

PART 1: PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2006/07

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Ministry Overview

The Ontario government has a plan to strengthen the province by strengthening its people. In addition to achieving “Success for Students” and “Better Health”, the government’s other key priority is “Strong People, Strong Economy”.

As part of this plan, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines works to make Northern Ontario and the provincial minerals sector, strong, healthy and prosperous.

The ministry provides northerners with access to government, programs and services, and promotes a healthy business climate that encourages competitiveness and investment in Ontario.

It ensures northern input in the development of government policies and programs. By providing a northern perspective, the ministry supports provincial initiatives in the North and addresses unique northern circumstances. Its 31 Northern Development Offices and 31 Government Information Centres (GICs) provide pan-northern access to programs and services, while delivering numerous programs and services with, and on behalf of, partner ministries.

Economic development professionals specializing in forest products, mining, business and industry, biotechnology, manufacturing, telecommunications, agriculture, tourism, trade and investment marketing, help municipalities, First Nations and businesses attract investment, pursue business opportunities and diversify local economies.

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), which is chaired by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, provides critical financial assistance to support business development, capital and infrastructure investment, and job creation in Northern Ontario communities.

The ministry co-ordinates essential provincial investment in the North's transportation, telecommunications and public infrastructure through the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) and the Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC). Its Northern Transportation Program works with other ministries to expand and maintain the northern highways system, roads in unincorporated areas, resource access roads and winter roads.

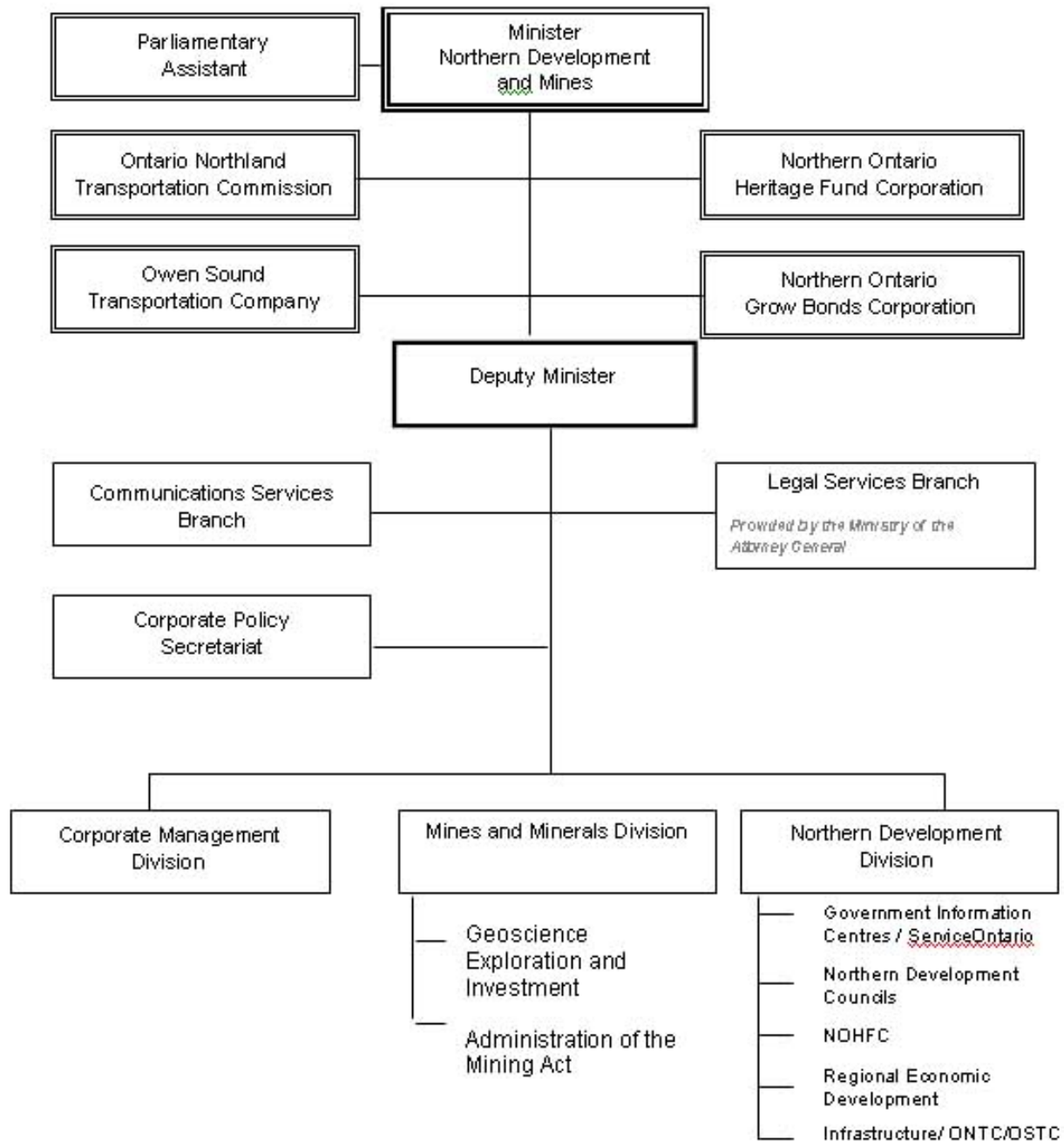
To enhance mineral sector competitiveness, the ministry manages Ontario's mining lands, attracts investment and supports mineral development. It administers the Ontario Mining Act to ensure fair access to Crown mineral rights and equitable management of mining lands.

The Ontario Geological Survey (OGS), which delivers a province-wide mandate through its Sudbury headquarters and 10 regional Resident Geologist offices, provides geoscience information and services that foster the vibrant mineral sector and help Ontario maintain its standing as a world geoscience leader.

It also provides strategic geoscience baseline information required to identify Ontario's groundwater aquifers, potential for non-renewable energy and sources of quality construction mineral resources and to support government's groundwater protection priorities. This geoscience information also facilitates informed land-use planning decisions, which leads to healthy, sustainable community development.

The ministry's Mineral Development and Rehabilitation of Mining Lands Program works with partner ministries and federal departments to promote safe, sound and sustainable use of Ontario's mining lands.

ORGANIZATION CHART



STATUTES ADMINISTERED

Mining Act

This Act provides for the regulation of mineral exploration and development activities in Ontario. The purpose of this Act is to encourage prospecting, staking and exploration for the development of mineral resources and to minimize adverse effects on the environment through rehabilitation of mining lands in Ontario.

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Act

This Act establishes the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. It recognizes the different conditions and special needs existing in Northern Ontario and the desire of northern residents to have a stronger voice in government. The Act defines the ministry's function to coordinate government activities and initiate policies and programs for the government in Northern Ontario and on behalf of the minerals industry.

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Act

This Act establishes a corporation to promote economic development and diversification in Northern Ontario, through the use of funds provided for that purpose. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation operates as an Operational Service Agency of the province.

Northern Services Boards Act

This Act, passed in 1999, replaces the former *Local Services Boards Act*. The Act provides choice and flexibility to northern residents in the establishment of service delivery mechanisms that recognize the unique circumstances of Northern Ontario and allow increased efficiency and accountability in area-wide service delivery.

The first part of the Act allows inhabitants of territories without municipal organization to establish legally-constituted local services boards to act on their behalf, and to raise funds for certain basic community services to improve the quality of life. The second part of the Act provides for the establishment of area service boards to consolidate delivery of six core services: child care, social assistance, public health, social housing, land ambulance service and homes for the aged as well as a variety of optional services. An area services board would have taxation authority in the board area to recover service costs.

Ontario Mineral Exploration Program Act

Originally enacted in 1980, this Act provides for incentive programs to encourage mineral exploration and development in Ontario.

Ontario Northland Transportation Commission Act

This Act established the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) for the purposes of providing transportation and telecommunications services to Northern Ontario. The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission operates as an Operational Enterprise Agency of the province.

Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000

This Act established the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario as the governing body for geoscientists, and empowers the association to establish standards of professional practice for persons who wish to be recognized as professional geoscientists.

Northern Ontario Grow Bonds Corporation Act, 2004.

This Act establishes the Grow Bonds Corporation with the objectives of fostering business development in Northern Ontario, by issuing bonds to raise funds to be used to provide loans/debt financing to eligible businesses in Northern Ontario.

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (ABCs)

Four agencies of the Ontario government report to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation is an Operational Service Agency of the province. It was established in 1988 to advise and make recommendations on any matter relating to the growth and diversification of the economy of Northern Ontario, and to promote and stimulate economic initiatives.

Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the province providing transportation and telecommunication services in Northern Ontario. Its activities include rail freight and passenger services, telecommunications, bus operations, and marine operations.

The Owen Sound Transportation Company, Limited

The Owen Sound Transportation Company, Limited (OSTC) is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the province delivering marine (vehicle and passenger) services in two parts of the province:

- Delivering a seasonal (May to October) vehicle/passenger ferry service from Tobermory to South Baymouth aboard the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun. The OSTC also operates the Pelee Island ferry year-round by contract with Ministry of Transportation.

Northern Ontario Grow Bonds Corporation

The Northern Ontario Grow Bonds Corporation is an Operational Service Agency of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The Corporation, in cooperation with the Ontario Financing Authority, issued provincially guaranteed bonds to northern residents. Proceeds from the sale of bonds will be used to provide loans to northern businesses that invest in capital projects, which result in the creation of new jobs in the North.

Transfer Payments to Agencies

2006-07 Estimates \$	Agency	2005-06 Estimates \$	2005-06 Interim Actuals \$	Accrual 2004-05 Actual \$
25,500,000 34,500,000	Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation*	25,500,000 34,500,000	25,500,000 34,500,000	60,000,000 -
	- Capital - Operating			
16,100,000 9,322,000	Ontario Northland Transportation Commission	16,700,000 12,123,000	16,700,000 7,666,000	21,560,435 10,191,000

	- Operating - Capital			
1,023,000 3,24,000	The Owen Sound Transportation Company, Limited	1,023,000 7,145,000	949,000 6,228,645	1,023,000 2,373,604
	- Operating - Capital			

*In addition to the \$60 million in transfer payments, the NOHFC also received a capital consolidation adjustment of \$25.0 million for total planned expenditures of \$85 million in 2006-07.

** There was a transfer payment to Northern Ontario Grow Bonds Corporation in the amount of \$500,000 to establish a sinking fund and its loan loss provision for 2005/06

PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2006/07

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines supports the government priorities of Strong People, Strong Economy. It carries out its mandate under two main activities or categories: Northern Economic Development, and Ontario Mines and Minerals.

Activity: Northern Economic Development

The ministry leads and coordinates government programs aimed at growing the Northern Ontario economy, building strong northern communities and creating job opportunities in the North. Through a network of offices and strategic program and policy development, the ministry ensures northerners have access to government programs and services, and a say in government decisions affecting the North. Under the banner of Northern Economic Development, the ministry delivers five sub-activities.

Government Information Centres (GICs)

The ministry is committed to creating a modern public service and meeting the government's priority of Strong People, Strong Economy. As part of its commitment to integrated delivery of government services, the ministry will complete the New Liskeard and Sudbury ServiceOntario Counter projects and, subject to funding, will continue developing the First Nations Outreach Project and add new services to existing ServiceOntario sites. As well, the ministry will continue to work with Ministry of Government Services and further develop the First Nation Libraries Pilot Project that provided resources and training to 13 libraries and four band offices enabling them to provide information on behalf of the Ontario government. In addition, the ministry will continue implementation of new services including the possibility of delivering federal services at GICs/ServiceOntario Centres (SOCs).

Northern Development Councils (NDCs)

The ministry is committed to enhancing democracy. In order to listen to and serve northerners better, Northern Development Councils were established in 2005. NDCs enhance citizen engagement and help northerners have a direct say in provincial decisions that affect the North. The four councils represent the Far North, Northeast, Northwest and Major Cities (Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay and Timmins). In 2006/07 NDCs will develop recommendations on at least two major issues and NDCs will continue to advise the Minister of Northern Development and Mines on the following priority areas: fulfilling the government's commitments related to Northern Ontario, including building economic

opportunities; building strong northern communities; working with natural resource sectors to strengthen their future role in Northern Ontario's economy; furthering partnerships with Aboriginal communities; and other related commitments. In addition NDCs will work towards furthering existing policies and initiatives affecting northerners as well as broader government commitments, such as student success, healthier Ontarians, strong communities, improving the environment, improving energy efficiency, and building opportunities for young people.

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) was refocused in 2005 with the launch of new programs. The aim of the refocused NOHFC was to work with northern entrepreneurs, companies and business organizations while continuing to support vital infrastructure and community development projects that enhance quality of life and stimulate economic activity. These new programs support the government priority of Strong People, Strong Economy and support a competitive business environment. Efforts will continue in 2006-07 under the new programs to deliver targeted assistance to the private and public sector, and focus on growing jobs, opportunities for youth, and diversifying the northern economy.

Regional Economic Development

As part of its commitment to creating jobs in the North, and to meet the government's priority of Strong People, Strong Economy, the Regional Economic Development Branch of the ministry will continue to work in partnership with various provincial ministries and agencies to deliver approximately 20 of the province's economic and social development programs and services in Northern Ontario. Included are the Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Summer Jobs Service, Small Business Enterprise Centres, Rural Economic Development Program, and municipal loans under the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority.

In addition the ministry will continue to promote and deliver the initial programs established under the Northern Prosperity Plan, particularly the NOHFC programs and the GO North Investor Program, and support the development and delivery of any new initiatives that may be launched. As well, the ministry will deliver the Grow Bonds Pilot Program and investigate opportunities for future rounds of bonds and loans to northern businesses. The ministry will also explore potential economic development opportunities for Northern Ontario in key growth sectors, including value-added forest products, biomass/alternative energy, manufacturing, machinery and fabrication, telecommunications, and biotechnology.

The ministry will continue to work with the ministries of Public Infrastructure Renewal and Transportation to deliver and update the Northern Ontario Highways Strategy (NOHS) and the Highway 69 Action Plan. It will also pursue discussions with the federal government to increase federal investment in the ministry's winter roads program.

Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) and Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC) are Operational Enterprise Agencies of the Province reporting to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Each will receive annual operating subsidies for passenger transportation services in northeastern Ontario that assist the delivery of price-competitive transportation and telecommunications services that are safe, reliable and responsive to customers, residents and businesses in northeastern Ontario, and support and promote northeastern Ontario economic development, job creation, and community sustainability. As part of its commitment to helping the ONTC realize its potential, the ministry will work with the ONTC as it continues to implement operating efficiencies to support its sustainability, improve services, and strives to become financially self-sufficient in all its business

lines. As well, the ONTC is expected to confirm federal funding for the construction of a new ferry vessel for Moosonee and the subsequent transfer of the operation to the Moose Band Development Corporation in spring 2007. The ONTC is also expected to increase its customer satisfaction and ridership on all its passenger services and to increase its operating margins in all its commercial activities for reinvestment. As well, the OSTC will complete the Chi Cheemaun re-powering project to generate further operating efficiencies.

Activity: Ontario Mines and Minerals

As the sectoral ministry for the provincial minerals sector, the ministry supports a strong, sustainable mineral industry by promoting investment and exploration, by providing geological information to global clients on the province's mineral resources, and through the fair, effective and efficient administration of Ontario's Mining Act. There are two key sub-activities.

Geoscience Exploration and Investment

The government is committed to helping Ontario achieve its geoscience potential. To this end the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) focuses on providing geoscience information and services in support of Ontario's \$7 billion a year minerals sector to ensure it continues its vital contribution to Ontario's prosperity which includes providing \$3 billion in exports, \$150 million in provincial and municipal taxes, more than \$1 billion in annual payroll, and 22,500 highly-skilled, high-income jobs. In 2006-07, the OGS will undertake regional geological mapping and collect, analyze, manage and publish earth science information online in digital data sets and other media. This information helps the mineral sector assess the resource potential of Ontario and facilitates the selection of exploration targets. OGS products and expertise also informs decisions involving land use planning, environmental matters and the protection and/or sustainable development of natural resources. As well, the ministry will deliver an expanded mandate to include the provision of services to support groundwater mapping and non-renewable industrial/energy development and, create stronger relations between First Nations and the mineral sector through training and educational initiatives. The ministry will also continue to promote Ontario's mineral investment potential internationally to attract investment and foster growth in the province's mineral sector. In order to help create a stable business climate in the Far North, the ministry will continue to implement year two of the Far North Geological Mapping Initiative and develop relationships and communicate the benefits of working collaboratively with First Nations communities and investors attracted to mineral targets in traditional areas. Also to ensure there is a federal investment in geoscience in Ontario, the ministry will pursue partnerships with the federal government to fund the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies across Canada.

Administration of the Mining Act

To effectively manage the Crown's mineral resource, the Mineral Development and Lands Branch of the ministry administers the Ontario Mining Act that regulates mineral exploration and development in Ontario. The program provides equitable management of Ontario's mining lands ensuring fair public access to Crown mineral rights to encourage investment in Ontario. In 2006-07, the program will: continue enhancements to the Mining Act and its regulations to lessen unnecessary administrative duplication and costs to the mineral exploration industry; participate in the development of a National Diamond Strategy that will address regulatory requirements relating to the diamond industry; and implement Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy, which provides the foundation for sustainable management and stewardship of mineral resources. As well in 2006/07 the ministry will review recommendations of the Mineral Development Approvals Improvement Project, develop an implementation plan, identify required resources, implement recommendations, continue implementation of the electronic filing system, continue to work with

the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council (OMICC), and evaluate/prioritize rehabilitation of abandoned mines sites.

Sub Activity	Performance Measure	Statement of Result
Government Information Centres (GICs)	Percentage of customers satisfied	Percentage of customers satisfied is expected to remain at 90% from 2005/06 through 2007/08.
Northern Development Councils (NDCs)	Diversity of input	When NDC recommendations involve external consultation, NDCs will identify stakeholder groups directly impacted and obtain the input of individuals from a least 90% of those groups
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)	Number of full-time jobs created	1500 full-time jobs by end of 2006/07 with in year target of 750 jobs 2005/06 through 2009/10.
Regional Economic Development	Percentage of customers satisfied	The percentage of customers satisfied is expected to remain at 90% from 2004-05 to 2007-08.
Ontario Northland Transportation (ONTC) and Owen Sound Transportation Commission (OSTC)	Increased ridership/ Customer satisfaction	The ONTC will increase ridership 2% per year from 2005-06 through 2007-08. MNDM will work with/advise OSTC to achieve 95% customer satisfaction from 2005-06 through 2009-10.
Geoscience Exploration and Investment	Investment decisions influenced by ministry geoscience expertise/ influence	The % of stakeholders whose decisions to invest in mineral exploration in Ontario in the past year was influenced by OGS geoscience products or services will exceed 80% in 2006-07.
Administration of the Mining Act	Deposits held for reclamation	The % of financial assurances held for reclamation is expected to increase from 98% in 2005-06 to 99% by 2006-07 and remain at 99% in 2007-08.

Summary of Key Performance Measures and Results for Seven Activities

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2006/07

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2006/07
Operating	114,104,344
Capital	233,283,000

Table 2: Ministry Planned Expenditures by Program Name 2006/07

Program/Activity Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Ministry Administration	10,363,344
Northern Development Program	297,906,500

Mines and Minerals Program	39,117,500

**Does not include Capital Assets (Northern Highway investments) of \$356,700,000*

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Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

This document includes: [Ministry Overview](#), [Annual Report 2002-2003](#), [Annual Report 2003-2004](#)

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MINISTRY OVERVIEW

As the lead ministry for the North, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines works to make northern Ontario and the provincial minerals sector strong, healthy and prosperous.

The ministry provides northerners with access to government, programs and services, and promotes a healthy business climate that encourages investment in Ontario.

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The ministry's Mineral Development and Rehabilitation of Mining Lands Program works with partner ministries and federal departments to promote safe, sound and sustainable use of Ontario's mining lands.

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION (NOHFC)

The NOHFC continued to support infrastructure, tourism, telecommunications, strategic partnerships and community foundations initiatives. Later in 2003-2004, a new emphasis was placed on economic development and job creation. The NOHFC invested \$85.2 million in 2003-2004.

NORTHERN HIGHWAYS

More than \$205 million was invested through the Northern Highways Program in 2003-2004, which supported ongoing four-laning projects on Highways 11, 69 and 17. One new contract was awarded for a six km section of Highway 11 from Katrine to Emsdale.

In November 2003, Canada and Ontario signed the joint federal-provincial Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program (SHIP) agreement. Through SHIP, both levels of government are to share equally in the costs of designated projects located on the National Highway System.

ONTARIO NORTHLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ONTC)

The ministry followed through on its Service Improvement Strategy to bring about enhancements in marine and bus services.

The Owen Sound Transportation Company Limited entered its second year as a separate operational enterprise agency and continues to enhance the services of the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun in support of tourism in northern Ontario.

The government declined CN Rail's proposal to purchase ONTC rail assets. It continued to provide the necessary financial support while it worked with the ONTC board to achieve service improvements and operational

efficiencies.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Forty-seven northern projects representing an estimated \$88 million in capital costs were approved under Option 1 of the Ontario Small Town and Rural Development (OSTAR) Infrastructure program. An additional 20 northern projects, with an estimated total approved capital cost of over \$90 million, were approved under Option 2, which allows communities to address health and safety issues.

Funding was approved for 99 northern projects, representing a commitment of more than \$27 million, under the government's \$300 million Sports, Culture and Tourism Partnerships (SCTP) initiative.

A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE MINERAL SECTOR

Ontario's exploration spending in 2003 was approximately \$219 million.

The ministry introduced enhanced geoscience and mining lands products, and initiated movement toward a stronger mining cluster in Ontario. In November 2003, the government created the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council.

The ministry also continued its program of mine site cleanup and rehabilitation through the Abandoned Mines Rehabilitation Program.

Ministry Expenditures (\$ millions)	
2003-2004 Actual	
Operating	76
Capital	332
Staff Strength <i>(as of Mar. 31, 2004)</i>	493.6

NOTE: Starting in 2002-03, major tangible capital assets owned by provincial ministries (land, buildings and transportation infrastructure) are accounted for on a full accrual accounting basis. Other tangible capital assets owned by provincial ministries will continue to be accounted for as expense in the year of acquisition or construction. All capital assets owned by consolidated government organizations are accounted for on a full accrual basis.

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION (NOHFC)

A new Far North Assistance Program was introduced under the NOHFC. Investments totaling \$103 million continued to focus on northern development opportunities in infrastructure, telecommunications, tourism, strategic partnerships and community foundations.

NORTHERN HIGHWAYS

More than \$262 million was invested through the Northern Highways Program including work on four-laning Highway 69 south of Parry Sound, opening a four-km section of Highway 69 south of Parry Sound, and on Highway 11, opening the eight-km Trout Creek Bypass and a 13-km section between Melissa and Emsdale.

ONTARIO NORTHLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ONTC)

The ministry continued to implement the Service Improvement Strategy by initiating a two-phase strategy that involved exploring divestiture options for ONTelcom, reorganizing marine operations and enhancing motor coach and train services.

In April 2002, the Owen Sound Transportation Company Limited (OSTC), formerly a wholly owned ONTC subsidiary, became a separate operational enterprise agency.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Ministry staff consulted with 75 communities on the government's Ontario Small Town and Rural (OSTAR) Development, assisted 151 communities and organizations under the Sports, Culture and Tourism Partnerships (SCTP) and helped Sudbury (\$15 million) and Thunder Bay (\$11 million) develop successful Millennium Partnership proposals.

A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE MINERAL SECTOR

Ontario's exploration spending in 2002 was approximately \$139 million. Key initiatives included completion of the Operation Treasure Hunt geoscience mapping project, a \$3.5 million NOHFC investment in a geoscience mapping project in the Lake Nipigon region and new projects under the Ontario Mineral Exploration Technologies Program.

Ministry Expenditures (\$ millions)	
2002-2003 Actual	
Operating	73
Capital	391
Staff Strength <i>(as of Mar. 31, 2003)</i>	487.3

NOTE: Starting in 2002-03, major tangible capital assets owned by provincial ministries (land, buildings and transportation infrastructure) are accounted for on a full accrual accounting basis. Other tangible capital assets

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