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Martin urged to include flow-through proposal in budget

The PDAC is urging federal Finance Minister Paul Martin to incorporate changes to the existing but moribund Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance (MEDA) program in this spring's budget.

In a letter to the finance minister, PDAC president Gerald Harper says the changes should reflect the PDAC's pro-posed Focused Flow-Through Share (FFTS) program. No new legislation would be required.

"Canada's junior mining sector desperately requires such a program in order to reverse the decline in exploration activity that has impacted severely on jobs and related economic spin-off activities in northern and rural communities across Canada," he writes.

Several elements would define the FFTS program.

A 40 per cent premium is suggested initially, in order to capture the attention of the investment community. This would later be scaled down to 20 per cent.

In addition, every gross federal income tax dollar foregone would result in \$3 to \$4 of additional exploration spending.

There would also be a regional development focus on northern and rural areas, and only surface exploration focused on the discovery of new prospects in three dimensions would be included.

The program would also be defined by a scaled-down formula based on independent yardsticks and mandatory termination after three years.

In order to promote FFTS, the PDAC has been making presentations to federal and provincial government officials, politicians and senators across the country. PDAC director of issues management David Comba has made presentations to the House of Commons' standing committees on finance and natural resources.

In an explanatory paper sent to finance minister Martin, the PDAC outlined the crisis currently facing junior companies in their ability to attract sufficient investor interest to finance new projects.

It points out that tax credits are not the answer since the problem is the ability to raise money up front.

"Tax credits are of no use to companies that are not taxable and likely to remain so," the paper points out.

Although there were some problems associated with MEDA, these are being addressed in the proposed FFTS, the PDAC says.

By increasing the time available for expenditure almost four-fold (to Dec. 31 the following year rather than Feb. 28), the greatest impediment to compliance has been addressed. The PDAC paper also notes that its recommendation is for surface exploration only.

"To ensure scale down provisions are met," the paper notes, "a number of independently monitored and mutually reinforcing measures of activity can be set in place, such as trading volumes for mine exploration stocks, monthly surface drilling totals, monthly size and frequency of junior mine exploration financings."

If the tax deduction premium being requested for FFTS fails to attract high-risk investors, there will be little or no cost to government, the PDAC says. Nor, because of recently enacted alternative minimum tax measures, can there be a repeat of the \$1.2 billion raised in each of the years 1986 and 1987.

"Between these two extremes there will be a tax cost associated with encouraging exploration using a premium on the pro-posed FFTS," the paper explains.

"In order to limit this cost to government, it is recommended the premium could be graduated. Mandatory termination is proposed after three years."

The PDAC's studies corroborate earlier studies done by the federal finance ministry indicating that for every dollar fore-gone in gross tax revenue, three to four dollars of exploration activity takes place. On a net basis, before allowance is made for mines discovered and the new wealth these mines generate, the overall cost to government is probably negligible because the foregone tax revenues will be offset by increased economic activity, payroll taxes on salaries associated with increased employment and taxes collected on goods and services.

In addition, other benefits will result from the diversion of international expenditures to the domestic market.

Revenue would also be realized from capital gains taxes on the eventual sale of FFTS by the investor.

The PDAC paper points out that in the event mines are discovered, the wealth created will be new, not just transferred. Nor can ore bodies be relocated the way that high tech companies can.

In conclusion, the paper notes that the royalty and tax revenues for the producing Ekati diamond mine and the Diavik diamond mine development alone are enough to payback for the MEDA years.

"Great untapped mineral wealth still lies waiting to be discovered in Canada's vast northern reaches," the paper adds. "High tech exploration by junior mining companies discovered diamonds in the Northwest Territories and nickel, copper, cobalt at Voisey's Bay in Labrador.

"With timely pump priming, junior companies can do it again. They just need the investment seed capital to restart."

David Comba would like to hear of any success stories from the MEDA years, 1983 to 1987. He can be reached at (416) 362- 1969 ext. 233.

PDAC in Brief is a quarterly newsletter published by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. The newsletter is designed to inform the association's members of the activities of the PDAC and also of current issues and events of interest to the Canadian exploration and development industry.

Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada

34 King Street East, 9th. Floor,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 2X8
Telephone 416 362 1969; Fax 416 362 0101;
Email info@pdac.ca; Web www.pdac.ca



1999 Hall of Fame inductees

Six mining pioneers who made outstanding contributions to the industry have been named to the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. Their portraits and citations will join those of 97 previous inductees in the Hall of Fame, located at the University of Toronto and in the Elliot Lake Centre, Elliot Lake. The Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Mining Association of Canada, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and The Northern Miner.

Robert John Isaacs 1905-1997

Robert Isaacs discovered and developed the massive lead-zinc deposits in New Brunswick that became the cornerstone of Brunswick Mining and Smelting, now part of the Noranda organization. A talented mining engineer, he also helped finance and develop many smaller producers, particularly in Newfoundland, where he developed a reputation for building mines with low capital and operating costs.



Roland Kenneth Kilborn 1902-1959

Roland Kilborn founded one of one of Canada's foremost engineering consulting companies. Since its inception in 1947, Kilborn Engineering has designed and built some of North America's largest mines and become an industry leader in gold milling, potash refining and uranium processing. The firm is now part of the SNC-Lavalin organization.



James Paul Norrie 1891-1945

James Paul Norrie discovered and opened mines in the Abitibi region of northwestern Quebec. He began work in Malartic and Fournière townships, where the geology was complex and geophysical surveys of little use in penetrating the thick overburden. His persistence led to the construction of the Stadacona mine. He also discovered or helped to develop the East Malartic, Malartic Goldfields, Aubelle, Croiner, Louvicourt, Norbenite and Sladen mines.



James Edgar Thomson 1906-1982

James Thomson was a geologist with the Ontario Department of Mines (ODM, later the Ontario Geological Survey) for 44 years. He revived, enlarged and modernized the ODM, transforming it into an important body recognized internationally for its technical excellence. He discovered and reported on the surface exposures of the copper-zinc orebodies that later became the Geco and Willroy mines and recommended the Hemlo area for prospecting.



John Paris Bickell 1884-1951

John Bickell opened a brokerage firm at age 23 and was a millionaire by age 30. Leaving the investment business, he became president, and later chairman, of McIntyre-Porcupine Mines, one of Ontario's first and most important gold producers. He also became one of Canada's most generous philanthropists. The J.P. Bickell Foundation was established with \$13 million after his death and has since distributed \$85 million annually.



Joseph Arlington Retty 1904-1961

Joseph Retty played a major role in the discovery of iron ore deposits in the Quebec-Labrador boundary region, leading to the founding of the Iron Ore Company of Canada. Drilling of the Carol deposit began in 1956 and development of a mine and concentrator followed in 1962. During this period, Retty recognized the hydro-electric potential of what are now Churchill Falls and Twin Falls, later developed for the Carol project.



Manitoba mining industry, First Nations agree on provincial code of practice

The Manitoba mining industry and the Manitoba aboriginal community have reached historic agreement on a code of practice for the provincial mining industry that is unique in Canada — and perhaps North America.

Called the Manitoba Mineral Guideline, the agreement is designed to build relationships and create opportunities. Parties to the guideline are the minerals industry, First Nations, Metis Nation, northern community councils and the province of Manitoba.

Ed Heubert, executive vice president of the Mining Association of Manitoba, describes the agreement as a ground-breaking document.

"We don't know of any other province that actually has an agreement with the First Nation leadership," he says. "This is the first one of its kind in the country, if not North America."

He adds, "We consider this a very positive document, a step in the right direction and we're looking forward to the next series of discussions and activities."

The five parties began work on the agreement in May 1998 and, says Heubert, they used the Whitehorse Mining Initiative as a jumping off point. The process included the formation of a working group, comprising representatives of the mining industry, aboriginal communities and northern communities, and a series of workshops to examine collaborative approaches to mining issues in the province.

The goal of the agreement is to build long-term relationships based on mutual trust, respect and understanding with regard to rights, culture, values and tradition.

There are six objectives: keeping commitments strong, information sharing, open consultation, creating opportunities, protecting environmental integrity and policy review and development.

Each of these objectives encompasses recommended actions.

The parties have agreed to keep the commitments strong by establishing clear statements of principles that reflect mutual understanding and expectations and integrating mineral management with natural and human resource needs.

They have also agreed to public participation in decision-making and protection of unique and sacred areas.

Information sharing will be encouraged by open forums for public participation, joint social and scientific research activities and access to information and policies.

The parties will ensure open consultation through culturally sensitive approaches or dialogue and consultation, and cross-cultural training, education and facilitation. They will also develop information packages and consultation strategies.

The parties will seek to create opportunities in a number of ways. Recommendations include joint identification of funding sources, education and skills training in the potential work force, new approaches to recruitment, stay-in-school strategies, technical and instrument training, trade and scientific training, identification of business opportunities, resource management and access to investments and joint ventures.

The parties have also agreed on several initiatives to protect environmental integrity.

They will practice culturally viable sustainable economic development, encourage community involvement in the development of natural resources, maintain healthy and diverse eco-systems and adopt sound environmental management practices.

The parties will also provide healthy and safe work environments and address the rehabilitation of lands due to mineral exploration or development.

In announcing the agreement, Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk described it a significant development in the history of mining in the province.

"Mining is an important issue to aboriginal and northern residents because it provides employment and creates economic wealth," she said. "At the same time, any economic activity has environmental, social and economic impacts that need to be understood by residents of the communities in which they take place.

"Better sharing of public information through consultations and working groups benefits everyone. "

Ed Heubert credits the minister with the successful conclusion to the two-year

negotiations.

"We wouldn't have got to where we are with-out her," he says. "The minister was able to close the process and without her support it was doubtful that the agreement would have been ratified."



Silver alloy adds to disc life

Eastman Kodak Company, a leading manufacturer of rewritable CDs with a gold reflecting layer, has announced that it is entering the market for "silver" discs with Kodak CD-R Plus media.

Silver News reports that unlike competitive discs that have a silver reflecting layer, Kodak Silver Plus media features a silver alloy. As a result, the discs offer the high reflectivity of silver combined with the durability of gold, and resist corrosion.

In testing, the company reports, the silver alloy discs lasted three times longer than competitors' silver discs.



Award winners announced

The PDAC is pleased to announce the winners of the PDAC Awards 2000.

Gren Thomas of Aber Resources has been named Prospector of the Year for his work in diamond exploration in the Northwest Territories while the Developer's Award goes to Tom Pugsley and the Falconbridge Team for the Raglan and Collahuasi mines.

Two men will receive the Distinguished Service Award: Ralph Cheesman and Peter Dimmell. Cheesman is the retired general manager of the Saskatchewan Mining Association and is honoured for his long service to the industry. Dimmell receives the award for out-standing service as a longtime PDAC director and regional representative in Newfoundland.

The Environmental Award goes to Noranda for outstanding achievements during the past decade, and to Richmond Mines for its Newfoundland operation.

The Special Achievement Award for 2000 goes to Dutch Van Tassell for a life-time of achievement including his work at United Keno Hill, Goldcorp and as chair of the PDAC's environment committee.

The awards will be presented at the Millennium Awards Evening on Mar. 9.



Career information offered to students

A careers seminar for students contemplating careers in the resource industries will be held at the Royal York Hotel on Monday, Mar. 6 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Organized by the education committee of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), the event is sponsored by both the CIM and the PDAC.

Students will hear industry leaders speak about four industry sectors: mining, smelting and refining; energy, oil sands and coal; consulting, construction and equipment; and financial services.

The speakers will describe sector activities and career possibilities. Students will also receive information about industry expectations for graduating students and, from a fifth speaker, advice on developing their career potential.

Pre-registration is not required but seating is limited to 250.



Opening Day will be a festive family affair

Excitement, celebration, fun, relaxation — these will be the dominant moods on "Opening Sunday," the first day of Mining Millennium 2000 (MM2000).

"We're trying to do something quite different than most conventions have done before," says PDAC executive director Tony Andrews. "It will be a special opening day, a relaxed festive day of networking and a whole variety of interesting things to do."

For those wanting to ease themselves into the week's technical program, two technical sessions will look at ore deposits and the price of commodities.

The trade show and Investors Exchange will both be open and roving bands will create a mood of celebration and excitement on the Metro Toronto Convention Centre's second floor.

A major focus of Opening Sunday will be on delegates' families — spouses and children. They will be joined by Toronto area grade 4 and grade 7 children who have taken the Mining Matters program, and their parents, for an afternoon of fun-filled entertainment.

The first stop will be nearby Ontario Place to see the first showing in the Toronto area of the fantastic new Imax movie, Gold Fever. After the show, everyone will be bussed back to the convention centre to meet the two stars of the movie, Al Doherty, a Yukon prospector, and his dog Blue.

For the next two hours, children will be able to participate in a treasure hunt involving a variety of entertaining mining-related activities, such as panning for gold, before assembling for the 4 p.m. opening ceremony.

The opening will feature the Millennium Kids bearing the flags of all the countries present at the convention, and dignitaries will launch Mining Week in Toronto.

A number of high-tech demonstrations designed to appeal to families will take place on the trade show floor, and as the after-noon winds down, children will carry home loot bags filled with mementoes of the day.



World Forum speakers to address five themes

Two full days of workshops and plenary sessions are in place for the World Mines Ministries Forum, to be held from March 8 to 10, 2000.

The gathering, the first of its kind ever held, is expected to bring together ministers of mines and their mining officials from jurisdictions around the world, mining company executives, representatives of indigenous peoples, representatives of non-governmental organizations and minerals industry association heads.

Following opening ceremonies, five keynote speakers will address the plenary session on the five themes of the conference.

James Bond, director of energy, mining and telecommunications for the World Bank, will lead the session by speaking on the competitiveness of nations. He will be followed by Fernando Loayza, executive vice president of Ecologicalink Investment Group of Bolivia, who will talk about mining and the community.

Alyson Warhurst, director of the mining and energy research network at England's University of Warwick, will discuss mining and sustainable development, and John F. H. Thompson, chief geoscientist of Teck Corporation, will describe what a multinational mining company expects from a geological survey.

Wrapping up the plenary session will be Patrick M. James, president and CEO of Rio Algom, who will talk about the international mining company in multiple jurisdictions.

Afternoon workshops will fill the balance of the day and the morning of Mar. 10, and their findings will be presented at a working luncheon on Mar.10.

The conference will conclude with a two-and-a-half hour private session for government officials.



MM2000 speakers will identify finance, mining, technology trends

Barbara G. Stymiest, president and CEO of the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE), will be the keynote speaker at the MM2000 Market Outlook Luncheon on Friday, Mar. 10. Her topic

will be "Capital markets in the next millennium."

In the new millennium, Stymiest says, Canada and the TSE are ready to play an increasingly important role in providing the partnerships, support expertise and necessary finance to the mining industry, further reinforcing Canada's position as the global leader in mining and mining finance.

She will provide insight into the increasingly competitive global capital markets and the benefits of the realignment of the Canadian exchanges.

She will also talk about ways in which the TSE, as a for-profit company, is committed to providing innovative services to meet the evolving needs of mining and exploration companies.

The TSE consistently ranks as one of the world's top exchanges and is Canada's premier market for senior equities, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of all equity trading in Canada.

Appointed to the presidency of the exchange last October, Stymiest was chair of the TSE from 1997 to June 1999 and played a significant role in the realignment of Canada's four exchanges.

A chartered accountant and formerly chief financial officer of a major investment firm, she brings more than 20 years of diverse business and industry experience to the TSE.

Two other keynote luncheon speakers at MM2000 will address the impact of South African producers on the global gold scene, and challenges to mining in the 21st century.

Christopher M.T. Thompson, chair-man of Gold Fields, will speak at the Millennium luncheon on Wednesday, Mar. 8. He has chosen the title "New South African producers — their coming impact on the global gold scene" for his address to this joint luncheon of the PDAC and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum.

With restricted opportunities for growth in South Africa, producers are looking overseas and targeting new deposits outside the country, Thompson says. The liberalization of foreign exchange regulations opens doors to investing abroad and producers have substantial financial and technical resources available to them.

Thompson will discuss criteria for new projects and acquisitions and identify preferred areas of the world for exploration and development.

Pierre Lassonde, president of Franco-Nevada Mining Corp., will be the keynote speaker at the Mineral Outlook luncheon on Monday, Mar. 6. His address is entitled, "Mining in a dot.com world."

Lassonde points out that the relevance of mining is in question in a world where the net worth of an individual (Bill Gates) is twice that of the entire market capitalization of the global gold industry.

Of all the nations on earth, he says, Canada has more of the land, technology and capital

that are necessary to a vibrant mining industry, yet mining represents just 1.7 per cent of Canada's GDP.

Canadian mining companies are also global leaders, a position reflected in the fact that the industry represents more than 14 per cent of the index weighting on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

With the explosion in population and communications, the world requires more of the resources produced by the mining industry and, says Lassonde, the main challenges of the 21st century will be access to land and technology.

The industry will have to foster the human creativity necessary to meet these challenges and remain relevant, he adds.



Mayors to explore mining issues

Mining Millennium 2000 is planning a special workshop for mining town mayors that will explore issues relating to the minerals industry and their impact on municipal affairs.

The workshop, to be held on Monday, Mar. 6, will feature a panel discussion of two or three topics, followed by an in-depth question period.

One of the themes to be discussed is "Recycling the town — how do you prepare for the mine shut-down?"

The day's events will be followed on Monday night by Mining Town Night, a celebration of Canadian mining towns. Billed as "an entertaining evening with dancing," the event will celebrate the contributions of all Canadian mining towns to this country's prosperity.



All that jazz

You may not be able to get to New Orleans on Shrove Tuesday this year, but you can celebrate all the Magic of Mardi Gras in Toronto on Mar.7.

An evening of spectacular interactive entertainment will sweep you away to the masked revels and the sweet sounds of jazz that high-light the South's most popular celebration.

For MM2000 delegates, the festive mood begins with masks, beads and party favors and continues with a choreographed spectacular with sparkling costumes, luminous special effects, hot music and 16 performers.

After a delectable dinner, Bobby D and the Swing Cats will encourage everyone to take to the dance floor while they play pop, jazz and, of course, that good old rock 'n' roll.



Shows within a show

Country and provincial pavilions will provide a "show within a show" at the PDAC trade show.

Australia and Brazil will sponsor pavilions highlighting national mining activities and opportunities, while British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario will host provincial pavilions. In addition, the Maritime provinces will be present in the Atlantic Rock Room.



Newfoundland reserves will allow mineral exploration, development

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has announced a system of "reserves" that will allow mineral exploration and development to continue in one of the critical areas of significant mineral potential.

The reserve system is in the Little Grand Lake and Grand Lake area of Western Newfoundland, approximately 20 kilometers southeast of Corner Brook. It includes a provisional ecological reserve of 742 square kilometers, a wildlife reserve of 575 square kilometers and a public reserve of 178 square kilometers.

The reserve system was designed to provide protection for the endangered Newfoundland Pine Marten, but also includes measures to preserve portions of three distinct ecoregions that intersect in the Little Grand Lake area.

Significantly, the 178 square kilometer public reserve, which covers Glover Island in Grand Lake, prohibits most general Crown land uses except mineral exploration and development. In other words, the right to explore and develop mineral resources on Glover Island can continue as if the area were Crown land.

In fact, mineral exploration and development may occur within the wildlife reserve as well, but only under permit.

The provisional ecological reserve, however, does not allow any activities that may compromise the natural environment, and mineral exploration or development is not permitted within its boundaries.

A series of public hearings is necessary before the provisional ecological reserve becomes a permanent ecological reserve.

Tim Froude, executive director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources, says the chamber fully supports the protection given the Newfoundland Pine Marten and applauds the assurance that mineral exploration and development can continue on Glover Island.

"Currently, significant gold occurrences are being evaluated on Glover Island by a Newfoundland-based junior exploration company, New Island Minerals," he says. "The chamber is concerned, however, that the process of removing land from exploration continues without the mineral potential of these areas being fully known.

"The chamber is pressuring government to ensure that industry is involved at an earlier stage in the process than currently exists, for example, reading it the local newspaper or hearing about new reserves on the news."

Froude adds, "We feel that our involvement in land use issues is critical to the survival of our industry, and that this would lead to a more expeditious and mutually beneficial land use plan."



Mining tours focus on Europe, Latin America

Atalaya Tours Ltd. of Aberystwyth, Wales is offering a special discount to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada for its mining study tours in 2000.

The tours, inaugurated in 1988, cover all aspects of mining history and archaeology, both ancient and recent, as well as the geological setting of some of the major international mining areas.

Travellers are offered field visits to modern operations and ancient sites. Museum visits and talks from local guides and experts are added attractions. Groups are small — usually no more than eight people — so there is time for individuals to explore their own interests.

In addition, all tours give participants some free time for a closer look at the tour areas.

PDAC members will receive a discount of at least five per cent on the full price of any of this year's tours. You may travel from your home base directly to the tour area, and Atalaya Tours can arrange accommodation or extension tours around its itineraries.

For more information contact James Thorburn, Mining Tours Manager, Atalaya Tours Ltd., Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, U.K. Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1970 82 89 89; e-mail: atalayajt@aol.com. The following tours have been arranged in 2000:

RIO TINTO AND SOUTHERN SPAIN

April 9 - 19: A combination of two long-standing popular tour itineraries in southern Spain.

MEXICO

May 20 - June 3: Starting in Mexico City, tour members visit the major mining areas of the central and western highlands, including Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Fresnillo and Real del Monte.

NORTHERN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

June 23 - July 1: A look at the gold, tin and copper mines of this region, including many

major Roman sites.

GERMANY

July 15 - 22: The Harz Mountains and the Erzgebirge areas of Germany are features of this tour.

WESTERN BRITAIN

July 29 - Aug. 9: Tour members visit the main mining areas of southwest England and Wales.

PERU

Aug. 19 - Sept. 2: A new itinerary explores the main mining areas of the central highlands. An optional extension to Cuzco is available.

GREECE AND CYPRUS

Sept. 17 - 28: This tour ties in with the 2000 International Mining History Congress on the Greek island of Milos.

President gives PDAC international profile

PDAC president Gerald Harper delivered papers to conferences in Berlin and New York late last year.

In mid-November, he presented the PDAC's view of the current global mining climate to a meeting on the development of the Central-Eastern European Mining Industry in Berlin, organized by Energywise. Harper delivered his paper at a conference work-shop on base and precious metals.

A week later, he was in New York to speak about current global trends in financing mineral exploration and development at a luncheon meeting of the New York section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.



Manitoba model offers consultation, flexibility

In Manitoba, a remarkable consensus is being reached over land access issues that could serve as a model to the rest of Canada.

Consensus is achieved on protected areas through regular consultations between the mining industry, World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF), Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines and Parks Branch of Manitoba Conservation.

The process is based on cooperation, open communication, mutual respect and trust, explains PDAC director Jamie Robertson, regional exploration



manager of Falconbridge Limited.

"I don't know any other place in the country where it's working as well as it's working here," he says.

"You're always striving for win-win situations and the government is getting what it wants out of (the process), the mining industry is getting what it wants and Parks Branch and WWF seem to be very happy with what they're getting."

After consultations with various stake-holders, including the mining industry, the Provincial Parks Act was introduced in 1993. For the next two years, existing provincial parks were rezoned and then the process of selecting new protected areas began.

In order to speak with one voice during these initiatives, the mining industry participated through the Mineral Exploration Liaison Committee (MELC).

Its membership comprises representatives of the Mining Association of Manitoba, the Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Prospectors and Developers Association and the PDAC.

The Manitoba government made it clear that it was committed to set aside representative areas of each natural region for completion of its network of protected areas, and at the same time, leave areas with good mineral potential open for exploration.

Under the Parks Act, provincial parks are classified as wilderness, natural, recreation or heritage parks and can be zoned under various land use categories: wilderness, backcountry, resource management, recreational development, heritage or access.

Mining, petroleum development, forestry and hydro are not allowed in parks classified as wilderness or in park zones in the wilderness, backcountry or heritage categories. Mining and exploration are allowed in the other categories.

Recognizing the important contribution mineral production makes to the provincial economy, Manitoba provides support to the industry through Policy #9 of the Planning Act.

Under that policy, the province protects all known metallic mineral deposits, and areas of high metallic mineral potential such as greenstone belts and the Thompson nickel belt, from land uses that would prohibit or unduly restrict exploration, development and extraction.

For the past four years, MELC has been working with Industry, Trade and Mines, Parks Branch and the WWF on proposals for protected areas, says Robertson.

"As a guideline, we've been using the Whitehorse Mining Initiative recommendations on protected areas," he says. "Based on that, we've accepted the concept of endangered spaces

Discussing protected areas at a recent meeting are, from left, Ed Heubert of the Mining Association of Manitoba, Christine Kaszycki of the Manitoba Department of Industry, Trade and Mines, Jamie Robertson of Falconbridge Limited, Gaile Whelan-Enns of WWF Canada and Rick Wilson of Manitoba Conservation.

and that some areas do need to be set aside as protected areas."

At a typical meeting, the Parks Branch representative proposes a protected area and the government geologist presents a geology map showing any conflicts that are then negotiated around the table.

"At the end of the meeting we will often have a consensus that the proposed area picks up the representative ecological features, yet does not conflict with any areas of known mineral potential," says Robertson.

He adds, "To date, no protected areas have affected any mineral claims or areas of known mineral production."

Similar consultations on parks are also taking place with the forestry, aboriginal and hydro sectors.



Understand the dangers

My heart goes out to the family of the unfortunate man whose experience you describe in your Fall article, "Coroner's jury calls on industry to educate workers about malaria."

As the coroner's jury suggested, there is a good case for teaching workers about the hazards of malaria before they go overseas. Perhaps the PDAC should consider sponsoring a three- to six-hour course in tropical hygiene for such travelers.

There are several other diseases workers should know about. In this day and age, a lot is known about these diseases which can be fatal but which, with a little care, need be of little concern. Employers need to understand what the dangers are and make sure their employees really understand them.

Brian Hester
Vineland, Ont.



Mayor proclaims Mining Week in Toronto

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman has proclaimed March 5 to 10 Mining Week in Toronto in recognition of the many achievements and tremendous contributions made by the minerals industry.

The proclamation cites the achievements, contributions and future of the mining industry

that are being celebrated at Mining Millennium 2000, the joint convention of the PDAC and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum.

Noting that the international convention and trade exhibition cover the entire mining cycle, the proclamation states that people from every facet of the minerals industry worldwide will be attending the five-day event.

It further adds that "Canada's long and respected mining history, technical expertise and financing acumen are legendary in the world of mining. Toronto is acknowledged as a world leader in raising finance for mining and exploration projects and is one of the nation's chief mining centers."



Open houses successful

Issues director David Comba recently visited mining open houses in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

The meetings were all successful and well attended.

"Manitoba set a record high," Comba reports. "They had 900 people, and the previous high was 700."



New solder developed

Sumitomo Bakelite has developed a paste containing silver that has the same thermal and electric conduction characteristics of traditional solder but is lead-free and does not need a hot iron for application.

Unlike other silver-based pastes, the new paste has a larger concentration of silver dispersed in acrylic material.

Although it will cost more than epoxy-based pastes, customers will use less of the product and enjoy a shorter processing time, says Sumitomo Bakelite.