



# Report On PDAC Convention '97

## Convention attendance breaks previous records

A record 7,500 people (delegates, exhibitors, and guests) filled the halls of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre during the daytime and squeezed into the Royal York Hotel during the evenings for the PDAC's Annual Convention and Trade Show. Attendance at the convention broke all previous records and was a resounding success once people had crossed over the registration hurdle. Over 70 countries were represented, and there were large delegations in attendance from Australia, South Africa, India, China, Mongolia, and Russia.

Both Trade Show and Investors Exchange were significantly expanded to accommodate 421 exhibitors and 163 junior companies respectively, and the exhibit areas housing these events were very busy places indeed. The technical program was again divided into the main session, consisting of invited papers, and the open forum, a series of submitted papers. Main sessions included papers on copper-gold deposits of the Pacific Rim; Africa; Southeast Asia; finance and risk assessment; and new discoveries and developments. The keynote session included papers on the implication of exploration trends in Canada and the world; opportunities in North America; hot spots in Latin America; a European exploration overview; and players and activities in the CIS. Also featured in the main program was a profile on South Africa. Among the open forum papers were presentations on Canada, China, Argentina, Zimbabwe, and Vietnam.

New features at the convention this year were the Exchange Forum, which consisted of short papers delivered by representatives of companies exhibiting in the Investors Exchange; country rooms, reserved by country representatives to talk to interested delegates about the investment climate in their countries; and the international bookroom.

The following are some of the comments reported after the convention.

"As an occasion for networking and putting global exploration on the map, the PDAC convention has become the premier event of its kind," *Mining Journal*, March 21.

"In the past decade, (the PDAC convention) has grown in size and stature to become an international event. The PDAC deserves much of the credit for having put Toronto on the map as the mining venture capital of the world. The PDAC's reputation for being at the forefront of exploration and development trends worldwide has helped draw delegates from almost every continent to its annual conventions in Toronto," *The Northern Miner*, March 24.

"This annual meeting has now become the world's largest and most important mineral

exploration sector meeting with participation and delegates from more than 50 countries and with an overall delegate total of nearly 8,000 people," *North American Mining*, April 1997.

"Both sites (Metro Toronto Convention Centre and the Royal York Hotel) offered the delegates plenty of opportunity for making deals and expanding contacts, which is why the PDAC remains the premier mining conference in Canada." *Nova Scotia Minerals Update*, Spring 1997.