

Hon. Ralph Goodale  
Minister of Finance  
140 O'Connor Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

March 29, 2005

FAXED & EMAILED

Dear Minister Goodale,

Following the tabling of the Budget on February 23, 2005, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) publicly announced its surprise and disappointment that the federal government failed to fund an important Canadian geological mapping program – the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy (CGMS) - a 10 year plan that was approved by all of Canada's mines ministers in 2000.

The objective of the program is to improve the quality and extent of geological mapping in Canada, particularly in the North, a need that has been recognized in the federal government's Northern Strategy. However, the failure to renew this commitment in the February 2005 federal budget means that a valuable program has been jeopardized.

Identifying the resources we have and documenting the geological potential of our country is essential. The quality of this knowledge base, which is one of Canada's chief competitive advantages, has been slipping over the past decade because of budgetary constraints. Inclusion of the federal component of this funding in the budget would have triggered commitments from the provincial governments to fund this mapping strategy.

Renewal of the government's commitment to geoscience by implementing the CGMS would involve a total investment of \$25 million per year over ten years. The PDAC hopes that your government will consider the merits of this program and find the means to commit funds to it within the existing fiscal framework.

We would very much appreciate a meeting with you and your staff to discuss the importance of CGMS and how to move forward with it. Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Dimmell  
President

c.c. Hon. John Efford  
Provincial Premiers/Territorial Leaders  
Opposition Critics