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Y2K warning

Insurance companies are warning businesses that they will not be responsible for covering losses resulting from computer malfunctions associated with the millennium bug.

Insurance policies cover losses arising only from unexpected, accidental or fortuitous events and, say insurance companies, Y2K losses do not fall into any of these categories.

"The Y2K risk is not an insurable peril for business," says Art Despard, Y2K insurance authority and senior vice president of Aon Reed Stenhouse. "It is not like last year's ice storm that could not be prevented."

[\(See also Tips for the millennium\)](#)



Tell the world about MM2000

A new brochure advertising the events of Mining Millennium 2000 will be off the press in September -- and we need your help.

If you are travelling overseas during the fall, you can assist us in promoting this outstanding mining event by taking some MM2000 brochures with you.

To obtain brochures, call Michelle Toffoli at the PDAC at (416) 362-1969.



Labrador Inuit approve land claims agreement

The Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) has ratified by an overwhelming majority of 84 per cent a land claims Agreement in Principle.

The agreement, signed by the federal and provincial governments in May and ratified by the LIA a month later, serves as a framework for a final agreement.

"Hopefully (it) will be worked out in less than two years," says Tim Froude, executive director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources.

The agreement establishes a Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) of 28,000 square miles or 25 per cent of Labrador and includes provisions for establishment of Torngat Mountains National Park within its boundaries.

Within LISA, 6,100 square miles are designated Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL), to be chosen by the Inuit, where Inuit self-government will apply.

Land selection, expected to start this fall, will have two key criteria: economic development potential, including mineral potential, and historical significance.

Excluded from selection are private land, land for community expansion, special government lands or the Voisey's Bay and South Voisey's (Donner Minerals) footprints.

Once the final agreement is signed, exploration procedures will go into effect.

Within LIL, the rights of existing claim holders will not be affected and will still be administered by the province.

Access to LIL for exploration purposes must be approved by the Inuit government and a fee may apply. New licences can be staked but will require a work plan and access approval, for which standards will be drawn up.

Within LISA, exploration procedures and practices will proceed as usual under provincial regulations, with Inuit involvement occurring only at the development stage. The Inuit will receive 30 per cent of the first \$2 million of provincial royalties, and five per cent of the remainder.

Except for quarries, an impact and benefits agreement (IBA) will be required in LIL and LISA and can include cash, employment and business participation.

The agreement states that exploration work on existing claims in Torngat Mountains National Park can continue, but no new claims are to be issued. The Inuit and province will jointly establish the park boundaries.



Accommodation alert

Mining Millennium 2000, the joint convention of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, has reserved a block of hotel rooms for the convention, to be held in downtown Toronto, Ont. from Mar. 5 to 10.

The rooms are being offered to delegates at special convention rates, but supply is limited.

With up to 12,000 visitors expected to attend Mining Millennium 2000, you are encouraged to book early in order to receive the preferred rate and to ensure that you have accommodation.

For more information, visit the PDAC web site at www.pdac.ca and click on hotels and travel.



MSTF report puts Canada in the lead, says AusIMM president

Australian Mike Lawrence, president of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), has high praise for the final report of the Toronto Stock Exchange/Ontario Securities Commission Mining Standards Task Force (MSTF).

"Other countries should follow Canada's lead (even Australia in a few areas) to remain

competitive sources of mining," he writes in an analysis of the report published in the April/May issue of the *Asian Journal of Mining*.

His praise is not unqualified however, and his two-page critique also takes issue with the MSTF on several points.

Commending the task force, Lawrence says it has shown considerable courage and understanding of the problems in order to recommend some "necessary, but difficult changes to the status quo to bring Canada up to world best practice."

He adds that Canada now leads the various jurisdictions throughout the world in moving to put these changes into law.

Lawrence singles out for particular praise the Qualified Person (QP) concept, best practice guidelines for sampling and assaying, the role of securities firms and analysts and the reporting of resources and reserves.

Noting that improvements made since publication of the interim report have ensured full accountability of the QP, he is particularly pleased that the QP is to be an individual, rather than a corporation.

He disagrees, however, with the requirement that a QP be responsible for the design of all exploration programs, calling this an "over-reaction."

He points out that small explorers have a higher rate of exploration success because of their entrepreneurial flair and their willingness to go against conventional wisdom by looking in unexpected places in radical new ways.

"Innovation must be inhibited by requiring QPs at this early stage of the project evaluation process," he writes. He agrees, however, that they are necessary in the assessment phase.

"As in horse riding, the trick is to know when to apply the reins and direct the horse," he comments.

Lawrence writes that he is reassured to note the MSTF's acceptance of requirements for demonstrable quality assurance programs in field sampling and laboratory assaying procedures, and the requirement that properly accredited laboratories be used.

"There cannot be any substitute for effective third party, independent technical audits at appropriate times in a project's life and for continuous due diligence by those involved within the company, its financial and technical advisers, and its promoters, brokers/analysts," he points out.

Lawrence welcomes proposals to require full disclosure in resource analysts' reports and to clarify brokers' and analysts' responsibilities to the market.

He also praises the requirement that research reports be prepared by competent professionals who are subject to an enforceable code of ethics.

Lawrence's major reservations lie in the areas of resources and reserves reporting and reciprocity between resource and reserve reporting systems in international jurisdictions.

He remarks that Micon, the MSTF's technical adviser, did not support the retention of the term "possible reserves," as used in the Canadian Institute for Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum's (CIM) definitions for various categories of resources and reserves.

Supporting Micon in this, Lawrence says he anticipates the elimination of such terms once there is international standardization in the reporting terminology of resources and reserves.

"In any event, the CIM system has a little bit of 'catch-up' to do to integrate its guidelines for 'metalliferous resources,' with others covering diamonds and coal; and to review its definition of an 'industrial mineral reserve,'" he adds.

The problem of reciprocity revolves around the lack of a single national jurisdiction in Canada.

Although AusIMM is happy to establish and negotiate mutual recognition protocols with relevant national overseas bodies in appropriate disciplines, he writes, the difficulty is locating an equivalent national professional kindred body in Canada.

"Why should AusIMM have to seek out the numerous individual provincial bodies (often separately representing geologists and engineers) and do a deal, and for what actual gain to Australian professionals?" he asks.

"How could Australian investors be better protected by subsuming their existing protection in Australia's with its current jurisdictional settings for supposedly 'improved reporting to the investing public,' according to the MSTF recommendations, which are only recommendations at this time?"

Finally, Lawrence discusses briefly lessons for Australia to be found within the MSTF recommendations, such as formal clarification of the role of securities firms and analysts, especially in the area of formal standards of professionalism and supervision of mining analysts.

In conclusion, he notes that with the Bre-X debacle, which provided the catalyst and created the receptive public environment, Canada has upgraded its regulatory environment in an initiative that will be felt around the world.



Sponsorship program will meet corporate interests, needs

Mining Millennium 2000 (MM2000) will offer the minerals industry, its suppliers and related industries an outstanding opportunity to show their pride in the industry and to increase their corporate visibility.

It's a unique - some would say a historical - event, bringing together for the first time the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) in a joint convention.

Up to 12,000 delegates from around the world are expected to converge on Toronto, Ont. for the week-long event next March.

To mark the occasion, MM2000 has developed a broad range of once-in-a-lifetime sponsorship opportunities that are intended to meet the interests and marketing needs of sponsors.

Sponsorship in MM2000 will create awareness, differentiate sponsors from their competitors, facilitate business-to-business marketing and have a positive impact on a company's bottom line, says consultant Lynne Beckett of Becklyn Communications.

Sponsors are being offered unprecedented special benefits.

"Our goal is to provide them with value for their sponsorship dollars," Beckett says.

"We're working with companies to ensure their marketing and public relations departments can take full advantage of the sponsorship."

Sponsorship opportunities designed for a variety of corporate interests and budgets have been developed at all levels.

If you want to spread your company name widely, you can sponsor the first convention brochure. With a circulation of 100,000, it will be seen in countries around the globe.

If your corporate interests are technologically focused, your company can sponsor the Mining Millennium 2000 web site. If they are more intellectual, why not sponsor the International Book Room on the PDAC trade show floor?

If your taste is for the off-beat, how about your company name on the shuttle bus, or your corporate logo imprinted on chocolate truffle business cards?

You can sponsor delegate bags, the Investors Exchange Forum, indoor banners and billboards.

For companies wanting to make more of an impact, there are still openings to sponsor or co-sponsor some of the convention's highlight events: the gala evening, the official opening ceremony, and Mining Town Night.

Also still available are sponsorship opportunities at the 10th Annual Student Mining Games at the University of Toronto and the World Mines Ministries Forum. Both events will be held in conjunction with MM2000.

In all, some 35 special opportunities are still open. For more information about sponsorship, contact Frank Grieco of PR Engineering, chair of the MM2000 sponsorship committee, at fgrieco@prengineering.com or Lynne Beckett of Becklyn Communications at becklyn@istar.ca. Tel: (416) 781-8301; Fax: (416) 781.2405.



Convention, trade shows to take place in two venues

Because of the magnitude of Mining Millennium 2000, the convention and its associated trade shows will take place in one location, but sequentially in two buildings.

From Sunday, Mar. 5 to noon on Wednesday, Mar. 8, all convention activities occur in the north building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. It is here that the PDAC trade show and Investors Exchange, with their focus on exploration and development, take place.

At noon, on Wednesday, Mar. 8, all convention activities, including technical programs and luncheons, move to the south building of the convention centre, under the same roof but a 10-minute walk away.

As the PDAC trade show closes, the CIM Tradex opens and runs until the convention closing on Friday, Mar. 10. The focus of this show will be on mining operations and production.

Consequently, although the full mining cycle will be represented in one technical program, it will not be represented in a single trade show.

The shift in venue was unavoidable, explains Helen Sklarz, PDAC's director of meetings and member services.

"Because of the magnitude of this event, we've had to take over the entire convention centre," she says.



Mining Millennium 2000 update

Planning is well underway for Mining Millennium 2000 which takes place in Toronto, Ont. from Mar. 5 to 10, 2000. On-site registration for the convention opens on Mar. 4. Full program details and registration information will be mailed to PDAC members later this fall.

Check up-to-the-minute news of the convention on the MM2000 web site:

www.miningmillennium.org.

Speakers

Two keynote luncheon speakers, Pierre Lassonde and Christopher M.T. Thompson, have been confirmed.

Pierre Lassonde is president and co-chief executive officer of Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation Limited. He has also been instrumental in establishing the Lassonde Mineral Engineering Program at the University of Toronto.

Christopher Thompson is chairman of South Africa's Gold Fields Ltd., one of the world's leading gold mining companies.

Trade Show and Investors Exchange

The PDAC trade show and Investors Exchange will be bigger and better than ever with an estimated 700 booths. Appropriately for the 21st century, the trade show will also feature four high-tech pavilions where high-tech equipment will be both displayed and demonstrated.

Mining Town Night

One of the liveliest events of the week will be Mining Town Night, to be held at the historic and elegant Royal York Hotel. With no admission charge, a live band, draft beer, dancing and lots of fellowship, this party is the place to be on Monday, Mar. 6.

Special Events

Other special events during the week include the convention's gala event, billed as a millennium celebration dinner, on Tuesday, Mar. 7, and the Millennium Awards Banquet on Thursday, Mar. 9. Both events will feature outstanding entertainment, with admission by ticket only.



U.S. mining association alleges environmental groups behind Y2Y plan

The Northwest Mining Association, based in Spokane, Wash., is urging its members to become familiar with the proposed Yellowstone to Yukon corridor, warning that a number of U.S.-based environmental organizations are behind it.

The Y2Y proposal would preserve wilderness along 1,800 contiguous miles of the Rocky Mountains from Yellowstone National Park to the Columbia and Mackenzie Mountains in the Yukon.

The corridor will affect more than 110 million acres in British Columbia, roughly half the total landmass of the province.

An article in the May-June issue of *Bulletin*, the Northwest Mining Association publication, says that the Forest Alliance of British Columbia has released an economic impact study of Y2Y that indicates the proposal could affect 80,000 jobs and nearly Cdn\$5.4 billion in provincial gross domestic product.

"The move to lock up half of British Columbia is being spearheaded by a number of U.S.-based environmental organizations," the article continues.

"The same well-connected, well-financed U.S. environmental groups that helped stop the Windy Craggy project in 1993, and are trying to stop Redfern's Tulsequah Chief project, are involved in promoting Y2Y."

The article concludes with a plea that members familiarize themselves with the project and "learn the true agenda of the environmental extremists."



Tips for the millennium

The Insurance Bureau of Canada offers these 10 tips to help you avoid catching the Y2K millennium bug.

1. Check with your insurance representative to see if, and how, Y2K will affect you. Know what your policy will and will not cover.
2. Check your business and household items, such as thermostats and burglar alarms, for date sensitivity.
3. If you don't know that an item is Y2K compliant, contact the manufacturer.
4. If you are going away over the New Year, drain your pipes or ensure someone checks on your home to ensure heat is maintained.
5. Back up business and important personal computer files.
6. Run a year 2000 test on your computer by backing up files, setting the date to Dec. 31, 1999 and the time to 11.58 p.m. Turn the computer off for at least three minutes, turn it back on and check that the date shows early morning on Jan. 1, 2000. Then, set the date to 11.58 p.m., Feb. 28, 1999 to ensure that the computer will register the leap year day, Feb. 29, 2000. Software requires other more specific tests.
7. Get an updated paper copy of your banking statements, credit card slips, investment portfolios, car service records, warranties and other important documents.
8. If you own a business, take time to consider problems that might arise because of the year 2000 and prepare a contingency plan.
9. Check with all your suppliers, such as your Internet provider or alarm company, to ensure they are Y2K compliant, and compile a list of back-up suppliers.
10. For insurance information, contact the Insurance Bureau of Canada or visit its web site at www.ibc.ca.



TSE Committee established

The Toronto Stock Exchange, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and the Canadian Council of Geoscientists have formed a committee to develop exploration best practice and reporting guidelines for the mining industry.

Development of the guidelines was recommended in the final report of the Mining

Standards Task Force, which was formed to address technical and reporting standards for the mining industry and increase investor confidence in the sector.

The committee will develop a set of best practice guidelines to assist Qualified Persons in the design and implementation of exploration programs, and a set of exploration reporting guidelines to help them in their reporting of exploration information in technical reports.

PDAC director of issues management David Comba and Velsquez Spring will represent the PDAC on the committee.



Date set for Hall of Fame event

The first major mining occasion of the new millennium will be the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame (CMHF) banquet and induction ceremony, which will be held on Thurs., Jan. 20, 2000, at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

It will be the twelfth time that mining greats, selected by the CMHF board of directors, are inducted into the Hall of Fame. Invitations to the event will be mailed out to members of the mining community in mid-November, and an announcement of the inductees to be honoured in 2000 will be made in the *Northern Miner* toward the end of that month.



Manitoba funds projects

The Manitoba government has announced that it is contributing \$1.1 million to 20 new mineral exploration projects covering a range of commodities.

The move is intended to promote continued investment and job growth in the province.

In making the announcement, Energy and Mines Minister David Newman explained that, given the current global commodities market, companies may be experiencing difficulty in raising funds for exploration.



PDAC seeks reintroduction of MEDA

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada will be presenting a brief on behalf of its members to the Mines Ministers Conference, to be held in Charlottetown this month.

In the brief, the PDAC is urging the federal government to reintroduce a Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance (MEDA) for flow-through shares.

It suggests investor premiums in the range of 33 1/3 to 50 per cent in order to jump-start the sector, then throttle back in future years as recovery sets in.

The PDAC says the reintroduction of MEDA is critical if a crisis in domestic exploration and future ore sustainability is to be averted.

MEDA was first introduced in 1983 at a rate of 33 1/3 per cent, and was in effect for four years.

It allowed an investor in flow-through shares who was in a top marginal tax bracket to deduct \$1.33 for every \$1 invested. However, when the shares were sold after a one-year hold period, the investor was required to pay capital gains tax on the full proceeds, as Revenue Canada deemed the investor obtained the shares for nothing (zero cost base).

The PDAC has lobbied the federal government to have the zero cost base changed to reflect actual costs -- the most recent meeting with Finance Minister Paul Martin was in January 1999.

"The federal government deserves full credit for recognizing that the shortness of the expenditure period in the mid-'80s resulted in some 'overheating excesses'," says PDAC president Gerald Harper.

The two-year expenditure period now in effect limits this problem. For example, 1999 flow-through money does not have to be spent until Dec. 31, 2000.

Flow-through share financings were successful in the mid-1980s in jump-starting a moribund exploration sector across Canada.

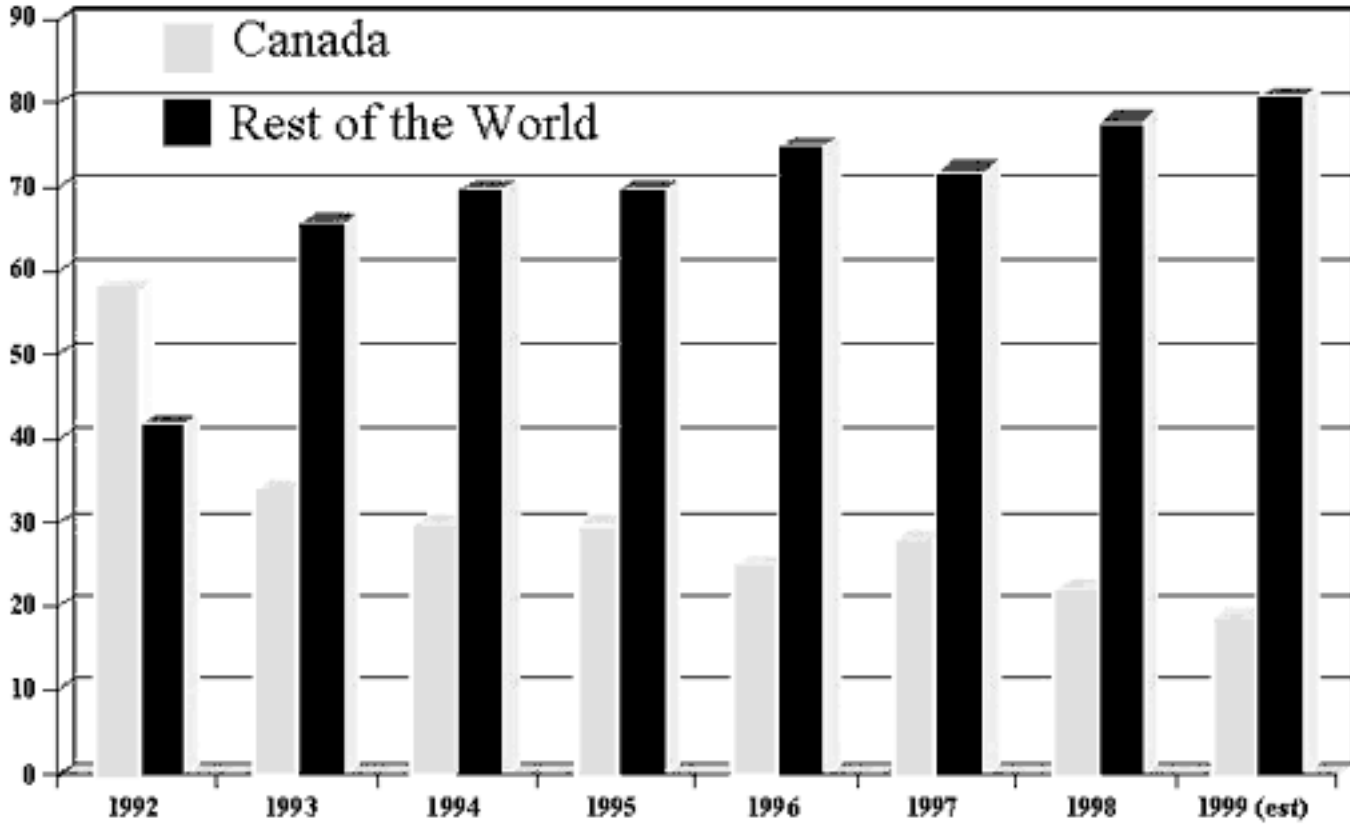
They were instrumental in the discovery of diamonds in the Northwest Territories, the Louvicourt base metal mine in Quebec and two-high grade precious and base metal mines -- Eskay Creek in British Columbia and Lindsley in Ontario.

The need to reintroduce MEDA is indicated by the decline in exploration dollars spent in Canada by both junior and senior companies.

As outlined below, Canada has fallen out of favour with the majors as a place to spend exploration dollars.

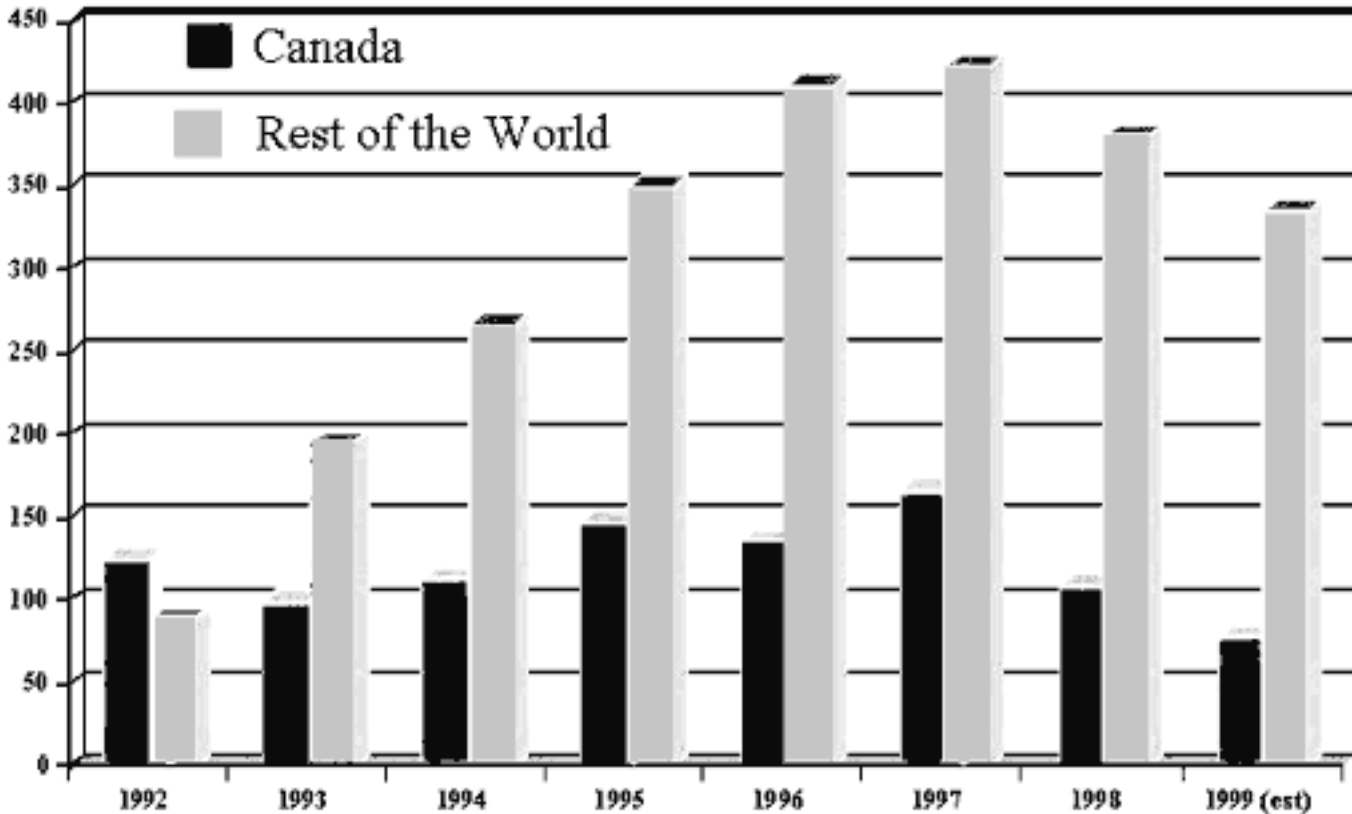
Canada's Top Senior Companies Worldwide Exploration Expenditures 1992-1999

Percentage of Total



Canada's Top Senior Companies Worldwide Exploration Expenditures 1992-1999

\$ CDN Millions



Up to and including 1992, most of the 13 senior mining companies in Canada tended to spend proportionally more of their exploration dollars in Canada than overseas -- in 1992, the ratio was about 60:40 in Canada's favour.

In 1992 and 1993, a sea change took place, triggered in part by the B.C. government's expropriation of the Windy Craggy copper cobalt deposit which resulted in a decline in investor confidence.

Of the 13 senior mining companies surveyed annually by the PDAC, seven say they will be setting new lows for Canadian exploration expenditures this year.

Five companies say they will be spending more "rest of world" dollars in 1999 than their historic average "rest of world" exploration expenditures, and two of the 13 plan to set new record "rest of world" expenditures this year.

Based on their statements, the PDAC anticipates the 1999 ratio will be 19:81 against Canada.

Added to this is the crisis facing junior exploration companies. Because of a few high-profile fraud cases, such as Bre-X, the financing of junior companies has been drying

up since late 1996. Today, many junior mine exploration companies are technically insolvent.

The inability of juniors to attract high risk investors, combined with the reduction in senior company exploration expenditures in Canada, adds up to a crisis in Canadian domestic exploration and eventual development -- one that the PDAC hopes the mines ministers will address.

What will it take to get the seniors back? A major discovery by a junior company, particularly in a previously ignored area, could bring the excitement and the majors back.

The increased reliance on junior companies to do the grass roots programs underscores how important it is for MEDA to be returned for the 1999 taxation year.



Cyanide: the misunderstood compound

Lay people often associate cyanide with death, unaware that it has played a beneficial role in the evolution of life and in today's society.

In a recent article in the International Council on Metals and the Environment newsletter, Dr. T.I. Mudder examines some of the misconceptions about cyanide.

He notes that cyanide has been postulated as the first organic compound on earth, from which the chemical building blocks of life evolved. Because of its composition of carbon and nitrogen, as well as the ease with which it reacts with other substances, it is also considered one of the main building blocks for the chemical industry.

Cyanide and its derivatives are found in the food we eat and the products we use. It is formed, excreted and degraded naturally by hundreds of plants, animals, insects, fungi and bacteria.

Although cyanide is acutely toxic, it does not produce cancer or cause mutations or malformation of the fetus, and its risks to humans and the environment can be effectively managed.

Interestingly, it is not included on the list of most hazardous chemicals issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Cyanide was first used commercially more than a century ago in New Zealand, says Dr. Mudder, where it was used in the extraction and recovery of precious metals.

Today, more than 1 million tonnes of cyanide are used annually in the production of organic chemicals such as nylon, plexiglass and other synthetic organics. It is also used in photography, electroplating and the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

In the mining industry, cyanide is the leaching agent of choice around the world. Although chemical replacements have been sought for decades, its availability, effectiveness and

cost ensure cyanide's popularity.

The mining industry, however, is not the greatest producer of cyanide, Dr. Mudder points out.

For example, he says, the levels of cyanide produced through the digestive processes of certain plants can exceed those associated with hazardous wastes.

In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that nearly 90 per cent of the cyanide released into the atmosphere originates from automobile exhausts, while about 66 per cent of the cyanide entering surface waters is discharged from municipal sewage plants.

Cyanide is also an ingredient in road salt and is therefore widely present in the urban environment at certain times of year.

Dr. Mudder explains that during the winter, a single northeastern U.S. city can release as much or more cyanide into the environment as is released in a year by all U.S. mining operations. Routine environmental sampling taken at one of the gold mines at Hemlo, in northern Ontario, confirmed the low rates of cyanide in the environment but detected cyanide in early spring from winter salting of roads.

Dr. Mudder says that the environmental fate of cyanide has been well documented in surface and ground water, soils and the atmosphere. These studies have shown that because of the many reactions and transformations it undergoes naturally, cyanide does not persist in the environment.

There are, however, risks associated with the use of cyanide and countries around the world have put in place stringent standards and regulations limiting the exposure of humans, livestock, wildlife and aquatic organisms to the compound -- its manufacture, transportation, storage, use and disposal are strictly regulated.

The mining industry itself uses well-proven chemical, physical and biological treatment technologies to remove cyanide and its related compounds. Either alone or in combination, these processes are capable of achieving effluent levels that preserve the environment's integrity.

In addition, realizing the risks inherent in the use of cyanide, the industry has developed detailed emergency response plans and procedures in case of accident.

Finally, Dr. Mudder points out, while the risk of accidental death due to exposure to cyanide is rare, nearly all of the accidental and intentional fatalities resulting from exposure to cyanide have occurred in and around the home, not the workplace.



Bursary winners named

The PDAC awards annual bursaries to students who demonstrate academic excellence in

mining technical courses in Canadian colleges.

This year's awards go to:

- **British Columbia Institute of Technology:** Garrett Ainsworth and William Boorse
- **Northern Alberta Institute of Technology:** Allan Berggren
- **Cambrian College:** Brian Lee and Andrew Mackie
- **Haileybury School of Mines:** Paul Huet, Jason Jessop, George Pollock, Brian Reeves and Paul Rowe
- **CEGEP de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue:** M. Ugo Lapointe
- **Collège de la région de l'amiante:** Didier Oceau and Gladys Plante
- **College of the North Atlantic:** Trevor Snook and Melvin Strickland.



Call for nominations for PDAC awards

The PDAC annual awards recognize and honour outstanding achievement, accomplishment, and service of individuals and organizations in the Canadian mineral industry. Members are invited to submit nominations for the following awards: Bill Dennis Prospector of the Year Award; Viola R. MacMillan Developer's Award; Distinguished Service Award; and Environment Award.

The awards will be presented at the awards banquet on Thursday, March 9, 2000, during Mining Millennium 2000. For a copy of the selection criteria and nomination guidelines, please contact Saley Lawton, Fax: (416) 362-0101; email: slawton@pdac.ca; Tel: (416) 362-1969 ext.225.



Industry supports B.C. hospital

Despite the difficult times facing the British Columbia mining industry, it continues to honour an 11-year-old commitment to children.

This year, men and women of the industry raised more than \$342,000 for B.C.'s Children's Hospital, adding to the \$5.6 million they have donated to the facility since 1988.

Called Mining for Miracles, the annual campaign raises funds for the hospital through payroll deduction, special events and matching funds from mining companies.

The industry has been hard-hit recently by mine closures, layoffs and low commodity prices.



New act requires licensing and registration of firearms

Anyone in the mining and prospecting industry who carries arms for protection against wildlife will be affected by Canada's new Firearms Act.

The act, which is being phased in over a five-year period, has two main components: licensing and registration.

Under the act, owners of firearms are required to obtain a licence, valid for five years, by Jan. 1, 2001. (A Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) serves as a licence until expiry.)

There are two types of licence.

Those who owned firearms on Dec. 1, 1998, and do not intend to acquire any more, need a \$10 "possession only" licence. After Nov. 30, 1999, the fee rises on a sliding scale to \$60 by Sept. 1, 2000.

Those intending to acquire more firearms require a "possession and acquisition" licence.

This licence costs \$60 for acquisition of a hunting rifle or shotgun, and \$80 for the acquisition of any combination of firearms that includes restricted or prohibited firearms. Individuals who currently own restricted firearms will require an Authorization to Carry to replace the existing Permit to Carry.

Businesses with firearms may require a \$50 "firearms business licence," renewable annually, and each employee handling any type of firearms will need the same \$80 "possession and acquisition" licence as is required for restricted firearms.

The second component of the Firearms Act requires the registration of all firearms by Jan. 1, 2003. (A licence or valid FAC is needed in order to register firearms.)

A total \$10 registration fee covers all the non-restricted firearms possessed by an individual, provided they were owned before Dec. 1, 1998, and are all registered on the same application before Dec. 1, 1999.

This fee rises on a sliding scale to \$18 by Sept. 1, 2000.

All restricted firearms must be reregistered by Jan. 1, 2003. There is no additional fee if they have already been registered.

Licence and registration forms for individuals are available at the post office and further information may be obtained by calling the Canadian Firearms Centre, 1-800-731-4000, or visiting www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca.



Presentations emphasize cities' importance

Mining Works for Canada has developed two presentations that demonstrate the importance of mining to Canadian cities, and is about to release a third.

Using an array of facts and statistics, Toronto --The World's Mining Centre and Vancouver -- The World's Mining Exploration Centre illustrate how central the mining industry is to the economy of these two cities, and to the economy of Canada.

The Toronto presentation, developed last year, points out that there are more than 660 mining companies and suppliers in the Greater Toronto Area; that approximately half the mining analysts in the world are in Toronto; and that overseas companies, such as Deutsche Securities Limited, have established their international mining groups in the city.

The Vancouver presentation emphasizes the city's status as a world centre.

It states, for example, that more than 1,000 companies in the Vancouver area are directly related to the industry, and that a five-block downtown area has more mining consulting expertise than any other city in the world.

The Toronto and Vancouver presentations have been shown on Parliament Hill to ministers, Members of Parliament and other key decision-makers.

A third presentation, which discusses mining and Montreal, will be released in September, says Mining Works for Canada director Madeleine McNicoll.

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada is a key contributor to the Mining Works for Canada campaign.



Silver combats Legionnaire's disease

North American hospitals are using silver to eradicate Legionnaire's disease, according to the April/May issue of *Silver News*.

Named after an outbreak at a 1976 American Legion convention, Legionnaire's disease is a virulent form of pneumonia that kills 20 per cent of those infected. Domestic water distribution systems are a major source of the organism.

Hospital-acquired Legionnaire's disease is a major concern for North American health care providers. For example, analysis of water distribution systems in 84 Quebec hospitals revealed that 68 per cent showed contamination.

Some 100 hospitals in Canada and the United States have now installed silver-copper ionization systems and successfully eradicated the organism.



Conference examines Andean mining issues

The Institute of the Americas presents a conference on emerging issues for the Andean mining industry from Nov. 18 to 19, 1999 in Santiago, Chile.

Held in cooperation with the Mining Policy Research Initiative and the International Development Research Centre, the conference will examine new challenges facing domestic and international exploration and mining companies.

Among the issues to be discussed are: financing mine closures; community relations and foundations; hazardous waste treatment; and macroeconomic and regulatory frameworks for the mining industry in Andean countries.

For more information, check the conference web site at <http://www.iamericas.org>, or contact Amy Boone, Associate Director of Mining Programs, Tel: (619) 453-5560 x104; Fax: (619) 453-2165; or email: aboone@iamericas.org.

Gold output cut

China's gold production will not expand as quickly in 1999 as in previous years, according to the Chinese publication *Futures Daily*.

In the first five months of the year, gold output has fallen by 4.1 per cent compared to last year.



Manual assists in writing, reviewing reports

A new manual published by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada is designed to give practical assistance to those writing geoscience reports.

The Art & Science of Writing Geoscience Reports by geologist Brian Grant will be of broad interest to geoscientists, regardless of specialty. It not only identifies the essential components of a report, it also provides guidelines for creating a professional and readable report.

Because of its focus on report products and standards required during the normal course of mineral exploration and development, the manual is directed primarily to explorationists and students.

However, it is also a valuable reference for those involved in research and government surveys.

Further, it provides a basis for evaluating geoscience reports and data by those in minerals-related industries, such as regulators, stock brokers, analysts and investment

managers who specialize in minerals-related activities.

The 200-page manual identifies and describes the essential components of a geoscience report and the concepts and techniques for creating a professional report.

It also presents techniques for reviewing and editing scientific information and establishes a basis for evaluating published reports on mineral properties and other research.

It also provides standards for geoscience report and map contents and layout, standard geological symbols, the correct use of scientific terms and other guidelines.

Finally, the manual incorporates and elaborates on recommendations for reporting proposed by the new National Instrument 43-101 produced by the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Ontario Securities Commission.

The manual includes numerous illustrations, handy tables with reference information and a newly revised geological time scale.

Those writing geoscience reports will find pages of practical help within the manual.

Among the topics Grant covers are: proof-reading, self-editing, gender-neutral language, punctuation, grammar, capitalization, measurements and conversions and spelling.

A professional geologist based in British Columbia, Grant has some 30 years' experience in exploration and development in Canada and overseas.

For 12 years, he was associated with government surveys in positions responsible for editing and setting report standards. He also published *The Ganguie* newsletter for 10 years.

Grant has been a longtime member of the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineral Deposits Division - GAC, the Society of Economic Geologists and the Association of Earth Science Editors.

The Art & Science of Writing Geoscience Reports is available in 15.24 cm x 22.86 cm format with a plasticized cover and spiral bindings at a cost of Cdn\$55 (plus shipping, handling, and taxes where applicable).

Orders should be directed to: Michelle Toffoli, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, 34 King Street East, 9th Floor, Toronto, ON, Canada M5C 2X8. Tel: (416) 362-1969; Fax: (416) 362-0101; email: info@pdac.ca.



Junior pioneers online IPO

A junior mining company, e-minerals exploration corp. of Toronto, has become the first Canadian company to raise capital from an initial public offering (IPO) via the Internet.

National Post writer Michael Fitz-James reports that the share issue in January raised about \$750,000 in capital for the development of a zinc mining property.

The IPO was made by dealing directly with investors, avoiding the use of underwriters or brokers. At the end of the online process, the investors owned shares without having paid commissions or service charges.

The company faced considerable regulatory hurdles and problems in going online, Fitz-James reports, but overcame them successfully.

Among the initiatives it employed were: registering itself as a dealer; using a bold disclaimer stating that the offering was for Ontario residents only; placing the prospectus in a "secure envelope" online and requiring investors to fill in an inter-active "suitability for investment form."

Mexican convention slated for October

The 23rd national convention of the Mexican Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists and Geologists will take place from Oct. 20 to 23, 1999 in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico.

The four-day convention will feature high-level technical conferences as well as Expo '99, at which cutting-edge mine technology will be on display.

For more information and registration, check the association web site at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/aimmgm> or contact the association at: Tel: (52-5) 543-9130; Fax (52-5) 543-9135; email: aimmgm@compuserve.com.