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## MEDA could reinvigorate industry, says PDAC

When crisis threatens, history can sometimes provide a solution. So it is that the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is looking to past experience to resolve the current plight of the domestic exploration industry.

In 1981, Canadian domestic mine exploration was at then-record highs, due in large measure to the arrival of major oil companies into the sector in the late 1970s. With the advent of the National Energy Program and other factors, a majority of these companies beat a hasty retreat which caused a precipitous decline in exploration levels.

In an attempt to arrest the dramatic downturn, the federal government introduced the

Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance (MEDA) as a way to restart mine exploration.

MEDA allowed investors in flow-through shares a premium tax write-off for the four years, 1983 to 1987, that it was in effect. Through the MEDA component in the shares, investors could deduct \$1.33 from their personal income tax for every \$1 invested in shares that qualified for Canadian Exploration Expenditures (the money had to be spent in Canada.)

When the investor sold the flow-through shares following the required one-year hold period, the cost of the shares was deemed to be zero for purposes of calculating capital gains.

Today, Canadian domestic mine exploration is once again hitting bottom following two years of weak metal prices, senior companies increasingly spending their exploration dollars overseas and juniors facing a financing crisis.

The solution, says the PDAC, is for the federal government to reintroduce MEDA, which could then act as a catalyst in reinvigorating the industry in Canada.

As outlined in a proposal to the Mines Ministers' Conference, held in Charlottetown this fall (see story, page 2), the PDAC is suggesting a MEDA premium of between 33 1/3 per cent and 50 per cent initially, followed by a gradual reduction when recovery in the industry starts to take hold.

During the four years that it was in effect in the '80s, MEDA did the job it was intended to do domestically and, surprisingly, it also positioned the Canadian mining industry, in particular the junior sector, for its subsequent successes overseas.

Flow-through share financings enhanced by MEDA were instrumental in the discovery of many new prospects and producing mines, the three best-known of which are Aur's Louvicourt in Val d'Or, Que., Falconbridge's Lindsley in Sudbury, Ont., and Stikine's Eskay Creek, in Stewart, B.C.

Flow-through funding was also key to the establishment of diamond production in Canada.

In the early 1980s, many were dismissive of diamond exploration in this country. At a time when funding was hard to come by, MEDA-enhanced flow-through funding helped Dia-Met and Aber in their quest for diamonds in the Northwest Territories.

Other discoveries by Aber, such as the Thor Lake beryllium deposit and the Sunrise Lake base metal deposit, were also assisted by MEDA-enhanced flow-through funding.

During the four years that MEDA was in effect, a large service sector was created that had built up significant momentum just as access to the states of the former USSR opened up. At the same time, many other jurisdictions -- principally those in Latin America -- were providing greater certainty of mineral tenure.

As the exploration and mining sectors became globalized, the strength built up in the financial and junior sectors as a result of the MEDA-assisted flow-through program placed Canada in a worldwide leadership role.

Today, with the senior companies' increasing reliance on junior companies to carry out the grassroots programs, the PDAC believes MEDA would increase the attractiveness of flow-through shares and once again stimulate exploration in this country. It is possibly even more critical now for the federal government to reintroduce MEDA and reinvigorate exploration in Canada.



## **PDAC proposes land use, investment strategy to national mines ministers conference**

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) has proposed a two-pronged strategy to Canada's mines ministers that will facilitate recovery in the exploration and mining sector.

The strategy depends on stimulating investment as an immediate priority, and on removing impediments to land access and land tenure as a long-term goal.

The PDAC presented its proposals in a brief to the annual Mines Ministers' Conference, held in Charlottetown this fall.

The brief notes that Canada's mineral industry developed within the context of a sophisticated and efficient policy regime that for many years provided an important competitive advantage in attracting exploration investment.

Over the past two decades, however, the regime has been eroded, neutralizing the competitive advantage at a time when global competition for investment capital has greatly intensified.

In order to stimulate investment, the PDAC calls for reintroduction in the next federal budget of the Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance. It also asks ministers to re-establish as soon as possible adequate funding levels for geological survey organizations.

Addressing the impediments that affect land access and tenure, the PDAC raises concerns about unsettled Aboriginal land claims and the "never-ending agenda" to create more parks and protected areas where mining is prohibited.

To resolve these issues, the PDAC has made four recommendations.

First, it is asking for an examination of the Canadian Institute of Resources Law (CIRL) assessment of the public land use issue in Canada, and the practicability of applying its proposed solutions.

CIRL maintains that current land-use planning and management regimes are no longer adequate for the complex challenges that have evolved in recent years. The absence of comprehensive legally-based frameworks for land management and integrated planning procedures results in fragmented decision-making, a lack of coordination and discipline and the continuation of land use conflict.

If progress is to be made on industry concerns about land access and tenure, CIRL says, a broader approach to the public land use issue is required.

Second, the PDAC is asking the ministers for an initiative designed to improve Aboriginal-industry relations.

Third, it is seeking legislative measures to reduce the level of uncertainty in mineral exploration and mining.

Finally, it proposes specific measures to improve the environmental assessment process and development of a rehabilitation program for orphaned mine sites.

[See also GROUP](#)



### **PDAC tracking trends in exploration, financing**

There is high demand for data gathered by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) to track trends in exploration expenditures and financing.

The association has been tracking exploration trends since 1991, working in collaboration with consultant Gamah International which gathers financial data.

The PDAC database includes annual exploration spending and forecasts for junior Canadian companies, annual surveys of senior Canadian companies and financing information.

The data are used for a variety of purposes.

This fall, for example, they were key to a major presentation by the PDAC to the Mines Ministers' Conference. They are also used in annual presentations to the PDAC convention.

International meetings provide another forum for presentation of the data.

Recently, president Gerald Harper delivered a paper entitled "Canadian junior resource companies -- setting the course as finders and funders" at the North Atlantic Minerals Symposium in Dublin, Ireland.

Harper told the conference that junior companies are assuming leadership in international grassroots exploration, and a number of seniors are tending to opt for being developer of choice.

However, he pointed out, junior companies are currently experiencing a pronounced inability to raise financing. If they are to supply a flow of projects to senior companies tomorrow, they need a flow of funding today to allow them to undertake the necessary exploration.

One possibility, Harper said, is that seniors may opt to get a "foot in the door" with juniors by investing in private placements with them.

The degree to which this has to happen, however, is far in excess of what is happening today and Harper raised the question of whether seniors have considered this in light of their repositioned roles.

In October, PDAC executive director Tony Andrews was an invited keynote speaker at the PACRIM conference, hosted by the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and held this year in Denpasar, Indonesia. His paper was entitled “Worldwide financing and exploration trends.”

Employing PDAC survey data and other information sources, Andrews analyzed worldwide financing and exploration trends over the past decade, in the context of both cyclical and secular forces affecting the industry. He pointed out that globalization has been the most important secular force on the industry. The '90s form a useful basis of analysis, since they define a complete economic cycle when the forces of globalization came into play.

The PDAC's success in tracking trends depends on the continuing help of junior companies, emphasizes Harper.

“We'd really like to thank them for responding to the PDAC survey this year,” he says. “The information they supply allows us to make dramatic up-to-the-minute presentations such as those we've made this fall.”



### **Draft regulations, practices published for comment**

Progress continues to be made on recommendations arising from the final report of the Toronto Stock Exchange/Ontario Securities Commission Mining Standards Task Force.

Maureen Jensen, director of mining services for the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE), reports that revised National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) is entering its second stage of development.

First published for comment in the summer of 1998, the draft regulations are being revised based on comments received and will be republished for comment before year-end.

NI 43-101 regulates the preparation and filing of various technical reports and news releases on mining and exploration properties. It prescribes the form of technical reports submitted to securities regulatory authorities, standardizes the terms used in them and sets out the required qualifications of the geoscientists and engineers who prepare them.

Also this fall, the recently appointed best practices committee distributed a draft set of guidelines for comment. These have been circulated to all PDAC members in a PDAC *Communiqué*. The comment period closes on Dec. 15.

Comprising representatives of the TSE, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and the Canadian Council of Geoscientists, among others, the committee is charged with developing

exploration best practice guidelines and reporting guidelines for the mining industry, as recommended by the mining standards task force.

Once comments have been received, the guidelines that are being recommended for adoption by the industry will be published in various industry journals this coming spring.

Another area of concern of the mining standards task force is also being addressed after the September announcement that Canada's stock exchanges and the Investment Dealers' Association of Canada are setting up a 10-member committee to review the rules and practices governing analysts.

The committee will consider national guidelines and press for Canada-wide standards. It will also examine current company practice of taking analysts on trips to view assets - particularly mines - in remote parts of the world.

The Mining Standards Task Force had concluded that mining analysts need more supervision, monitoring and guidance. Jensen expects the committee's recommendations will be published in mid-2000.

## MEMBERS OF THE PROSPECTORS & DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Members of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) wishing to nominate individual(s) for election to the PDAC Board of Directors are reminded that nominations must be delivered to the PDAC no later than December 15, 1999.

The following nominating rules apply:

Each nomination must be supported by six PDAC members in good standing.

Each individual being nominated must be a PDAC member in good standing who has consented in writing to serve as a director.

Nominations should be addressed to the Secretary of the Association, 34 King Street East, 9th. Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2X8.

Faxed nominations will be accepted provided that the original is delivered to the above address within ten days of the date of the faxed nomination and no later than December 15, 1999.

For further information, contact Tony Andrews, Executive Director, Tel: (416)362-1969; Fax (416) 362-0101; e-mail: [aandrews@pdac.ca](mailto:aandrews@pdac.ca)



### **Steele elected vice president of PDAC**

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is delighted to welcome John Steele as its new vice president, and as its president for 2000 to 2003.

The managing director of Asian Tiger Resources, Steele has been a director of the PDAC since 1996, and has served as co-chair of the convention planning committee for four years.

He is currently co-chair of the Mining Millennium 2000 (MM2000) Technical Program Committee, and a member of the MM2000 planning committee.

A geophysicist, Steele has worked in North America, the Middle East, Africa, France, Asia and Australia on a variety of business and technical aspects of exploration projects.



### **CAMESE publishes suppliers directory for 1999 - 2000**

The Canadian Association of Mining Equipment and Services for Export (CAMESE) has published its 1999/2000 CAMESE Compendium of Canadian Mining Suppliers.

Considered an invaluable reference source by the industry, the compendium contains some 230 corporate profiles of Canada's suppliers of equipment, technology and services to the mining industry.

Information is organized by industry subsector and full contact details are provided for each company or organization.

The compendium is available, free of charge, from CAMESE's offices at Suite 101, 345 Renfrew Drive, Markham, Ont. L3R 9S9. Tel: 1-(905) 513-0046; Fax: 1-(905) 513-1834; e-mail: [minesupply@camese.org](mailto:minesupply@camese.org).

### **Course examines exploration concepts, case studies**

The University of Toronto student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists will hold a short course on VMS Exploration: Concepts and Case Studies on Mar. 2 and 3, 2000.

Speaking on exploration concepts will be Gerald Riverin, Jim Franklin, Harold Gibson, Tim Barrett and Frank Santaguida. Case studies will focus on Eurozinc, Foran Mining, Inco, Manhattan Minerals and Teck.

For more information, telephone (416) 978-0661 or e-mail [ioannou@zircon.geology.utoronto.ca](mailto:ioannou@zircon.geology.utoronto.ca).



## **MM2000 Technical Program** **Mining Excellence in the New Millennium**

**Sunday**

- Ore Bodies for the New Millennium
- Commodity Price and Supply Forecasts



## **Monday**

### **DAILY ISSUES FORUM - Survival Strategies for the 21st Century**

- Regional Understanding of Ore Deposits
- Property Scale Aspects 1
- Property Scale Aspects 2
- Geochemical Processes
- Alternative Geochemical Methods 1
- Alternative Geochemical Methods 2
- Role of the Analyst
- Royalties
- Aboriginal / Socio-Economic Issues 1
- Aboriginal / Socio-Economic Issues 2
- Aboriginal / Socio-Economic Issues 3
- Manufacturers/Suppliers Forum 1
- Exploration Technology
- Environmental Management in Exploration 1
- Environmental Management in Exploration 2



## **Tuesday**

### **DAILY ISSUES FORUM - Land Use Battles: Will They Ever End?**

- New Discoveries and Developments
- New Discoveries and Developments
- Geology and Ore Reserves
- Analytical Quality Control
- Geophysics
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Due Diligence
- Hedging
- Securities Regulatory Compliance 1
- Securities Regulatory Compliance 2
- Country Specific Papers
- Manufacturers/Suppliers Forum 2
- Computer Aided Mine Planning and Design
- Spatial Information Systems
- Geomechanical Modeling



## **Wednesday**

### **DAILY ISSUES FORUM - Rebuilding Investor Confidence: A Report Card**

- Business of Exploration
- Metallurgical Breakthroughs 1
- Metallurgical Breakthroughs 2
- Rock Mechanics - Backfill
- Rock Mechanics - Ground Support
- Rock Mechanics - Mine Design
- Valuation - Exploration Properties
- Valuation - Discounted Cash Flow Approach
- Valuation - Market and Option Approaches
- Competitiveness of Nations
- Country Presentations 1
- Country Presentations 2
- Manufacturers/Suppliers Forum 3
- Management Information - Systems and Logistics
- Internet Technologies
- Mine 2020



## **Thursday**

### **DAILY ISSUES FORUM - Energy, The Economy & Kyoto**

- Geology and Mineralogy in Exploration, Delineation, Mining and Mineral Processing
- Metal Mining 1
- Metal Mining 2
- Rock Mechanics - Case Studies
- Rock Mechanics - Rock Bursts
- Rock Mechanics - Cost Benefits
- Managing Project Risk
- Risk Analysis
- Alternative Funding Sources for Advanced/Producing Projects
- Technological Advancements in Mineral Processing
- Project Development in Mineral Processing
- Maintenance and Engineering
- Manufacturers/Suppliers Forum 4
- Automation & Robotics
- Mine to Mill Integration
- Systems Integration and Optimization



## **Friday**

### **DAILY ISSUES FORUM - Minimizing a Mine's Impact**

- Metal Mining 3
- Metal Mining 4
- Metal Mining 5
- Oil Sands Into the 21st Century
- Coal/Oil Sands Technology in the 21st Century
- Coal Industry Issues for the 21st Century
- Sustainable Development
- Mine Closure, Remediation and Reclamation 1
- Mine Closure, Remediation and Reclamation 2
- Industrial Minerals
- Canadian Mining Contractors Association 1
- Canadian Mining Contractors Association 2
- Manufacturers/Suppliers Forum 5
- Technology Implementation Issues
- Maintenance Management
- Mining Software Requirements Panel



## **Ambassador visits**

This fall, Canadian ambassador Gerald Skinner visited the Toronto offices of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC).

Based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Skinner's responsibilities cover Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

He visited the PDAC to discuss the investment climate in these jurisdictions, and to find out how to attract Canadian companies to this area.

## **MM2000 to host first-ever World Mines Ministries Forum**

Competitiveness of Nations, Mining and the Community, Sustainable Mineral Development and Geological Surveys in the Information Age will be the main topics addressed at the World Mines Ministries Forum (WMMF), to be held in conjunction with Mining Millennium 2000 next March.

The forum offers a unique opportunity for mines ministers and senior government officials from more than 100 mining jurisdictions around the globe to meet with their counterparts and discuss issues of common interest.

Mining company executives, representatives of non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples will also take part.

Organizers of the forum include the World Bank, the Ontario and British Columbia mines ministries, Natural Resources Canada, the International Development Research Centre, the Mining Association of Canada and Conservation International.

As well as networking with global colleagues, participants will be able to examine mining related issues, and debate and evaluate policy approaches to current challenges in mining.

It is also hoped that the forum will foster a consultative process on common interests.

The principal elements of the forum, which runs from Mar. 8 to 10, are a plenary session, with addresses from distinguished keynote speakers, and a series of interactive workshops that will allow for in-depth discussion of issues.

Competitiveness of Nations will focus on the search for investment dollars. Topics to be addressed include mining investment, mining laws and regulations, mineral policy regime, taxation systems, government capacity and resources and competitiveness rating system.

Mining and the Community will address small scale and artisanal mining; social, cultural and economic impacts of mining; indigenous peoples and consultation procedures; land access, involuntary resettlement and compensation; and social and economic consequences of mine closure and restructuring.

Topics under Sustainable Mineral Development will include sustainable development; market access; mining and the environment; safe use of minerals and metals; and recycling.

Geological Surveys in the Information Age will focus on the evolving role of surveys; geoscience input into policy decisions; alternative funding models; and geological information as a competitive advantage.

For further information, visit the Mining Millennium 2000 web site at [www.miningmillennium.org](http://www.miningmillennium.org).

Registration and program details are now being finalized. To receive a copy of the WMMF brochure, please contact Michelle Toffoli at the PDAC office.



### **Prospectuses now available**

Potential exhibitors for the Mining Millennium 2000 PDAC International Trade Show and Investors Exchange may now obtain prospectuses and booth application forms from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC).

Included with the prospectuses are maps of the exhibit halls in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre where both events will take place.

Now in its 68th year, the trade show contains 400 booths covering a range of products, services, technology, organizations and jurisdictions from around the world.

Of particular interest in 2000 will be four high-tech pavilions where displays and demonstrations will show the leading edge of today's mining industry technology.

Presentation rooms with theatre-style or reception seating will also be available for

exhibitors who wish to promote their products and services in a private setting.

Because Mining Millennium 2000 is the joint convention of the PDAC and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), PDAC exhibitors also have the opportunity to exhibit in the CIM Tradex, which opens after the PDAC trade show closes.

A popular forum for bringing mining companies and the investment community together, the Investors Exchange features presentations by leading investment analysts and junior company representatives.

More than 200 booths will be housed in the exchange.

Prospectuses and application forms are available from the PDAC, 34 King Street East, 9th Floor, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2X8. Tel: (416) 362-1969; Fax: (416) 362-0101; e-mail: [info@pdac.ca](mailto:info@pdac.ca).



### **Technology lets audience have its say**

Organizers of Mining Millennium 2000 (MM2000) are living up to their promise that next year's convention will be innovative and unprecedented.

One of those innovations will use interactive technology to allow audiences to have their say on controversial topics.

Daily issues forums, that will be built into the technical program, will feature a panel discussion on a topical and provocative subject.

Speakers who have been carefully selected to represent a range of opinion will discuss issues such as land-use battles or survival strategies for the industry.

Key pads will be distributed to the audience and, after the panel has finished its discussion, the moderator will pose questions and ask audience members to respond, using the interactive technology.

Those responses will be instantly analyzed and tabulated and flashed upon a screen for all to see.

“The issues forums will be an innovative and exciting daily highlight,” says John Steele, co-chair of the MM2000 technical program committee.

“We're anticipating some thought-provoking and stimulating discussion.”



### **Grade 4 students learn that Mining Matters**

A new teaching kit aimed at Grade 4 students is now being distributed in Ontario schools

by Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Mining Matters (PDACMM).

Written by teachers and reviewed by geologists and industry professionals, Deeper and Deeper/Aller au fond des choses is an activity-based program for Grade 4 teachers.

The program was pilot tested in the spring, and 1,600 English and 400 French kits were produced during the summer

To obtain a kit, teachers participate in a workshop and sign a partnership agreement with Mining Matters indicating that they will use the program within a year and provide an evaluation of it.

The new kit follows on the success of the Grade 7 program, developed by Mining Matters in 1995. To date, more than 2,100 Grade 7 kits have been distributed to teachers in virtually every school board in the province.

Project Coordinator Linda Lilge is thrilled by the popularity of the Mining Matters program.

“It’s very well accepted by all the teachers,” she says.

“They really appreciate all the materials and they appreciate the expertise from our education committee, who make sure the materials are accurate.”

The new Grade 4 kit provides an introduction to rocks, minerals and erosion and includes a teacher’s binder, activity cards, quizzes and answer sheets, an introductory letter to parents and a list of recommended web sites.

Other resources supplied with the kit are a geology map card, aerial photographs, erosion and site reclamation pictures, diagrams and a card game.

The program covers three topics. Students start with Talking Soil, learning about the formation and composition of soil, then move on to Slip Sliding Away, a study of erosion. They make a landscape model, simulate the different forms of erosion, and develop and test a solution to an erosion problem.

The final topic, Rocks and Minerals, shows students how to distinguish between rocks and minerals, how to test the physical properties of minerals and how to classify rocks.

With the completion of the Grade 4 and Grade 7 programs, Lilge is looking ahead to other projects.

“There’s a very strong link that can be made with the environment and mining and natural resources in the Grade 9 geography program,” she says. “That is a very juicy possibility.”

A registered charitable organization, PDACMM is supported by mining and exploration companies, banks, brokerage firms, foundations, law firms, government departments and individuals.

For more information, or to contribute to the program, contact Linda Lilge. Tel.: (416) 946-4095; Fax: (416) 978-4820; e-mail: [pdacmm@ecf.utoronto.ca](mailto:pdacmm@ecf.utoronto.ca).

## Information and learning the focus of mining web sites

The phenomenal growth of the Internet is leading to the creation of a number of web sites of particular interest to prospectors and explorationists. Here are two of them.

The B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines web site ([www.bc-mining-house.com](http://www.bc-mining-house.com)) contains an array of information and links related to the mineral and exploration community.

There is a list of the chamber's services, a history of the chamber and mining in British Columbia, a bulletin board of news and correspondence, a book list and a catalogue of publications and software tools to help the mineral explorationist.

In addition, the site offers links to other sites that provide information as varied as news releases from the provincial Ministry of Energy and Mines, mining investments and properties for sale, lists of operations and suppliers, and opinion pieces.

It even carries a link to the world's first and only online prospecting school, with an outline of the curriculum.

Science North and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) have collaborated on an exciting and educational mining web site especially for children (<http://www.sciencenorth.on.ca/groundwork>).

Developed as a centennial project by the CIM in 1998, the site invites the visitor to follow three paths in exploring for minerals in Canada.

The first path allows the visitor to explore for gold, copper or diamonds on a virtual property, complete with maps identifying geological features.

The second path teaches about the work of modern day prospectors and exploration geologists by using the discovery and development of Voisey's Bay as a case study.

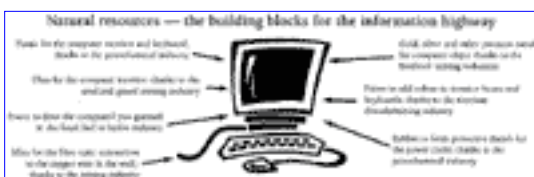
The third path offers two quizzes: a Canadian mining quiz entitled Past and Present, and a Canadian prospectors' quiz entitled Mineral Exploration.

Print is large and colourful to attract young visitors, and a cartoon character acts as a guide through the pages.



## Natural Resources - the building blocks for the information highway

Click to enlarge image





## **Coroner's jury calls on industry to educate workers about malaria**

An Ontario coroner's jury has called on the mining industry to educate its employees about tropical diseases following the death from malaria of a 29-year-old explorationist.

Kurt Fleguel, a contract diamond drill operator, died in June 1998 in North Bay General Hospital from cerebral malaria contracted in Zambia.

In late March, Fleguel's employer told him he would be leaving for Zambia on April 3. Prior to departure, Fleguel received immunization shots and a prescription for an antimalarial drug, Mefloquine, that was to be taken once a week before, during and after his trip.

At the subsequent inquest into Fleguel's death, evidence suggested that a large number of people who are prescribed Mefloquine do not take the medication for fear of side effects.

Fleguel spent three months in Zambia at a copper mining exploration operation. Mosquito-borne malaria is a common infectious disease in the area, and several of Fleguel's colleagues were treated for it. There is no record, however, that Fleguel was treated for any medical condition during his stay.

Fleguel returned to Canada on June 5, feeling ill.

The next day he went to the North Bay General Hospital emergency department with chills and fever and expressed a concern that he had malaria. He said that he had not taken his anti-malaria medication on a regular basis while in Zambia and was not currently on any medication.

After several tests, the hospital determined that Fleguel had viral/bacterial bronchitis and prescribed an appropriate medication. The doctor also advised him to take his antimalarial medication.

Fleguel returned home and his symptoms continued through the next day. On June 8, his wife found him beside the bed, with no vital signs. He was taken to hospital and pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed the presence of malarial parasites in his blood.

At the inquest, it was noted that Fleguel had apparently not taken his antimalarial medication as was prescribed, nor was there any follow-up upon his return home to determine if he had contracted any illnesses.

In its recommendations, the coroner's jury asked mining associations and the Ministry of Labour to promote awareness and prevention of malaria and other tropical diseases through a comprehensive education program for relevant workers.

It recommended that particular attention be given to providing appropriate lead time for effective medication, on-site compliance with medical advice and medical follow-up upon return home.

The jury also recommended that Health Canada increase funding to educate the public about tropical diseases, especially malaria.



### **Proposed Newfoundland reserve contains mineral claims**

The Newfoundland Cabinet is currently considering the creation of an ecological reserve in an area where there are active mining claims.

The proposed reserve, to be known as the Little Grand Lake Ecological Reserve, is an area of approximately 900 square kilometres in Western Newfoundland.

Intended to protect the largest known concentration of the endangered Newfoundland pine marten, the reserve has two components: a wildlife reserve where some mineral exploration would be permitted and an ecological reserve where no exploration activity would be allowed.

While the mineral industry and the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Newfoundland and Labrador fully support the concept of protecting the pine marten, says Timothy Froude, executive director of the chamber, there was concern because the proposed reserve contains active mineral claims held by companies exploring for gold.

However, he is hopeful that these will be exempted from any restrictions applied to the reserve.

“The chamber lobbied hard to have most of this area removed from reserve status by successfully arguing that logging and rabbit snaring practices were the main threat to the pine marten, not mineral exploration,” Froude says.

Froude notes that the Protected Areas Association, like most agencies involved in the environmental movement, has a wish list of other areas it would like to see given reserve status or some other measure of protection.

“It is the hope of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources that it will have substantive input into any new proposed protected areas before any decisions are made,” he says.

“Input from all stakeholders is required to ensure informed decisions are made with respect to any new proposals.”

The chamber is also concerned about the creation of the Torngat Mountains National Park in northern Labrador (see *In Brief*, Fall 1999).

Establishment of the 7,700 square kilometre national park in the northern portion of Labrador results from the Agreement in Principle reached between the Labrador Inuit Association and the federal and provincial governments.

“Although mineral exploration activity is being allowed to continue, and to a small degree

is continuing, the eventual establishment of the park will halt all mineral exploration and development,” says Froude.



### **Group recommends \$363 million expenditure on geoscience mapping**

An industry/intergovernmental working group is recommending that the government spend \$363 million over a 10-year period in order to complete geoscience mapping of Canada.

The recommendation was contained in a presentation made to this year’s Mines Ministers’ Conference, that discussed the amount of government geoscience required to attract investment back to Canada.

The presentation was the culmination of a project that began at the 1997 Mines Ministers’ Conference, when an industry/intergovernmental working group was asked to look at alternative funding arrangements for government geoscience, says Mary-Claire Ward who chaired the group.

“In July 1998, we presented the results of that study to the Mines Ministers’ Conference and suggested various mechanisms for funding, but one of the confusions was that we didn’t really know how much needed to be done to allow Canada to regain its share of investment in the mineral exploration sector,” explains Ward.

“The ministers directed the task force to continue its work and determine how much government geoscience was enough.”

The working group asked each province and the federal government to provide a status report on four types of mapping: bedrock, surficial, geophysics and geochemistry.

Once this was done it became clear that there were large areas of Canada where government geoscience was either inadequate or absent.

The working group then considered whether the government needed to map the whole country in order to attract investment.

“The answer was, ‘No, not necessarily,’” says Ward.

The group next asked each province to formulate what it thought would be a good program in order for Canada to catch up.

The total of those programs amounted to \$363 million over a 10-year period.

“We asked ministers this year to make a commitment to secure additional funding to complete the task,” adds Ward.

“We further asked them to consider planning this program using a cooperative strategy such as the national geoscience mapping strategy proposed by the federal government.”

In a communiqué approved in November, the mines ministers recognized the importance of up-to-date geological mapping and an accessible geoscience knowledge base in stimulating exploration.

They also agreed to consider strategies to achieve adequate funding levels and to address a 10-year goal for substantially improving the knowledge base across Canada.

The communiqué adds that the ministers have asked officials to develop cooperative mapping strategies for Canada through the National Geological Surveys Committee and in close collaboration with industry representatives.



### **Geoscientists to meet in Calgary**

All the geosciences in Canada will come together next spring for GeoCanada 2000, an event organizers say will be “the summit meeting of the millennium.”

The three-day gathering, to be held from May 29 to June 2, 2000 at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alta., is the joint meeting of the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the Canadian Well Logging Society and the Canadian Geophysical Union.

GeoCanada 2000 will draw all the key constituencies of Canadian geoscience, enabling them to integrate their knowledge and ideas and explore new ways of working together.

“In one sense,” organizers write, “it will be like the final push to the summit of one of the majestic peaks of the Rocky Mountains that serve as the backdrop to the Calgary venue -- affording us all a chance to look back down to where we’ve been and, with wide perspective, assess what we’ve accomplished.

“In another sense, it will be like the exhilarating moment of arrival at a mountain summit -- a chance for all of us to gaze onto the panorama of the new millennium with its infinite possibilities for new geoscientific directions.”

For further information about GeoCanada 2000, see the First Circular that was distributed with the September issues of *Geoscience Canada* and the *Reservoir*, or visit the GeoCanada 2000 web site at [www.geocanada2000.com](http://www.geocanada2000.com)