

## SAFETY ALERT: UNUSUAL WINTER CONDITIONS

Bill Mercer, chair of the PDAC's health and safety committee, is issuing special safety warnings to mineral exploration companies operating in northern Canada.

Many parts of the country have encountered unusually mild winter conditions. As a consequence, lake ice conditions are not typical, and breakup may occur unseasonably early. There is an increased risk of ice that is thinner than normal and ice thinning caused by erosion under frozen lakes or moving water. Exploration groups are urged to take extra precautions when operating on or travelling over ice. If you have any doubts about conditions, consult an expert on ice conditions. Do not take unreasonable risks to transport equipment over ice.

As an early spring is possible, bears may be a hazard sooner than anticipated. In 2006, a field worker was killed by a bear at a time when animals were thought to be in hibernation. Companies and project managers are advised to arrange for field personnel to be equipped with suitable bear deterrents if temperatures are higher than average.

For more information on these topics, please consult the PDAC's health and safety information in *e3 Plus: A Framework for Responsible Exploration* at [www.pdac.ca/e3plus](http://www.pdac.ca/e3plus).