Access to and use of minerals and metals are essential to a sustainable society, to the society’s standard of living and to economic development. Mineral resource management must be conducted in the context of sound process and product life practices. According to Natural Resources Canada\(^1\) all activities related to finding, extracting, producing, adding value to, using, reusing, recycling, and, when necessary, disposing of mineral and metal products must be done in an efficient, competitive and environmentally responsible manner, while respecting the needs and values of other resource users and maintaining or improving environmental quality for present and future generations.

\(^1\) *Mineral and Metals towards a sustainable future*, Monograph 10, Eighth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, April 24-May 5 2000

As a consequence, the minerals and metals industry now involves not only the traditional fields of extraction and processing, but encompasses the related fields of financial management, equipment manufacturing, recycling, and preservation and protection of the environment.

**Vision Statement**

*The Department’s vision is:*

To excel in applied science education and research related to the stewardship and recovery of the earth’s mineral resources, accomplished through the development of exceptional engineers and scholars for a sustainable global society.