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The **Timmins Times**

Gowest Gold plans to process Timmins ore in Quebec, then China

Previous plans to process gold ore in Timmins did not work out. Gowest will truck its ore to Val d'Or.  Len Gillis

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Gowest Gold, a junior mining company with a property in Timmins, has announced new plans for processing its ore. The company will be trucking its material to a mill in Val d'Or, Quebec for processing into high-grade concentrate. From there the ore will be shipped to China for final processing and sale.

Gowest Gold Ltd., a junior mining company with a gold property in Timmins, announced this week it plans to truck its ore bearing material from Timmins to northern Quebec for partial processing.

From there, gold concentrate will be shipped to China for final processing and sale.

Gowest said it has worked out an agreement with QMX Gold Corporation to allow Gowest to process ore at the Aurbel Mill in Val d'Or from the Gowest bulk sample program and pre-production program at the Bradshaw Gold Deposit just north of the built up area of Timmins.

The Bradshaw property is located about 15 kilometres north of the Kidd Operations mine site with an access road running east off Highway 655. It was not revealed what route the company would use for trucking the ore to Quebec.

A company news release said Gowest is obligated to acquire and pay for the upgrade permits and the capital expenditures necessary to use the mill in Val d'Or.

"Assuming all necessary permits are received and upgrades are performed, the Agreement will have a four year term with an option to extend," said the release.

Gowest began ramping at the Timmins gold project in May of 2017. Since then it has been stockpiling ore on surface in preparation for milling. Already, the company has stockpiled more than 28,000 tonnes of material from bulk sampling and development mining.

In April, Gowest announced it was suspending mining operations for the time being as there was no further capacity to store ore bearing rock at the mine site. The suspension of mining operations was only to the extent that will ensure there will be no delay in the renewal of the development of the mine when conditions warrant, said a company news release.

In a separate news release, QMX Gold said the agreement with Gowest is to mill up to 120,000 tonnes of ore from the Bradshaw project for a period of one year. After that there could be a commercial production term of three years, allowing up to 220,000 tonnes of ore per year.

QMX also said that the re-start of the Aurbel mill is subject to conditions that include Gowest getting the permits to process third-party material for the mill, which has been closed since mid-2016. QMX said Gowest has to start up the crushing, grinding and floatation circuits which were shut down and winterized when mining activities were shut down at the Lac Herbin Mine.

The Aurbel Mill is located 15 kilometres east of Val d'Or and eight kilometres north of Highway 117. The processing plant uses conventional crushing, grinding, gravity flotation and cyanide leach circuits to process gold-bearing material. The facility is also amenable to modification and customization in order to tailor throughput and target recoveries to the specific metallurgical requirements of the feed material, said the QMX release.

The Gowest plans for processing the ore do not end in Val d'Or. The plan is to have the Quebec mill process the ore into a high grade concentrate. Gowest will then ship the gold concentrate to the Humon Smelter, Shandong Province in China for final processing and sale.

Greg Romain, Gowest president and chief executive officer, said the original plan to have the ore processed at the Northern Sun mill in Timmins did not work out, but he is satisfied with the new deal.

"We are very pleased to have reached this agreement with QMX, which represents a vital milestone in our development of Bradshaw and in our goal of advancing it into a commercial gold mine," Romain said in the news release.

"The termination of the previously executed agreement for toll milling prevented the company from moving the project into the next phase of mining and financing. Now that we have closed the loop, we will be able to finalize discussions on completing the necessary funding of the project," he said.