



# MINTSHIELD™

one year in : Winning the fight against white spots



When the Royal Canadian Mint launched its unique MINTSHIELD surface protection solution for Silver Maple Leaf (SML) bullion coins a year ago, Chief Technology Officer Dr. Xianyao Li and the engineering team were confident it would significantly reduce the occurrence of white spots.

That confidence has been borne out by the fact that there have been no reports of white spotting on the first generation of SML coins protected by MINTSHIELD. But the Mint wanted more objective confirmation of MINTSHIELD's effectiveness. In late 2018, the Mint sought the assistance of an independent laboratory to put the solution to the test.



"We tested extensively before we launched MINTSHIELD," he says. "We expected the third-party analysis to bear out our findings, but it's always good to get that confirmation."

The lab, which specializes in advanced materials testing for the automotive and aerospace industries, subjected 2018 SML coins to accelerated aging in a hot, humid environment — simulating extended periods of time. It then compared the performance of MINTSHIELD-protected SML to other bullion products in the market.

The Silver Maple Leaf ranked high compared to the competition and showed no signs of white spots on the obverse or reverse. Dr. Li was pleased by those results.

## A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET

Since MINTSHIELD's launch, Dr. Li and the engineering team have kept a close eye on the market—and been gratified to see keen interest in the solution.

"People are really curious about how we did it," he says. "Investors, dealers, even other mints. Everyone wants to know."

That curiosity has spurred lots of theories about how MINTSHIELD works.

"I've heard people ask, what exactly is MINTSHIELD? Have they changed the coin's chemical composition?" Dr. Li says. "But no, it's definitely not that. Our number-one priority was always to maintain the Mint's high standard of silver purity. Our customers trust us to offer a high-quality product that maintains value and liquidity."

## MAKING WAY FOR NEW INNOVATIONS

The premium the Mint places on producing high-value, ultra-secure coins is what continues to make it one of the most innovative in the industry, constantly pushing the boundaries of what's possible.

"MINTSHIELD is the latest in our history of producing great solutions to protect the value of our customers' investments," says Lorne Whitmore, Vice-President of Sales at

the Mint. "It's the perfect complement to the added security of our Bullion DNA™ anti-counterfeiting technology."

Now that market response and the study results show the Mint has done what it set out to do with MINTSHIELD, Dr. Li and the engineering team are excited to tackle new challenges and continue to find new ways to bring customers value.

"We're an innovative organization," he says. "We're always trying to advance new technologies to create additional value for our customers and enhance our processes."