

So...you want to be a gem prospector?**Randal Andrews***President, Rockhopper Corporation, Suite 284, 38 Pearson Street, St. John's, Newfoundland A1A 3R1, Canada*

The announcement of the recovery of gem sapphire (corundum) in southeastern Labrador by Rockhopper Corporation represents the first potentially significant discovery of gem material in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Gem prospecting is a little understood niche of the mineral exploration industry that is becoming ever more important to the world's perception of mineral wealth. As the supply of gem material from established, historically significant, producers is quickly dwindling, the demand for precious

coloured stones is rising exponentially. Worldwide, an increasing number of companies and prospectors are intensifying their efforts to explore for gem material.

This presentation outlines a variety of marketable commodities and favourable exploration environments for the discovery of significant gem materials, as related to the geology of Newfoundland and Labrador. As well, the talk will provide a brief overview of the Rockhopper sapphire development, and exploration plans for the coming season.