nils Ambec

Nils will work to determine the influence of the geochemical conditions, i.e. the types of minerals, the acidity, etc., of the old mining sites on the types of plants that can be found there. He will also compare the plants that are present to those present in surrounding natural environments to see if they are not the same plants and see how much the old mine sites add to regional biodiversity.



## Why is our research useful ?

By better knowing the biodiversity present in mining sites, we will be able to document not only the negative, but potentially positive impacts that mines can have by providing specific habitats that are used by certain species. This can be taken into account in mine remediation measures.

## Questions?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us, it will be our pleasure to explain our projects in more detail!

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 You can also visit our website <https://www.uqat.ca/recherche/chaire-industrielle-crsng-uqat-biodiversite-en-contexte-minier/>



Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
 Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

Cree Nation Government  
 Gouvernement de la Nation Crie