

# Québec's Mining Rights Records Accessible Online Using Intergraph<sup>®</sup> Solutions

Québec, Canada



## PROFILE

**COMPANY:** Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF)

**WEBSITE:** [www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/home.jsp](http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/home.jsp)

**GESTIM APPLICATION:** <http://gestim.mines.gouv.qc.ca>

**DESCRIPTION:** The mission of the MRNF is to foster the development, preservation, and production of information concerning land and natural resources in Québec, with a view to achieving sustainable development and integrated management.

**INDUSTRY:** Government

**COUNTRY:** Canada

## PRODUCT USED

- GeoMedia WebMap
- GeoMedia Professional

## KEY BENEFITS

- Streamlined system for managing and updating the descriptive and geographic data of the mining register
- Increased number of mining companies active in exploration in Québec
- Reduced cost of acquiring a new mining title by 95 percent



Not only has the GeoMedia-driven GESTIM land information system proven cost effective for the Québec government, but it has also saved millions of dollars for Québec's mining industry.

### **GeoMedia® WebMap-Based Geospatial Solution Increases Mining Activity providing an Economic Windfall for the Province of Québec**

#### **IDENTIFYING GOALS**

The province has 23 operating mines, 250,000 active mining titles, and 5,700 players in the mining sector. Competition is fierce, and investors must protect their mining interests.

Traditional ground-staking methods used by prospectors on the ground are costly, time-consuming, relatively imprecise, and contestable. Québec was challenged with redesigning the mining titles management system to make clients autonomous and fully informed. At the same time, it was important to make mining titles incontestable, protecting investments and stimulating Québec's mining industry.

Québec's Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) undertook a far-reaching process to transform the mining title regime. To achieve this, the MRNF had to amend the current mining act and introduce the map designation of claims.

#### **OVERCOMING CHALLENGES**

- Modernize the Mining Act to stimulate Québec's mining industry
- Provide universal access to the Public Register Real and Immovable Mining Rights
- Reduce costs for the mining industry and the MRNF

#### **REALIZING RESULTS**

The MRNF selected Intergraph® to help enact significant changes to the mining title system. These changes include initiating map designation of mining claims to assist in the management of the new incontestable claims. MRNF chose Hexagon Geospatial's GeoMedia® Professional to implement its land information system – Gestion des titres Miniers Title Management (GESTIM) – to ensure mining titles are incontestable.

Hexagon Geospatial's GeoMedia is a powerful GIS management package that provides simultaneous access to geospatial data in almost any form, uniting them in a single map view

for efficient processing, analysis, presentation, and sharing. GeoMedia enables concatenation of analysis processes so the results of one operation feed directly into the next process, as well as automatically updating results in response to data changes. The GeoMedia WebMap component is a fully scalable server solution for building and deploying web services and websites. Using GeoMedia desktop as a publishing platform, MRNF can create high-performance web applications that enable real-time enterprise access and geospatial analysis.

Once on the site, users specify a map sheet and are presented with basic surveying and topographic reference maps. They can then either query the register for existing claim information or click on a predefined cell to claim it and pay the required registration fees via the MRNF e-commerce site.

In 2001, the MRNF began the transition from a mainframe IDMS database to an Oracle platform with the launch of GESTIM. It completed the transition to Oracle in 2006 with the launch of GESTIM Plus and the implementation of the ODM registration system, providing mining registrars a completely integrated and decision-assisted system for processing applications from submission to approval. Since 2001, the new title management system has allowed the MRNF to register an average of 54,000 titles a year, compared to an average of 19,000 titles during the previous 10 years. In 2007, the MRNF registered a record 99,738 titles.

In December 2001, two months after completing the initial loading of more than 1,900 map sheets, a claim rush for diamonds hit Québec's mining industry. During a four-month period, more than 42,000 claims were registered, of which 30,000 were designated on the web through GESTIM. This rush brought in more than \$3.4 million in registration fees, and up to \$20 million in economic spin-offs from mining exploration from 2000 to 2002.

Not only has the GeoMedia-driven GESTIM land information system proven cost effective for the Québec government, but it has also saved millions of dollars for Québec's mining industry. A claim can now be map designated at an average cost of \$80 per cell compared to a previous cost of \$800 to ground stake the same area, once registration fees, transportation, and employment costs are calculated.

GESTIM also contributed to the increase in the number of domestic and international mining companies active in the exploration in Québec by enabling companies to acquire mining rights on the web before setting foot in Québec. GESTIM now has 5,700 registered users from 24 different countries. Furthermore, 1,800 of registered users are



titleholders, 20 percent of which are based outside the province.

GESTIM provides real-time data online with numerous tools to help users manage their mining titles. The integrated system also allows the MRNF to generate a PDF version of any map sheet within 24 hours of a change. This new system enhances the possibilities for new and more flexible tools in the future.



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Contact us at [marketing@hexagongeospatial.com](mailto:marketing@hexagongeospatial.com).

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