



PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

PDAC asks members to write to MPs

The PDAC is asking members to participate in a letter-writing campaign to their Members of Parliament in support of measures that would make the “super” flow-through program more attractive and extend the program for at least another year.

While “super” flow-through financings have arrested the decline in junior company expenditures at the grassroots stage, the industry is well short of anticipated goals.

In order to make the program even more attractive to investors, the PDAC is asking the government to make four minor adjustments:

- extend the buying period for the purchase of “super” flow-through shares

from Dec. 31 to the end of February, thus coinciding with the RRSP deadline;

- designate between 10 and 15 per cent of the money raised to be eligible to pay for “hard dollar” costs such as prospectuses, offering memoranda, broker sponsorship fees, listing and disclosure costs;
- expand eligibility for purchasing the shares to include not only individuals but also bona fide mining companies;
- extend the spending period in the final year of the current program from Dec. 31, 2003 to Dec. 2004. One of the major problems of the previous Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance (MEDA) program, in effect from 1983 to 1987, was the requirement to spend money almost as soon as it was received, leading to issues of

non-compliance and overheating. The government subsequently extended the spending period to the end of the following year, thus overcoming the problems.

The PDAC had hoped to have its needs met in a June 2002 technical budget, says PDAC issues director David Comba. However, three days into his new job as finance minister, John Manley deferred plans for that budget.

The PDAC then wrote to Manley asking that the four issues might be addressed in the next economic statement or technical budget.

A budget statement is expected after the house resumes sitting in the fall and, says Comba, the PDAC needs the help of its members in making sure their needs are not overlooked.

“We need to do more than just keeping our fingers crossed that our needs are going to be addressed in a fall economic statement or Speech from the Throne,” he says. “We need a letter writing campaign.” Comba urges members to contact him (tel 416 362 1969, ext. 233; email dcomba@pdac.ca) to obtain a sample letter.

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Gold Fields becomes founding partner of E3

The PDAC's Environmental Excellence in Exploration (E3) program is heading into a busy fall with a brand new founding partner under its belt.

Gold Fields Limited has donated \$50,000 toward production of the E3 e-manual, joining the other \$50,000 founding partners, the PDAC, Falconbridge Limited, Inco Limited and Noranda Inc.

Donations have also been received from Barrick Gold Corporation, BHP Billiton, DeBeers Canada Corporation, Placer Dome Inc., Teck Cominco Limited, the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Canadian Diamond Drilling Association, Eldorado Gold Corporation, Export Development Canada, Kinross Gold Corporation, Kluane International Drilling Inc., Rubicon Minerals

Corporation and Virginia Gold Mines Inc.

The e-manual will contain the most current information on effective and proven environmental practices worldwide and members of the E3 technical committee are currently reviewing all the data that have come into the E3 office.

“I've received a huge amount of information from various companies and government agencies,” explains E3 project manager Neil Westoll.

“The technical committee members are sifting through that to extract the material that's going to fit in to the parts of the manual that's going to write,” he says.

The first “beta” version of the e-manual will be launched at the PDAC convention next March.

Join the Core – invoices go out in October

PDAC tells mines ministers access to money vital for industry

The PDAC is letting Canada's federal, provincial and territorial mines ministers know that access to money is the major concern of the exploration sector.

The association points to a systemic problem with Canada's securities system that negatively affects all entrepreneurial companies – namely, the cost of compliance within 13 jurisdictions. It also says that stock markets are failing to serve the needs of the mining sector.

The PDAC's concerns are contained in a brief to be presented this month to the Mines Ministers Conference meeting in Winnipeg, Man.

At issue are matters related to primary markets, the domain of the securities commissions where companies finance by issuing shares for money, and secondary markets, the domain of stock markets where investors buy and sell shares.

The brief says junior mine exploration companies are increasingly limiting the number of jurisdictions in which they raise money in exchange for shares.

Discussing secondary markets, the brief says that many junior companies are finding it hard to maintain their exchange listings during the current cyclical commodity lows.

Meeting the stringent continued listing requirements of the newly unified Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and TSX Venture Exchange has become costly or, for some, impossible. With the closing of the Canadian Dealing Network, there is no third tier market where shareholders can buy and sell the securities of these unlisted companies and where potential investors and shareholders can obtain critical information such as the volume and price of the last trades.

This lack of a published market affects the ability of junior mining companies to raise financing because investors are unwilling to invest in illiquid securities,

the brief adds.

The PDAC asks the mines ministers to lobby their cabinet colleagues and regulators to encourage current moves towards a third tier stock exchange or other secondary market facility that would meet the needs of smaller junior mining companies and start-up ventures generally.

The brief examines and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of a pan-Canadian securities regulator vs. a system of harmonized regulations that would be adopted by the current securities commissions and points to the Australian model, which appears to be a happy and successful compromise between the two systems. Ministers are urged to support a national solution to create a unified securities system that will be able to nurture all entrepreneurial companies by maximizing efficiencies and reducing costs.

The brief to the mines ministers also discusses land access. Among its recommendations, it asks ministers to support efforts that seek sound science to achieve biodiversity conservation in Canada, without compromising social needs and the ability of all Canadians to have a healthy economic environment through industrial development.

Furthermore, the brief urges ministers from jurisdictions without compensation legislation to act as quickly as possible to bring such legislation in, to avoid being perceived as "not open for business."

Other recommendations made to the Mines Ministers Conference relate to the portability of professional geoscientist status, investment in the geoscience knowledge base, and adjustments to the temporary Investment Tax Credit for Exploration in Canada, including an extension of the program.

A full copy of the brief is on the association's website at www.pdac.ca.

Core membership deadline near

There are only a few weeks left to sign up for the PDAC's newly established Core membership program, and obtain the benefits for 2003.

In October, the association will be sending out invoices for 2003 fees to Core members, with payment due on Dec. 31, 2002. Core members receive a special low rate of \$85, compared to \$150 for regular membership, and the lowest convention registration rate.

They also enjoy uninterrupted membership benefits, including information services, such as the online newsletter, networking opportunities and discounts.

Core members qualify for free membership after reaching age 65 and being a member for 25 years. Anniversary milestones of continuous membership are also recognized.

The Core membership form is available on the PDAC web site at www.pdac.ca.

Use caution in bat areas

Comments about bats by Mike Leahy in our last issue (Our Volunteers, In Brief, July 2002, No. 29) prompted Morgan Poliquin of Almaden Minerals Resources Corporation to get in touch with us about potential hazards that contact with bats can pose.

Bat guano may contain the spores that spread histoplasmosis, a fungal disease of the lungs. Poliquin himself has contracted the disease and urges explorationists to take precautions when working in caves or other locations where bats are present.

The PDAC published an article on this subject in 1993. It is posted on our home page at www.pdac.ca.

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.

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www.pdac.ca

Species at risk legislation leaves compensation unresolved

After 10 years of effort, legislation protecting Canada's endangered species is likely to become law this fall. Bill C-5 is to receive second reading by the Senate when parliament reconvenes and, if approved, will then receive royal assent.

The question of compensation for resource users remains unresolved in the legislation.

Bill C-5 says that the government must develop regulations to deal with compensation and that compensation should be fair and reasonable.

"Eligibility remains an open question," says Pierre Gratton, vice president of public affairs and communications for the Mining Association of Canada.

Environment minister David Anderson is known to be opposed to compensation for those who operate on Crown land. However, he asked resource economist Prof. Peter Pearse to review the issue, says Gratton, and the opinion came back that resource users should be eligible.

"At the end of the day, my guess is that Environment Canada will not be able to give blanket refusal for compensation but it will be conditional," he adds.

The issue for explorationists, says PDAC president Bill Mercer, is that any uncertainty about the potential to bring a prospective property to development will seriously erode the ability of junior companies to raise capital.

"The problem is, it increases risk down the road and acts as a disincentive to exploration," he says.

As a service to members, he adds, the PDAC is considering putting together the

underlying information regarding species at risk and the mineral potential of Canada to see if there is a high probability of species at risk locations coinciding with areas of exploration potential.

New Explosives Act imposes tighter controls

Canada's new explosives act, expected to become legislation this fall, will herald a much more regulated world for prospectors than the one they worked in before September 11.

The act is part of Bill C-55, the Public Safety Act (2002), which was introduced in the House of Commons this spring.

David Comba, issues director of the PDAC, says that Natural Resources Canada is trying to accommodate the needs of prospectors but there is significant pressure on the Canadian government to bring in more stringent controls, particularly for storage of explosives.

The PDAC had recommended that Bill C-55 authorize a blaster's certificate for prospectors but that has been rejected, says Comba. Instead, the Quebec system of possession is likely to be implemented nationally.

Under that system, anyone having anything to do with explosives, from manufacture to use, must have a driver's licence-type card, the issue of which is

subject to stringent background checks.

"The Quebec prospectors might not like it but they've learned to live with it," Comba says.

Regulations for Type 6 magazines are still being considered and the details are unknown at this point. But Comba conjectures that requirements are likely to be made more stringent and more expensive.

In fact, he says, prospectors might have to pool their resources and give one individual responsibility for the magazine and weekly inventory control.

"For a prospector in a rural area with a Type 6 magazine on his property, it's going to be more expensive, but not impossible," Comba says. "But it's still not clear what storage requirements will be needed on the exploration property."

He adds that the government is also going to come down hard on prospectors for past abuses, for example leaving unused explosives in the field after the end of the field season.

Nominate
a colleague
for a
PDAC Award

- ✓ Bill Dennis Prospector of the Year Award
- ✓ Viola R. MacMillan Developers Award
- ✓ Distinguished Service Award
- ✓ Environmental Award

The annual PDAC awards recognize and honour the outstanding achievements, accomplishments and service of individuals and organizations in the Canadian mineral industry.

As a PDAC member, you are invited to submit nominations for these awards. Selection criteria are available at www.pdac.ca/mcont/awards_selection_crit.pdf or from Saley Lawton (e-mail: slawton@pdac.ca; tel: 416 362 1969 ext. 225).

The awards will be presented at an Awards Banquet, held on Monday, March 10, 2003, during the PDAC convention.

Gold and China to be featured in convention technical program

After years as the Cinderella of metals, gold is once again coming into its own and will be the focus of a special afternoon technical session at the 2003 convention.

The session, to take place on Wednesday, March 12, will examine many aspects of the anticipated new cycle in gold exploration.

Speakers, who are yet to be announced, will discuss the ways in which this exploration cycle might differ from those in the past; the outlook for demand, central bank sales and hedging; and lessons learned from global consolidation in the gold sector.

China will also be the subject of in-depth analysis during the technical session on Tuesday, March 11.

An overview of the country will provide information about the business climate and growth and the consumption and production of metals. Of particular interest will be presentations on the new mining act and environmental and safety factors.

Speakers will also discuss China's geology and four exploration and mining companies will discuss their involvement and experiences in the country.

Other sessions within the technical program include the very popular Sunday afternoon series of papers on commodity trends and forecasts. A session on diamonds, *Diamonds, diamonds everywhere!* will take a world view of diamond exploration and diamond potential and will include papers

on Australia, Canada, China, and India.

An all-day session on Tuesday, March 11 will cover best practices in exploration and in development, and there will be half-day sessions on mining finance and new discoveries and developments.

Another feature of next year's convention will be a short course on metallurgy that will be of particular interest to geologists.

Organized by Lakefield Research, Metallurgy for Geologists will review fundamentals of the practical aspects of metallurgy and metallurgical testing, focusing on aspects important during the preliminary scoping stage, pre-feasibility and feasibility stages of project development.

Using case studies for a variety of commodities, the course will introduce geologists to metallurgy, with a particular focus on metallurgical testwork for new deposits and an appraisal of the metallurgical issues that could make or break these projects.

Two other short courses will also be

available to convention delegates: a joint presentation by the Society of Exploration geologists and the PDAC and a course on the portability of geoscientist professional qualifications across Canada.

A new feature of the convention will be an Investors Conference on Wednesday, March 12. The Investors Forum, which has been held over the last few years on Wednesday morning, has proved to be so popular that this year's planning committee has decided to extend it to become a full-day event. Analysts and others familiar with the mining scene will offer their views on commodities and the stocks and companies to watch.

The 2003 convention takes place from March 9 to 12 at the Metro Convention Centre in downtown Toronto.

Convention brochures will be mailed out to members in September, and full registration and program details will be mailed in December. In the meantime, further information about the convention can be found on the PDAC's web site: www.pdac.ca.

Convention offers many sponsorship opportunities

There is an excellent sponsorship program in place for PDAC conventions. Opportunities are carefully designed to ensure the highest profile possible for sponsoring companies or organizations. There's no better way to make your name and trademark stand out and to increase delegate interest in your company. For full sponsorship details, please contact the PDAC.

Call for papers for open session

The PDAC invites policy-related and technical papers for presentation during the open session at the 2003 convention. The open session runs from Monday, Mar. 9 to Wednesday, Mar. 12, and is the part of the technical program reserved for submitted papers.

Papers are particularly invited on the following topics:

- diamonds
- mining finance
- properties of merit (their recent exploration and development history)
- geophysical/geochemical practices in areas of active exploration
- best practices
- commodities
- new concepts and technical developments (particularly their application to deposit discovery and definition)
- country or regional profiles
- socio-economic issues
- case studies
- legal and regulatory issues

Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes.

Detailed information is posted on the PDAC web site at www.pdac.ca.

Authors are asked to submit an abstract of their paper to the PDAC before Dec. 13. The abstracts should be no more than 200 words.

Please address submissions to Evelyn Liougas, PDAC, 34 King Street East, 9th Floor, Toronto, ON M5C 2X8; e-mail: eliougas@pdac.ca; fax: 416 362 0101.

PDAC seeks nominations for directors

If you have an interest in the exploration community, enjoy working with like-minded people and want to help the industry, why not consider becoming a director of the PDAC?

There are 48 directors on the PDAC's board, each of whom serves a three-year term. Directors retire in rotation (16 a year) and new directors are elected at the PDAC annual meeting, held in conjunction with the PDAC convention in March.

Officers of the association — the president, first and second vice presidents and secretary-treasurer — are elected by the board from among its members.

Directors are expected to exhibit a high standard of professional behaviour and to attend the monthly board meetings, either in person or by conference call. They are also expected to be aware of all current PDAC issues, promote PDAC issues and interests when appropriate, and be active members of at least one committee.

The board of directors is responsible for ensuring that the overall governance and stewardship of the association is carried out in the best interests of the membership. It approves position and policy on all matters of substance; financial statements and annual budgets; and all unbudgeted expenditures in excess of a specifically designated amount.

The board establishes and oversees committees, appoints the chairs, sets direction, receives reports and reviews performance.

Guidelines cancelled

The PDAC has announced it will no longer be producing the Guidelines to Regulatory Requirements and Procedures in Exploration, Development and Mining in Canada.

The guidelines were introduced by the PDAC at the start of the 1990s and produced annually in partnership with Canadian provincial and territorial governments.

Recently, however, some jurisdictions have been unable to provide updated material for the guidelines and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry has informed the PDAC it cannot commit to supplying the required information.

Committee works offers directors an opportunity for networking and for learning about and working on issues of current concern to the industry. Currently, the PDAC has nine committees: awards, convention planning, education, geosciences, lands, membership, mining regulations, securities and finance, and taxation.

In addition, there is an executive committee comprising the president, vice presidents, immediate past president and two directors elected annually by the board.

To nominate a director:

- Each nomination must be supported by six PDAC members in good standing
- Each nominee 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, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, 34 King Street East, 9th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 2X8. The deadline for nominations is December 16, 2002.
- Faxed nominations will be accepted, provided that the original is delivered to the above address within 10 days of the date of the faxed nomination and no later than December 16, 2002.

For further information, contact executive director Tony Andrews, tel: 416 362 1969; fax: 416 362 0101; e-mail: aandrews@pdac.ca.



Clarke Campbell was a pillar of PDAC

Clarke Campbell, the PDAC's former solicitor and a longtime director, died in July at the age of 84 after a lengthy illness.

He served as a director from 1970 to 1997. The PDAC recognized his years of service with a distinguished service award in 1986 and when he stepped down from the board, he was named an honorary director.

"Clarke was a real pillar of the association," says executive director Tony Andrews. "He was one of those invaluable people on whom associations rely so heavily."

Clarke Campbell was born in Haileybury, Ont. in 1918 and was the first person in his family to go to university, graduating from the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School.

He had a distinguished career as Toronto's top mining lawyer and was senior partner of the law firm Day, Wilson, Campbell. Upon retirement, he served as a director for a variety of businesses and associations, including several junior mining companies.

An obituary in the *Globe and Mail* noted that he was particularly proud to be a director of the PDAC.

Ed Thompson, PDAC president from 1977 to 1978, knew Campbell as a fraternity brother and recalls that one of his major contributions was to draw up the association's charter and bylaws.

"He was our legal counsel for 25 years or so and I don't think we ever got a bill from him," says Thompson. "He helped us out whenever we needed him and just donated his time."

As executive director, Andrews often sought his advice because of his knowledge of governance procedures.

"Clarke was full of experience and wisdom," he says.

Clarke Campbell leaves his wife Kay, three children, several grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Are you moving? Changing your Internet provider?

Be sure to let us have your new contact details, including your new e-mail address. E-mail the information to info@pdac.ca.

Donated Canadian textbooks form basis of new Mongolian university library

This summer, former PDAC president Gerald Harper helped a Canadian charity deliver some much-needed textbooks to a university in Mongolia.

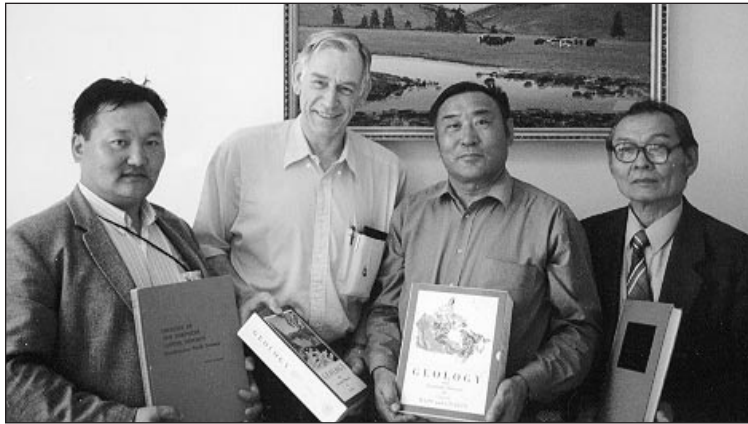
They were part of a 167-kilogram shipment of books sent by AGID Canada to the Mongolian Technical University (MTU) in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The books will form the foundation of a technical library in the newly established International Exchange Centre for Geologists and Miners (IECGM) in the university's geology faculty.

AGID Canada, a Canadian affiliate of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development, runs an international project that collects donated geoscience books and journals and then sends them to developing countries.

AGID Canada has been collecting books for several years and currently has an estimated 50 tonnes of material in its warehouse. Part-time volunteers catalogue the material – the current catalogue contains more than 1,625 titles, as well as many series of technical journals – and the information is sent to potential recipients in university and government institutions in developing countries. They return lists of the titles or themes they would like to have.

The challenge is to ship these materials to their destinations.

Since such weighty consignments can



Canadian geoscience textbooks arrive in Mongolia. From left, Batmunkh Gandush, founder of the International Exchange Centre for Geologists and Miners; Gerald Harper; Dr. D. Chuluun, director of the MTU School of Geology; Prof. J. Lhamsuren, emeritus director of the school.

be costly, AGID Canada is asking mineral exploration, mining and engineering companies who are shipping supplies to developing countries, and who have extra space, to include the books with their own shipments.

This summer, CanAsia Drilling Company was shipping drilling equipment to Mongolia and through employee Matt Norris agreed to transport a load of donated books.

Harper, who is president of Gamah International, was also scheduled to go to Mongolia on business in June, so he took some additional volumes in his luggage. Two were classics on porphyry copper deposits, which will be of value because of the Ivanhoe Mines discovery in southern Mongolia, he says.

Harper found it a particularly reward-

ing trip because he had been instrumental in putting the founder of the IECGM, Batmunkh Gandush, in touch with AGID Canada.

MTU trains many Mongolian earth scientists and engineers, Harper explains, but has only one library and a limited budget for purchasing books. It is also accessible only to university staff and students.

“Gandush has initiated the idea that the earth science faculty should have its own library that would be accessible to industry and graduate geologists,” he says

There is an added benefit, he adds. The books in the central university library are all in Russian. The IECGM collection, however, will give Mongolian geologists and other industry people access not only to English texts but to the ideas of geologists in the English-speaking earth sciences discipline.

A registered charity, AGID Canada can issue receipts for gifts in kind and donations.

For further information, to make a donation, or if you have shipping space to spare, contact Dr. Owen L. White, P.O. Box 860, Station K, Toronto, Ont., M4P 2H2. Tel: 416 481 4731; Fax: 416 482 4256; e-mail: owen.white@sympatico.ca.

The AGID Canada web site can be found at <http://www.turnstone.ca/agid.htm>.

Worth checking out... www.saskmining.ca

The web site of the Saskatchewan Mining Association is directed toward its members, students and educators and offers a wide selection of topics for the browser.

There are fact sheets on issues such as exploration safety and a commodities page providing information about Saskatchewan's main resources: uranium and potash.

The schools section lists events of interest to teachers, including in-service programs, and also offers a number of projects for students, such as forming sedimentary rocks

and growing crystals. There is a bulletin board posting events of interest and also a listing of mining-related careers.

In addition, an extensive library of photographs is available for educational purposes. It contains pictures of exploration, mining history, minerals, safety and the environment.

The site also lists full contact information for the association's members, directors and executive committee, and links to 27 mining-related sites.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Founder of awards works hard to find nominees

If there's anything you want to know about the PDAC, just ask Ed Thompson. He has been involved with the association for 45 years – ever since he was student – and is one of its most dedicated volunteers. He has worked continuously on securities and taxation issues; served as director, president and past president; been appointed an honorary life member; has received a PDAC Distinguished Service Award; published the history of the association; and established the PDAC awards program.

Today, he chairs the committee that recommends nominations for both the PDAC awards and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. It is a demanding and challenging job yet clearly one close to his heart.

Thompson got the idea of setting up the PDAC's awards in 1977 when he was the association's president and attending the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum awards ceremony.

"It's important to acknowledge the special contributions of people and nobody was really honouring prospectors or people who were developing mines," he says.

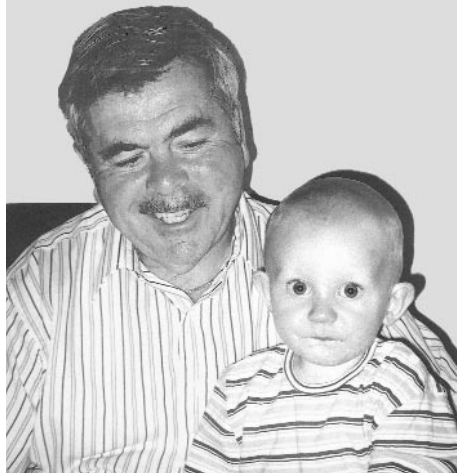
Longtime volunteer and former president Bill Dennis had just died and Thompson established the first award in his name, as the Bill Dennis Prospector of the Year Award, and Dennis was named posthumously as the first recipient in 1978.

Other awards have been added over the years: the Viola R MacMillan Developers Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Environmental Award. From time to time, the association also presents a Special Achievement Award.

In the industry, the awards are recognized as a considerable achievement and highly valued, says Thompson. Companies that receive the Environmental Award advertise it in their literature while those who win the Prospector of the Year and Developers awards always include it in their resumes.

Thompson says the awards committee works hard to find nominees for PDAC and Mining Hall of Fame recognition.

"We encourage people to put names in and we spend a lot of time and effort making these selections," he explains. "My



Ed Thompson with grandson, Norris

committee works on it year round."

In fact, he adds, it takes the committee, which is made up of all past presidents and two outside directors, up to three years to put together the PDAC's three nominees for the annual Mining Hall of Fame induction ceremony. First, they must come up with the names. Then the nominees' careers have to be researched, letters of recommendation are sought and the family contacted.

"It's quite a long process," Thompson says.

The PDAC awards produce their own set of challenges, in part because of the changing nature of the business.

"We try to focus on what Canadians are doing in Canada," Thompson explains, "but in the last 15 years Canadians have been working all over the world, so they've made notable discoveries outside Canada."

The committee prefers to nominate an individual for the Prospector of the Year and Developers awards, but increasingly, the work for which they are being recognized is a team effort. Then, says Thompson, the committee must decide who gets honoured and how many of the team are mentioned.

Even when these issues are resolved, the nominations must be approved by the board, and it's far from a rubber-stamping process.

"We've had some heated discussions," Thompson says.

Thompson's involvement with the PDAC began when he was a geological engineering student at the University of

Toronto and was encouraged by his professors to attend the 1957 convention.

After graduation, he began working for Teck, where he got to know a lot of prospectors through handling various prospectors syndicates. In his later career he worked for Lacana Mining and Anglo-American and since 1991, has been involved with up to 10 junior companies, either as president, outside director or major shareholder.

Thompson's volunteer work with the PDAC has continued throughout his career. In the early years, he helped with tax regulations and securities matters – in fact, he has been a member of the securities committee for 35 years.

In 1970, he was elected as a director of the association, becoming president in 1977. In 1999 he was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to the association.

"I was late for a meeting of the Awards Committee one day," he recalls, "and that was the result!"

In 1981, he undertook a major work: publishing a mining book for the PDAC's 50th anniversary. Covering the association's history, *The Discoverers* includes articles about 17 mining camps and profiles of 50 exploration personalities. Some 40 writers contributed to the book, which Thompson edited for publication.

During his career, Thompson has seen great changes in mining, particularly in employment. He recalls working underground at Sudbury in the 1960s, when Inco employed some 50,000 people there. Now there are only 6,000 or 7,000 and, says Thompson, Inco is producing more metal than it was 40 years ago.

As well as being more high-tech, the industry has also seen more of its people working overseas and it's been harder for Canadian deposits to compete for development attention, he says.

Despite the industry's problems, Thompson concludes that the PDAC is in as good shape as it has ever been in its history. Certainly, he says, it has never been busier, with an unending list of causes demanding its attention.

Demand continues for teachers kits

PDAC Mining Matters (PDACMM) teaching kits are a hot item in Ontario public schools and demand is outstripping supply.

“There are continual requests for them,” says project coordinator Jennifer Amy.

The grade 4 and grade 7 kits, which are distributed to teachers in virtually every school board in the province, help to educate students about Canada’s geology and mineral resources, and promote awareness of the importance of rocks, metals, minerals and mining.

Grade 4 students learn about rocks, minerals and erosion, while grade 7

students study the earth’s crust.

Under the terms of a three-year grant allocated by the province’s Youth, Science and Technology program in 2001, PDACMM is mandated to produce 500 grade 7 kits a year.

Last year, says Amy, 500 English and 200 French grade 7 kits were produced; this year, she expects to produce the same number of English kits.

But, she adds, “We’ve already produced our 500 English kits, and because the demand is so great, we thought we’d better do a little extra, so we’re assembling 700 in

all.” There is still a significant waiting list for the kits.

Grade 4 kits are also popular and this summer PDACMM assembled 300 of those kits, hoping to put a dent in a long waiting list.

In addition, says Amy, PDACMM is revamping the Junior Miner Award program. Formerly open only to grade 7 students, it will now include students from grade 4.

PDACMM is a registered charitable organization. To make a donation or to find out more about the teaching kits, visit www.pdac.ca/miningmatters.

Industry, securities coalition supports “paperless” trading and settlement

The PDAC is finding that developing partnerships with other groups around shared concerns is a good way of doing business.

Late last year, the association joined a coalition supporting the Canadian Securities Administrators’ (CSA) proposed National Instrument 54-101 (NI 54-101), governing communications with shareholders (See In Brief, January 2002, No. 27 at www.pdac.ca.)

Other members of the coalition were the Canadian Corporate Shareholder Services Association, the Canadian Investor Relations Institute, the Canadian Society of Corporate Secretaries and the Securities Transfer Association of Canada (STAC).

NI 54-101 was subsequently approved by the CSA and the Ontario Minister of Finance and took effect on July 1, 2002.

Now, the PDAC is expressing its support for a STAC proposal to allow the issuance of generic-type stock certificates.

The proposal would give investors the choice of having their investments held electronically by their financial institution or electronically on the register of the issuer. This would reduce the cost

of processing physical certificates and speed up settlement times.

In a recent letter to the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX), the PDAC asked that the TSX Exchange and the TSX Venture Exchange both allow this innovation.

The letter was signed by Bill Mercer, president of the PDAC; Shari Gardiner, president of the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines; Anne Slivitzky, president of the Quebec Prospectors Association, and Bob Kelly, Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources.

“Most of our respective members would prefer the elimination of paper certificates and would be pleased to support a move to a ‘paperless’ trading and settlement system,” says the letter.

The major advantage to issuers would be cost-saving, the letter points out.

Under the STAC proposal, PDAC member companies would be able to eliminate the costs of both the minimum printing run for the certificates and the safe-keeping of blank certificates.