



PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

PDAC seeks West's support for securities reform

A meeting with Douglas Hyndman of the B.C. Securities Commission has led the PDAC to mount a lobbying campaign in the West over reform of securities regulations.

The PDAC invited Hyndman to meet with its board of directors over a working luncheon this summer. Directors questioned him about B.C.'s Continuous Market Access (CAM) system and expressed their frustration with the seemingly endless discussion about regulatory reform that has been going on since the 1930s.

While sympathizing with their concerns, Hyndman said it was important to build greater momentum at the national level for streamlining and simplifying regulatory requirements.

In a follow-up letter to the PDAC, he wrote, "With PDAC's support for regulatory changes that will improve opportunities for

junior mining companies to raise capital, we might find that consensus on how to reform both content and structure is closer than it appears."

In response, the PDAC is rallying its members and sister organizations in western Canada to support its drive for a single national securities regulator applying one set of rules in a consistent manner. While Ontario supports that position, Alberta and British Columbia do not, and it is here that the PDAC is focusing its lobbying efforts.

"If CMA-like regulation for junior companies is ever to be adopted," says John Steele, co-chair of the PDAC's securities committee, "now is the time for B.C. to join with Ontario and make it happen."

Once it has the support of western members and mining associations, the PDAC hopes to present their collective views to Premier Gordon Campbell of

British Columbia and Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta, urging them to join forces with Ontario.

The PDAC's position was approved by the PDAC board at its May meeting (see *In Brief*, July 2004).

A single regulator, the PDAC says, would reduce redundancies in the current system, lower the cost of financings and compliance and ensure all potential Canadian investors have an equal opportunity to participate.

As well as structural reform, the PDAC is also calling for development of securities laws whose contents meet certain criteria.

For example, they must provide junior issuers with access to capital on a timely, efficient and cost-effective basis and restore and maintain public confidence in the capital markets. They must also include disclosure and reporting obligations that strike a balance between protection of the investing public and ensuring that the maximum amount of a company's financial and managerial resources are available for mineral

See Strong, page 2

Coalition action brings results

A recently formed coalition of resource industries flexed its collective muscle this summer and forced the withdrawal of a Northwest Territories protocol that could have had a major impact on the exploration, mining, oil and gas industries.

The situation was a prime example of why the coalition was formed and also demonstrates the effectiveness of a collaborative approach.

The Coalition of Resource Industries in Stewardship (CORIS) is made up of the mining, mineral exploration, oil and gas, pipeline, hydrogeneration and forest products industries who want uniform and efficient implementation of the federal Fisheries Act.

The coalition met in a conference with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officials in Calgary and agreed to an approach that would permit industries to develop low-impact projects in a timely, cost-effective way while allowing DFO officials to focus on issues that would have a more significant impact on fish habitat.

Dave Comba, PDAC director, regulatory affairs, and a member of CORIS, explains that a more streamlined process is essential for the coalition industries. "If we're going

See BHP Billiton, page 2

Inside this issue

PDAC honours governments with Claim Tag Awards P.3

Mining Matters works on diamond kits for schoolsP.4

Mining organizations turn to new allies..... P.5

PDAC International Convention looks for sponsors P.6



The board at work

On a recommendation from the membership committee, the board has approved changes in the market capitalization range for senior corporate membership dues. Companies with market capitalization of between \$500 million and \$1 billion will pay dues of \$5,000 annually; those with market capitalization between \$100 million and \$500 million will pay \$2,000; and those with market capitalization between \$1 million and \$100 million will pay \$1,000.

There is no change for companies with market capitalization greater than \$1 billion, whose annual dues continue to be \$10,000. Please contact Teresa Nitsopoulos, tel. 416 362 1969, ext. 221; tnitsopoulos@pdac.ca for more information.

The PDAC has donated \$20,000 to the Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience award. The award was established in memory of the late PDAC director in April and will be presented annually to a post-graduate student enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in geology at a Canadian university. The award winner will undertake a geoscience project with a geological mapping component.

Donors have responded so generously that the funds collected will yield enough income to provide an annual \$3,000 award.

Strong enforcement needed, PDAC says

Continued from page 1

exploration and development work.

The PDAC has outlined certain specifics regarding the national regulator and the new securities laws.

The single regulator need not be a federal agency or based in Ottawa, but could be established in any of the provinces. The only requirements are that the regulator be close to financial centres, removed from political influence, innovative and responsive to market needs and aware of sectoral and regional interests.

Once a single regulator has been agreed upon, the PDAC says, the next step should be the development of rules and regulations that facilitate access to capital while ensuring investor protection.

The association wants the rules to accommodate small issuers who lack the means of spending large amounts of money and management resources in meeting overly stringent corporate governance and

disclosure obligations.

Enforcement will be a vital part of maintaining investor confidence in the reformed regulations. The PDAC believes that offences should be vigorously and effectively enforced by the single regulator and Ottawa must supply appropriate policing with criminal law investigative and prosecutorial powers.

The reform of securities regulations is of vital importance to the mineral exploration and mining industries, says Steele.

"With legal requirements varying from one jurisdiction to the next, ensuring compliance across the board is a lengthy and expensive process that requires companies to retain professional advisors in each jurisdiction of filing," he explains.

In order to reduce their costs, most PDAC member companies raise money in only two or three provinces, with the result that residents of other regions of Canada are excluded from participating in the financing.

BHP Billiton voiced concerns

Continued from page 1

to operate with best practices in low-risk environments, DFO does not need to approve every culvert, every little bridge and winter road we construct," he says.

The draft proposal, from the regional office in Yellowknife, NWT, concerned the volumes of water withdrawn from water bodies during the entire winter season.

"It would have shut the exploration sector down in the Northwest Territories, and the oil and gas sector could be similarly impacted," Comba says. "It was also something that had managed to get through from a regional office without head office knowing what was going on."

CORIS received early warning of the draft proposal and responded immediately. With verbal concurrence from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Comba alerted DFO officials in Ottawa about the proposed protocol, warning that it had the potential to add at least a year to any exploration program and would "trigger other onerous regulatory burdens."

He added, "A collaborative effort between DFO and industry is therefore required," and requested that the protocol be withdrawn.

BHP Billiton Diamonds also responded to the draft protocol, sending DFO a lengthy explanation of the uncertainty, costs, confusion, delays and regulatory hardships the proposed protocol would impose.

"The draft protocol appears to contradict the objectives of the DFO-CORIS initiative," wrote BHP Billiton Diamonds environment and technical services manager David Scott.

DFO acted promptly on the CORIS complaint and within weeks the draft protocol had been withdrawn.

Keep in Touch – Have you changed your address or Internet provider? Let us know so that you can continue to receive In Brief and our News and Activities e-newsletter without interruption. Contact us at info@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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Director's appointment sends strong message

Philip Bousquet has been appointed director, sustainability, for the PDAC with specific responsibilities in the areas of environment, land use, geoscience, aboriginal affairs and community engagement.

The PDAC has created the new position to strengthen its advocacy work and, says Bousquet, it sends a



Philip Bousquet

“The issues I’m working on, such as community engagement and aboriginal issues, all overlap,” he explains, “and the best practices that we’re developing in each of these areas are being posted on the E3 site.”

Bousquet brings a strong public policy background with the Ontario government to his new position. His

strong message to the association’s members.

“The title, director, sustainability, reflects the association’s concern with sustainable development and ensures that those practices are uppermost in the minds of members,” he says.

Bousquet will also be responsible for maintaining the PDAC’s E3 (Environmental Excellence in Exploration) program and updating the online manual. It is a natural fit with his other responsibilities, he says.

various roles included policy advisor to the minister of northern development and mines, executive assistant to the government house leader, and special assistant in the office of the premier.

Born in Fredericton, N.B., Bousquet has an honours arts degree in law and political science and a master’s degree in political science. Prior to entering government, he served as a logistics officer in the Canadian Armed Forces.

SAVE THIS DATE

The 2005
PDAC International Convention
will take place from

**Sunday March 6 to
Wednesday March 9**

**at the Metropolitan Toronto
Convention Centre.**

**For up-to-date information
from now until the convention
opens, bookmark**

www.pdac.ca

Claim tag award winners announced

PDAC president Peter Dimmell presented the third annual Claim Tag Awards to provincial and federal mines ministers as they attended the annual Mines Ministers Conference in Iqaluit in July.

Inaugurated in 2002, the awards symbolize the four corner posts of a mineral claim and recognize governments that have improved conditions for the exploration industry in Canada. The awards also assist the PDAC’s advocacy strategy by enhancing communications with governments.

The first 2004 award went to the Ontario government for the way it has championed securities regulatory reform. In particular, the government is recognized for its support of one securities regulator with one set of rules applied uniformly across Canada.

The second award went to the Government of Quebec, for improving and making permanent certain provincial enhancements for flow-through shares.

The Government of Canada received the third award in recognition of the securities reform recommendations contained in the Wise Persons’ Committee report.

The final award honoured the Government of British Columbia for its decision to introduce map selection as a means of acquiring mineral rights.

Help choose new PDAC directors

Do you know someone whose experience could help guide the PDAC during the next three years? If so, why not nominate that person for the PDAC Board of Directors?

Directors, who are elected at the PDAC’s annual meeting in March, are responsible for the overall governance and stewardship of the PDAC. One of their major responsibilities is to approve the association’s position and policy on all major issues.

For more information, contact executive director Tony Andrews, tel: 416 362 1969, ext. 222; fax: 416 362 0101; e-mail: aandrews@pdac.ca.

E3 program incorporates new material

Month by month, the PDAC's Environmental Excellence in Exploration program (E3) grows increasingly popular. The Internet-based e-manual, which describes best practices, currently numbers 600 users in more than 40 countries around the globe – that's 100 more users than there were in May.

Now, 18 months after its launch, the program is undergoing some changes.

"We're at a crossroads," says Dennis Jones, the new chair of the E3 committee. "It took a tremendous amount of effort to get E3 up and running and that was done successfully last year. Now we've moved on to the next phase."

In part, the changes are necessary to keep the e-manual current. For example, community engagement has become absolutely essential to the mining industry and is being given a higher profile in E3. It is a topic of prime importance to the PDAC and as a result, E3 is now incorporating a case history.

The content of E3 is also being expanded to make it more

specific. At the beginning, much of E3's content was generic, describing best practices that can be applied under any conditions anywhere in the world.

That content has now been refined and experts in particular special terrains, such as the Arctic, wetlands and alpine areas, have contributed material for new sections.

Jones says minor adjustments are also being made to the program to make it more user-friendly.

He points out that when one is breaking new ground, as E3 has done, some tinkering becomes necessary. As an example, improvements will be made to the printing process which has not been as straightforward for an E3 user as it might be.

While E3 was a cutting edge concept when it began, other groups are also starting to look at environmental issues at the exploration stage, says Jones.

In the future, E3 will be establishing links to these groups, and will become a collecting site for people doing similar things, he says.

Grade 12 students to learn about diamonds

PDAC Mining Matters (PDACMM) has started work on an educational kit for grade 12 students that is all about diamonds.

A teacher has been contracted to develop the kit, which will be designed to meet requirements of the Ontario grade 12 science curriculum. Consisting of 10 activities related to the exploration and processing of diamonds, the kit will be in schools by September 2005.

The diamond kit is one of several projects that is being financed by the PDACMM's fund-raising drive that took place earlier this year.

The successful campaign raised approximately \$70,000.

"I'm thrilled that we've met our annual fundraising goal," says project coordinator Laura Clinton. "It will help us maintain our program."

One of the projects designed to raise awareness of minerals and mining among youth is the annual Junior Miner of Ontario competition.

The competition features outstanding work from students in grades 4 and 7 who write about the importance of rocks and minerals in our daily lives.

This year, says Ms. Clinton, there were hundreds of entries, including a series of posters depicting the mining

cycle that was sent in as a class project. The judges had a considerable challenge as they chose seven lucky students to receive cash awards for their submissions.

PDACMM is also working with the Ontario Mining Association on a video entitled Mining New Opportunities that will be used in First Nations communities in northern Ontario.

The video is targeted at all grades

and provides information about current mining practices, the skills and needs of the industry, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Mining Matters is producing a variety of activities for the video that relate to the mine cycle, career opportunities, resources for young entrepreneurs, sustainable development, and the importance of rocks and minerals in everyday life.

Join these special people

At the core of the PDAC, you'll find our Core members. Without them, we just couldn't do the job we do on your behalf.

These special men and women help drive our advocacy role by providing continuous funding for programs such as securities reform and land access. This is the work that improves conditions for the industry and for the people who are employed in it.

Our Core members enjoy exclusive membership privileges: the lowest registration fees at the convention; discounts on PDAC publications; and continuous information about the PDAC's work and current industry issues through In Brief and News and Activities.

You can become a Core member simply by paying your membership dues continuously every year before December 31. Membership renewal invoices will be mailed out next month.

For more information, contact our membership/communications coordinator Teresa Nitsopoulos at 416 363 1969, ext. 221, or visit www.pdac.ca to sign up before the Dec. 31 deadline.

New alliances bring industry benefits

Mining associations in the western and eastern parts of Canada have recently formed innovative alliances with groups generally supposed to be opposed to mining interests.

In the West, the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines (BCYCM) and the Mining Association of B.C. (MABC) have signed an historic memorandum of understanding with the Council of Tourism Associations of B.C. (COTA).

The aim of the memorandum is to improve access to the land base and to create a climate of business certainty that instills confidence and helps attract investment to B.C. Underpinning it is a commitment by all parties to foster understanding and cooperation through enhanced communication.

In the memorandum, the three parties acknowledge their mutual interests in land access and their joint support for the two-zone system for mineral exploration and mining in B.C. On Zone 1 lands, exploration and mining are prohibited; on Zone 2 lands, they are permitted.

In the agreement, BCYCM and MABC acknowledge that there are certain areas in Zone 2 that COTA has identified as having high tourism use and values.

Where they have interests in the same area, all parties are committed to open communication, with the objective of reaching an early agreement on aspects that could potentially affect each other's operations.

Where existing mining tenures or tourism business interests are displaced or subject to loss because of another party's activities, a compensation process has been outlined. The memorandum also includes a conflict resolution process.

The two mining associations are optimistic about the collaboration.

"From our perspective," says MABC interim president Brian Battison, "the most important component is our mutual recognition and support for the two-zone system for mining. It is critical to mining's future in B.C., helping to provide the land use certainty that mineral investors are looking for."

Shari Gardiner, BCYCM past president, agrees.

"In addition to the many benefits this agreement affords, it has allowed tourism, mining and exploration to have a frank discussion about the common goals and challenges our industries share, as well as our mutual opportunities for growth in the future," she says.

A similar willingness to discuss common goals underpins a new alliance on the other side of the country.

The Quebec Mining Association board of directors has decided to establish a partnership with the Quebec Wildlife Foundation to support its biodiversity and habitat fund.

A non-profit organization founded in 1984, the foundation promotes the conservation and development of wildlife and habitats throughout Quebec. It supports

projects that preserve existing habitats, increase their natural productivity and ensure the protection of sites where development is occurring.

The foundation also funds projects that evaluate and enhance development techniques and create new development methods for wildlife habitats.

"This is a concrete gesture that will contribute to maintaining biodiversity in Quebec, and is another sign of the industry's commitment to sustainable development," says board chair Mark Joncas of the agreement.

The PDAC has also formed alliances, including one with the National Landscape Management Coalition (see *PDAC In Brief*, July 2004).

MAC launches stewardship principles

The Mining Association of Canada (MAC) recently launched Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM), a stewardship initiative that aims to improve the mining industry's performance by aligning its actions with the priorities and values of Canadians.

MAC members subscribe to TSM's Guiding Principles, a strong set of commitments that address all aspects of mining industry performance. These principles are backed up by performance indicators, which companies will report against annually to demonstrate to communities of interest and the public the industry's current level of performance and how it can be improved.

Initially, TSM focuses on four key areas: tailings management, energy management, external outreach to stakeholders and crisis communications. It will eventually be expanded to include aboriginal relations, closure planning and community development.

For more information on TSM go to <http://www.mining.ca/english/tsm/index.html>.

Call for Papers for Open Session

The PDAC invites policy-related and technical papers for presentation during the open session at the 2005 convention. The open session runs from Monday, March 7 to Wednesday, March 9 and is the part of the technical program that is reserved for submitted papers.

Papers on all topics are welcome and those on the following topics are of particular interest:

- exploration and mining finance
- properties of merit (their recent exploration and development history)
- geophysical/geochemical practices in the 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
- sustainability/environmental issues
- land access

Abstracts should be no longer than 200 words and papers should be 20 minutes in presentation time. Detailed information on the submission process can be found at <http://www.pdac.ca/openpapers/index.html>.

Convention is a priority for mining people

Whether they come from Nunavut or Goose Bay, Tanzania or Mongolia, delegates to the PDAC International Convention are agreed on one thing: this is a gathering no one in the industry can afford to miss.

Every March, thousands of people who have a connection to mining descend on Toronto for four days of networking, information-sharing, learning and fellowship.

For many, the convention is a gathering place where they can meet others in the business whom they rarely encounter otherwise. For others, it's a place to make deals, or to hear about the deals people are making.

Regardless, they can't imagine doing business in the exploration and mining industry without coming to the convention.

In fact, the convention's reputation is such that federal government officials often assist in its marketing. International Trade Canada lists convention information in its various publications and distributes the convention brochures to various embassies and trade commissioners around the world.

Planning is well underway for next year's convention, which takes place from March 6 to March 9 in Toronto. Africa will be the region of interest and you won't want to miss the two technical sessions focusing on that continent. The first session takes place on Tuesday, March 8, with a follow-up session the next morning.

Diamonds are becoming a perennial favourite at the convention, and they will be highlighted during an afternoon session on Monday, March 7. Presentations will focus on northwestern Europe, Finland and Greenland, Russia, Brazil and China.

Technical sessions are also planned on geophysics, Central Asia, new discoveries and new plays.

Among the most popular features of the convention are the short courses and the Sunday session on commodities and market outlook. They will be back in 2005, along with the core shack and the prospectors tent.

The Investors Forum, which features analysts, newsletter writers and market watchers, takes place on the opening day of the Investors Exchange, Sunday, March 6. As well, the Investors Exchange and Trade Show will both be opening earlier on Sunday, at 10 a.m. rather than noon.

From Monday to Wednesday, there will be two Exchange Forum sessions running concurrently, featuring exhibiting company presentations.

On Tuesday afternoon, the spotlight swings to the Trade Show and the Innovation Forum, where delegates can learn about new products and processes.

Once again, the 2005 convention will be a command performance for the industry, one that you won't want to miss.

From wine to a shoe shine, sponsor opportunities abound

Looking to increase public recognition for your company? Trying to publicize your brand more widely? Why not consider becoming a corporate sponsor of the PDAC International Convention?

By adding your name to an event or product, you'll be joining an elite group. Your name will be prominently displayed

to more than 9,000 delegates who attend the convention and you'll also be able to take advantage of the PDAC's comprehensive marketing program.

As a PDAC sponsor, your logo or company name is displayed in pre-convention brochures that are distributed to 50,000 industry-related contacts throughout the world. It also appears in the convention program and on banners displayed prominently in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

It's that kind of exposure that has led companies such as Placer Dome Inc. and Canaccord Capital to become premier convention sponsors.

The PDAC is offering more than 25 sponsorship opportunities for the 2005 convention, which takes place Mar. 6 to 9 in Toronto. You can choose from a variety of opportunities at a range of prices, but don't delay – sponsorship openings go fast.

If you want to join the top sponsor-

ship ranks, you can be a Premier Sponsor for delegate registration bags (\$30,000 each for two sponsors.)

You can also sponsor a number of special events, including the Mineral Outlook Luncheon (\$15,000 each for two sponsors) and wine for the Awards Dinner (\$12,000).

If you're looking for something more modest, how about the Speakers' Lounge for \$5,000? In this specially set-aside room, you'll have a chance to meet the more than 200 high-profile convention speakers and distribute your company's literature.

And if you just want to contribute to the convention, join the contributors and friends program for \$2,500 and \$1,000 respectively. In appreciation, the PDAC will print your name, or your company's, in the convention program.

For more information, contact Lynne Beckett at sponsor@pdac.ca or phone 416 781 8301.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Sutherland says change is PDAC's strength

One of the PDAC's great strengths and the reason for its success, according to director Karen Sutherland, is its ability to look ahead and change to anticipate future trends.

"It's an organization that grows with the times," she says. "It recognizes the needs."

This ability, which has guided the association's activities for years, has resulted in a dynamic organization that has moved into a leadership role not only nationally, but internationally.

Sutherland cites one example after another to illustrate her point. In 1997, the association realized that its traditional convention would have to change because the Royal York Hotel could no longer meet its needs. The venue was moved to the much larger Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre.

"There was some negative feedback prior to doing it," she says, "but looking back now, I can't imagine the convention being anywhere else. Every year, it gets bigger and now there is a convention long-term planning committee that projects future trends the convention should address."

Similarly, in 2002 the PDAC decided it needed a dedicated membership drive that would support the association's growing advocacy role. The result was a new category of membership, the Core.

The PDAC's membership in the International Council on Mining and Metals provides another example. When the council was formed in 2002, there was no exploration presence at its table and the PDAC decided it must step into the international arena and fill the void.

"We recognized the importance of having an exploration presence there to understand the international implications and provide input," Sutherland says.

"The PDAC is Canadian-focused, but it is a world-renowned exploration advocacy organization."

Underpinning this commitment to change is the board's disciplined approach to planning, which calls for a new strategic plan to be drafted every five years. It is dur-



A position in administration allows Karen Sutherland to balance the requirements of her job and the needs of her family.

ing these planning sessions, says Sutherland, that directors project future challenges that the association must meet.

Born in Toronto, Sutherland received her bachelor's and master's degrees at Queen's University.

She married in 1986 and worked as a field geologist for two junior companies before joining Lac Minerals in 1990. With the arrival of three children, two boys and a girl, she decided that raising a family was incompatible with doing field work and moved into administration.

"I've been really lucky in that I've been able to balance staying in the exploration side of the industry and having a stable home life as well," she says.

In 1994 she joined Barrick, working for the executive vice president of exploration, Alex Davidson, who was a PDAC director. When his term expired in 2001, the association, anxious to maintain a Barrick presence on the board, asked Sutherland to become a director.

Soon after her election, she joined the membership committee and under the chairmanship of Jon Baird helped develop

the Core membership plan, which allows members to pay their dues in advance of the next calendar year in return for specific benefits. Retention is an important part of the plan and the PDAC maintains personal contact with Core members, following up if people have not paid their dues by year-end.

"We've had very positive results from that strategy," Sutherland says. "We've maintained the Core membership base and increased it."

To underline the importance of membership, the committee also recommended having a staff member devoted to this area and Teresa Nitsopoulos was hired as membership/communications coordinator.

The committee also developed a plan for increasing corporate members.

Corporate members are vital to the association's work, Sutherland says. They support the PDAC's advocacy efforts and sponsor various aspects of the convention. More than that, however, their names on the association's membership list strengthen the PDAC's hand when it talks to governments about issues such as land access and securities reform.

This year, the committee is also seeking to increase corporate membership through convention Trade Show discounts. Some companies simply rent booths at the convention without taking out PDAC membership, Sutherland explains. The committee is encouraging them to become corporate members by providing reduced registration fees.

See Industry, page 8

Open houses, meetings listed on web site

Industry open houses and meetings will be taking place throughout the fall and winter. For a full listing, visit www.pdac.ca and click on Events.

PDAC plans portability action

With portability of professional status an increasingly important issue for PDAC members, the association is laying out a plan of action.

Philip Bousquet, PDAC director, sustainability, is currently assessing the situation in various provinces. Canadian geoscientists operate under different provincial regulations and with different fee structures.

"I'm confident there is a resolution but it's going to take a great deal of work," Bousquet says. He adds that the association will be establishing a working group to address the issue.

As well as working with local professional organizations, Bousquet anticipates involving federal and provincial government officials. It is in government's interest

to work towards a resolution, he says, as it will ultimately benefit both business and the general public.

"You have individual geoscientists who are doing consulting, and they have to be able to travel across the country, sometimes on very short notice, to where the work is," Bousquet says.

In its brief to the September 2003 Mines Ministers' conference, the PDAC asked the ministers to encourage and support efforts to facilitate professional practice across Canada. At that time, the association noted that progress had been made between professional self-regulatory organizations and professional associations on issues related to interjurisdictional incidental practice and mobility.

Industry recruitment poses a problem

Continued from page 7

Recruitment – both to the association and to the industry – is high on Sutherland's list of interests. Following the strategic planning meeting two years ago, she chaired an ad hoc committee that as part of its objective looked at ways of bringing more students into the association.

Sutherland also represents the PDAC on the Minerals and Metals Industry Sector Study Steering Committee which is looking at human resources challenges in the industry.

One of the problems is the cyclical nature of mining, she says, which makes it hard to recruit people.

"There are two aspects," she explains. "One is encouraging people to come in, so that you have a continuous flow of new people. And the other is keeping people through the cycles.

These are difficult challenges for the industry."

Added to all her other volunteer activities, Sutherland is also a member of the nominations committee which is responsible for nominating 16 new directors for the organization every year.

Asked how she manages a full-time job, a growing family and her volunteer responsibilities, she says Barrick has been supportive of her PDAC work.

Besides, she adds, "You just make the time. It's worthwhile and it's a fun group of people to work with."

Meeting discusses diamond strategy

PDAC representatives attended a round table in Yellowknife, NWT on the development of a national diamond strategy prior to the Mines Ministers conference at the end of July.

Members of the conference represented different aspects of the diamond industry, such as diamond polishing, jewelry manufacturing and tourism. Representing the exploration industry were PDAC directors Robert Boyd and Eira Thomas and regulatory affairs director David Comba.

Round table participants urged that costs for community consultation and environmental background studies be eligible for Canadian Exploration Expense and that the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration in Canada be made permanent.

They also recommended the elimination of excise tax on all jewelry and free market access for diamond producers.

The recommendations coming out of the round table were included in an action plan for presentation to the premiers at their conference in Niagara Falls in the summer.