

Delegates come to PDAC convention for a variety of reasons

*Brian Sylvester*

Oscar Tan, a base metals investor from Mississauga, Ont., is at the 2010 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention to get a feel for junior mining company executives.

"I want to hear them speak. When you meet someone in person, you can tell if they're for real," Tan says.

After losing his job seven years ago, Tan managed to parlay a good severance package into a career in investing through placements in well-researched junior exploration companies.

"If you don't hear them, how do you know if you can trust them?" Tan asks.

Tan is among the more than 20,000 people expected to visit this year's convention. More than 18,000 delegates registered in 2009.

George Sackaney is a band councillor with the Wahgoshig First Nation, near Matheson, Ont. He was hired last year by junior explorer Apollo Gold as a liaison officer after a presentation made by the Wahgoshig during the 2009 convention.

"This is new employment, a new start for me," Sackaney says.

While Sackaney made it to the convention in 2009, he did not visit the Investors Exchange or Trade Show.

"I just wanted to see the show and see what's going on. It's very, very big."

The convention continues to get bigger with an increasing attendance by foreign delegates. In 2009, almost one-quarter of convention delegates were from other countries.

Patricia Moreira is part of the Brazilian delegation, which has been coming to the convention for 12 years.

"We're here to show off our new products and services and to find new investors for the mineral sector in Brazil," Moreira says.

Alexander Kaikov is in the jewelry and diamond business and is at the convention for the first time.

"I just want to see what's going on in the mining business. I want to see what kind of people are at the show," Kaikov says.

Tonight delegates have the opportunity to mingle with their peers in more of a social setting at the welcome reception at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.