



Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada
L'Association Canadienne des Prospecteurs et Entrepreneurs

December 18, 2006

Premier Paul Okalik
Government of Nunavut
Bag 1000, Stn 500
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Subject: Proposed Legislation to recognize Professional Geoscientists who are registered in other Canadian jurisdictions

Dear Premier Okalik,

It has come to our attention that the government of Nunavut is considering tabling legislation to recognize and allow Professional Geoscientists to work in Nunavut who are currently registered in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) strongly supports this initiative of the Nunavut government to recognize registered geoscientists from across Canada as it is a positive step towards the protection of the public good and contributes to the competitiveness of the mineral resource industry in Nunavut and Canada.

The PDAC recently commissioned the Institute On Governance, a public policy research group, to conduct a survey on our behalf to examine geoscientists' attitudes towards professional registration and their mobility within Canada. A working paper and the results of the survey are enclosed. The survey results show that Canadian geoscientists are a highly mobile profession with 72% of respondents working in more than one political jurisdiction in any one year and 10% of geoscientists working in more than five jurisdictions in any one year. However, registration in multiple jurisdictions is low, and 84% of geoscientists reported being dissatisfied with the degree of interprovincial / territorial mobility afforded by Canada's registration system. The survey results point to the conclusion that the existing system does not adequately benefit public safety or the geoscience profession and can serve as a hindrance to the exploration sector across Canada.

The PDAC is working with other geoscience organizations to improve upon the existing registration system. While the establishment of a separate self-regulatory body for Nunavut would potentially create barriers to conducting mineral exploration in the North, your fluid approach will benefit Nunavut through improved access for geoscientists who are already registered in other Canadian jurisdictions and facilitate a competitive advantage to Nunavut in accessing a dwindling pool of highly qualified Canadian geoscientists.

Your government's proposal serves to recognize the integrity of the professional self-regulatory systems present in other Canadian jurisdictions and is consistent with the desire of the federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote labour mobility in Canada through the Agreement on Internal Trade. On behalf of the PDAC, I would like to congratulate your government on its progressive approach to this issue and to express our gratitude and support for your decision to proceed along these lines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Dillon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "D".

Patricia Dillon
President
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada

Copy:

Mr. Markus Weber
Deputy Minister of Justice