

Fonds Restor-Action-Nunavik

Goal:

The Fonds Restor-Action-Nunavik (FRAN) was created to clean up and rehabilitate abandoned mineral exploration sites in Northern Quebec.

Who we are:

The FRAN consists of 30 mineral exploration companies operating throughout Quebec and whose common goal is the cleaning and rehabilitation of abandoned mining sites in partnership with governments, Inuit and First Nations. The new generation of mining and exploration companies want to demonstrate that not only do they have more stringent environmental management practices and social responsibility but that they are also capable of taking concrete steps to carry out the rehabilitation of priority sites and ensure compliance with environmental standards established for ongoing and future activities.

Partners:

Kativik Regional Government (KRG)
Makivik Corporation
Ministère des Ressources naturelles (MRN)
Fonds Restor-Action-Nunavik (FRAN):



Fonds Restor-Action Nunavik

The fund consists of a \$6 million financing of which \$4 million came from the Government of Quebec and \$2 million came from the mining industry. Along with these financial contributions came many in-kind contributions such as services, labour, equipment, accommodation and air and sea transport.

A project to meet a demand:

The idea for the abandoned mineral exploration site rehabilitation project began with the persistent request from Amaamak Jaaka that sites near his community of Kangiqsujuaq be cleaned. Following the 2007 documentary featuring Johnny Peters of the Makivik Corporation that was produced by Francis Labbé and broadcast on Radio-Canada, public and corporate interest in the project increased and the idea continued to develop. Finally, leaders of the mining industry put forward the idea of a collaborative project between northern organizations and mining companies that grew into the successful project we know today.

History:

Between the 1940s and the 1980s, extensive mineral exploration programs were carried out in Northern Québec. At this time, very few regulations existed to monitor and guide the social and environmental impacts of the exploration activities.

With the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* in 1975 and the *Northeastern Québec Agreement* in 1978, mining companies became subject to stricter rules and obliged the companies to rehabilitate closed mineral exploration sites. In 1995, the Mining Act was adopted by the Québec government. The government enjoined mining companies to clean up sites retroactively.

In the 1990s, Inuit communities began to document possible environmental contamination and some Inuit municipalities undertook the clean-up of some old exploration sites on their own accord.

A joint project, undertaken in 1999 by the KRG, the Makivik Corporation and the Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires (Université Laval), aimed to identify and locate abandoned mineral exploration sites in Nunavik.

In 2000, the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach joined with the Inuits to work on this project and a review of existing oral and written information on all mining-related sites identified some 595 potential abandoned mineral exploration sites.

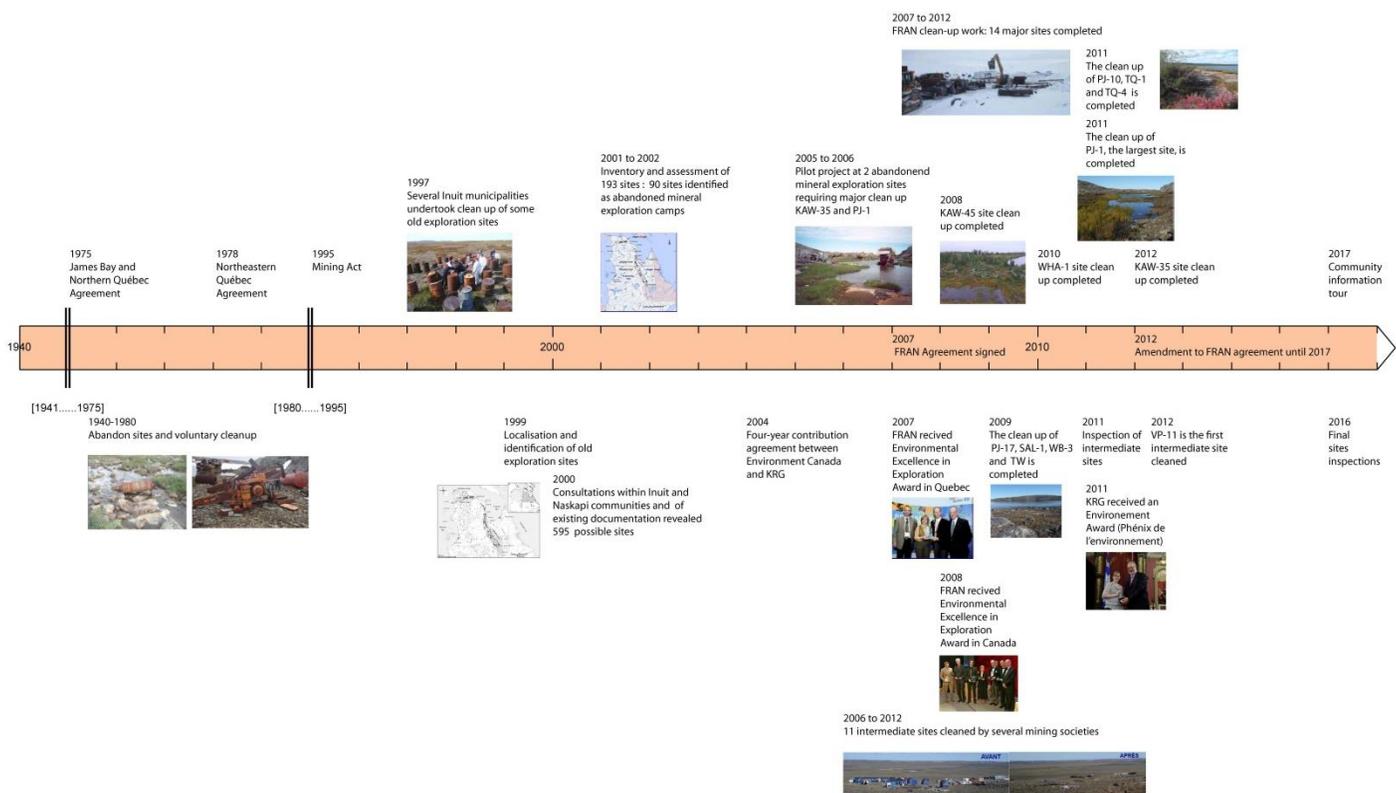
In 2001-2002, an inventory of a sample of 193 potential sites was conducted to validate the information previously gathered. As a result, 90 sites were confirmed as abandoned mineral exploration sites and, of these, 18 sites were classified as requiring major clean-up work, 27 as requiring intermediate clean-up work, and 45 as requiring minor clean-up work.

In 2004, the KRG signed a four-year contribution agreement (2004-2008) with Environment Canada. As a first phase, the KRG undertook pilot rehabilitation projects in 2005 and 2006 on two of the sites requiring major clean-up work (KAW-35 near Kawawachikamach and PJ-1 near Aupaluk).

Parallel to the above-mentioned pilot projects, the KRG and Cruise North Expeditions, a Makivik subsidiary, participated in cleaning up sites near Aupaluk.

In 2007, a formal contribution agreement was signed by the KRG, Makivik, the MRN and a consortium of mining exploration companies known as Fonds Restor-Action Nunavik (FRAN). The agreement focused on providing the KRG with the funding and technical support needed to undertake clean-up work on all of the 18 sites previously identified as requiring major clean-up.

Between 2007 and 2012, work was undertaken at sites requiring major clean-up. Since the signing of the agreement, cleanup work undertaken by the KRG was completed on 14 of the 18 priority sites and the cleaning of intermediate sites commenced. This work involves a large number of partners and continuous collaboration on the part of governments, regional and municipal authorities, as well as mining companies and many organizations in the north.



Summary of the work:

To date, 4 marine containers of hazardous waste, more than 50 pieces of heavy equipment, more than 40,000 barrels, 200 propane tanks, 14 large reservoirs, 23,000 L of hydrocarbons (diesel or other), 2,000 L of motor oil, 70 batteries and a large amount of debris have been removed from the sites. As well, hydrocarbons and hazardous material, such as paint, grease, batteries, fire extinguishers and transformers, have been shipped to specialized facilities in the south of Quebec for proper recycling or proper disposal. The objective of restoring the 18 priority sites on the Nunavik territory now being reached, the FRAN can continue its mission beyond its primary goal and begin cleaning the intermediate sites. The FRAN is confident of being able to restore many of these sites and that is the target for the next five years.

A project that will continue until 2017:

In the short-term (2013 and 2014), FRAN expects to clean sites requiring intermediate cleanup located in the same sectors on the vast territory of Nunavik. In 2015, work will focus on completing the rehabilitation of sites that were not thoroughly cleaned in previous years. Finally, 2016 will be devoted to the final inspection of all sites where work has been done and a presentation will be made in all the communities who participated in the rehabilitation project.

Awards:

FRAN received many awards for its initiative involving the rehabilitation of abandoned sites in Canada. In 2007, FRAN received Environmental Excellence in Exploration Award in Quebec (e3) from the Quebec Mineral Exploration Association. In 2008, FRAN received Environmental Excellence in Exploration Award in Canada (e3) from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. Finally, in 2011, KRG received an Environment Award from the ministère du Développement durable, Environnement, Faune et Parcs (Phénix de l'environnement).

A source of inspiration:

This joint initiative of 30 different mining companies and multiple levels of government is unique. This fund has also been an inspiration to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Itchee in Quebec, who are introducing the same type of program to cleanup abandoned sites in the James Bay area. Other provinces and jurisdictions are considering this model to rehabilitate abandoned sites on their territory.