



PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

PDAC maps strategy for governments

The PDAC is urging federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop a strategy that will enable Canada to derive the fullest economic benefit from its mineral resources.

A brief delivered by the association to the Mines Ministers Conference, which met in St. Andrews by the Sea, N.B. in September, maps a comprehensive approach to the current challenges facing the mining sector.

It says that an effective strategy should stimulate both grassroots exploration to find new reserves and brownfields exploration to extend known deposits or find new ones in the vicinity of existing mines and communities.

The PDAC is recommending that such a strategy embody two components, near-term exploration incentives and longer-term geoscience initiatives, and focus on five specific policies.

These policies are: extending the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration (ITCE); treating the costs of community consultation, baseline environmental studies and feasibility studies as Canadian Exploration Expense (CEE); designating exploration for base metals in the vicinity of former producing or operating mines as CEE; introducing a tax incentive for deep drilling in the vicinity of known deposits; and funding the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy.

To develop a rationale for this strategy, the brief describes the current climate in the mining sector.

In today's commodity boom, the world is experiencing an almost unprecedented demand for mining products, led by China, India and Brazil. It is expected that this demand will continue for at least two decades.

Canada, with its abundant natural

resources, is well-positioned to benefit from this boom but there is a need to ensure that reserves of key commodities, especially base metals, are adequate and being replenished.

"This is, unfortunately, not the case," says the brief, citing Natural Resources Canada statistics that show a steep decline in proven and probable base metals reserves during the past quarter-century. To reverse this trend, the discovery of new deposits is vital and this will require an extended and high level of investment.

The brief outlines the importance of the junior exploration sector in making new discoveries and notes increased activity during the past six years. For example, between 1998 and 2004, financings by juniors on Canadian stock exchanges increased from 18 per cent to 32 per cent.

However, the brief continues, there are now indications that recent high levels of exploration activity by juniors may not be sustainable. This could have serious consequences if Canada hopes to benefit economically from the commodities boom.

"A strong and extended period of financing and exploration levels will be required for the number of mineral discoveries to reach levels that will replenish depleted reserves and supply the demand," the brief points out.

The brief reminds the mines ministers of the effectiveness of the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration (ITCE), or "super" flow-through share, program. Introduced in late 2000 as a temporary measure to revitalize the exploration industry in Canada, the program expires at the end of this year.

The ITCE program is ideally suited to address the current challenges facing the industry. It keeps exploration investment in Canada, increasing the possibility of new

discoveries, and focuses on the junior exploration sector, which is the foundation of the exploration industry.

Further, the program has been demonstrably effective. Since late 2000, junior companies have raised more than \$1.2 billion for exploration expenditures, the majority of it to be spent in northern and rural Canada.

In order to increase discovery rates and replenish reserves, the PDAC recommends the extension of the ITCE program in a series of rolling three-year phases, with an annual review of the program's benefits.

Turning to CEE, the brief urges that the Canada Revenue Agency treat the costs of community consultation, baseline environmental work and feasibility studies as CEE.

Similarly, it also recommends that exploration for base metals in the vicinity of existing and formerly operating mines be treated as CEE.

Currently, these costs are treated as Canadian Development Expense and do not qualify for flow-through financing. Canada's need to replenish its base metal reserves requires special measures, the brief says, and CEE treatment for such exploration would entice junior companies, armed with

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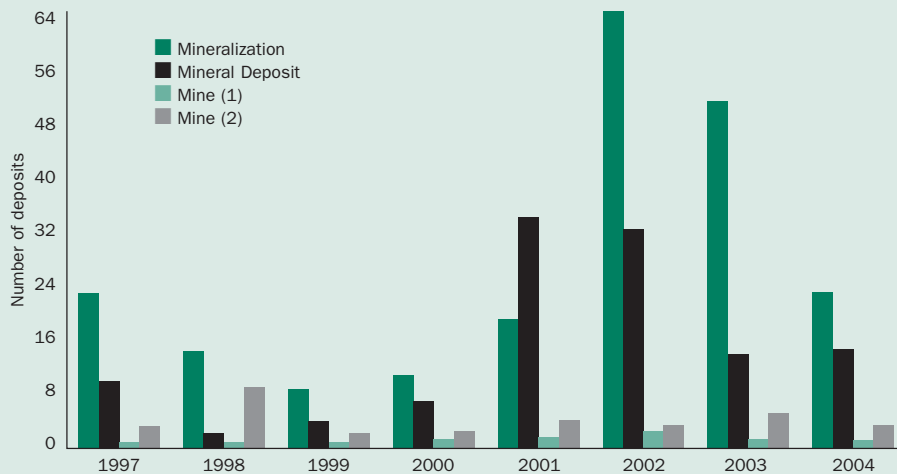
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New discoveries in Canada (1997-2004)



New mine (1) results from a discovery made during the period 1997-2004.
New mine (2) results from a discovery made prior to 1997.

Flow-through financing has played a significant role in enabling companies to find mineral occurrences and undertake initial deposit appraisal work.

Exploration results tracked by the PDAC since 1997 show 225 new mineralization occurrences, 122 new deposits and six new mines and projects with expected production.

As the chart shows, the majority of these new discoveries have been made since 2000 – the year the “super” flow-through share program began – and 99 per cent included financing by flow-through shares.

Brief endorses partnerships

Continued from page 1

flow-through financing, into increased exploration in these already prospected areas.

The brief also supports a Mining Association of Canada recommendation that the federal government introduce a 20 per cent investment tax credit for deep drilling. This would encourage exploration below 300 metres to discover deep ore reserves and extend reserve life around existing communities.

The final policy recommended to the mines ministers by the PDAC is committed funding for the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy (CGMS).

In 2000, all the mines ministers approved CGMS but there has been an absence of financial commitment, notably in the last federal budget.

The CGMS implementation plan involves a regional approach to public geoscience that promotes cooperation among existing geological surveys, universities and industry, the brief points out. The resulting research would contribute toward securing Canada’s energy supplies, sustaining resource-based communities and identifying new economic development opportunities.

The brief concludes with an endorsement of industry-government partnerships and notes several areas where government can assist the industry.

The Minerals and Metals Industry Sector Study Steering Committee, in partnership with the Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council (MITAC), recently completed a comprehensive human resources study.

One of its findings is the impact of aging employees on the industry, with as much as 40 per cent of the workforce retiring by 2015.

As well as asking for continued federal funding of MITAC, the brief asks the mines ministers to consider strategies such as modifying governing statutes and regulations to allow for mobility of geoscientists.

The brief urges the mines ministers to convey to their Cabinet colleagues the fact that a single national regulator will enhance

Canada’s productivity and competitiveness. It also notes that the northern regulatory regime remains inefficient, despite some joint government-industry-community initiatives, and asks the ministers to resolve this longstanding problem.

Finally, the brief draws attention to the work of the Canadian Integrated Landscape Management Coalition, which is promoting Integrated Landscape Management as a practical approach to achieving conservation and development objectives.

The complete PDAC brief to the Mines Ministers Conference is available on the PDAC web site, www.pdac.ca. or in hard copy. Please contact Teresa Nitsopoulos at 416 362 1969, ext. 221, for a copy.

WANTED: Industry leaders

The PDAC is looking for dedicated men and women who would like to work for the advancement of the industry as directors of the PDAC.

The PDAC Board of Directors plays an important role in the association’s affairs. It is responsible for the overall governance and stewardship of the association. One of its main responsibilities is to approve the association’s position and policy on all major issues affecting the industry.

Directors serve a three-year term and are elected at the PDAC’s annual meeting in March. For more information, contact executive director Tony Andrews at 416 362 1969 ext. 222; aandrews@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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Industry coalition and DFO start streamlining processes

A resource industry coalition and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) have been working together to streamline the approval process for certain low-risk activities.

The National Resource Industry Association (NRIA) comprises seven resource groups: the PDAC, the Mining Association of Canada, the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, the Canadian Gas Association, the Canadian Electricity Association, the Forest Products Association of Canada and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

The coalition was established in 2004 to negotiate with DFO and streamline the approval process for simple projects such as culverts, temporary bridges and winter roads.

In October 2004, the two groups signed a memorandum of agreement to work more effectively and efficiently to protect fish and

fish habitat in Canada. The agreement also sets out activities common to all sectors and eliminates the need to issue permits for low-impact activities.

The agreement is significant, because it creates an avenue by which resource industries can raise questions about ways in which the *Fisheries Act* is applied.

Under the work plan approved this May, the NRIA and the DFO have begun streamlining initiatives for low-risk activities. They will also discuss management of medium- and high-risk activities and increase communications about the initiative, including setting up a web site.

Since October, the agreement has produced a number of important results, including improved communications between industry and the DFO. Information from member companies was used to develop a risk management framework for fish habitat and the NRIA and DFO initiated

revisions to the (*Pipeline*) *Watercourse Crossings Manual*.

In addition, DFO has been able to interact more efficiently with numerous associations through the NRIA and has gained more immediate access to member company concerns.

One recent result of the NRIA-DFO initiative was a workshop, held in Yellowknife this June between local DFO officials and representatives of the mining and energy industries.

The workshop was designed to improve relationships and to address issues. Participants exchanged views on key issues such as the Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol and the perceived detrimental effect of lake drilling on fish. Brent Murphy of BHP Billiton Diamonds, Darrell Wituik of BHP Billiton Exploration and Allison Armstrong of Allison Armstrong Environmental Consulting represented the PDAC.

PDAC seeks contributions for E3 translation

The PDAC is accepting contributions from mining companies that want to see E3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The internet-based program has been available in English at www.e3mining.com free of charge for more than a year. As mentioned in the last issue of *In Brief* (Meridian joins E3 sponsors, page 6), translation has been a priority. The problem has been funding it.

Now, says PDAC director and E3 committee chair Dennis Jones, the committee is ready to move ahead.

"We've contacted a number of companies, both majors and juniors, and told them what we're trying to do," he explains, adding that response has been positive.

The PDAC estimates that it needs contributions of approximately US\$500 to US\$1,500 from 15 to 25 companies to translate the internet-based English language manual into another language.

"The idea is to direct our enquiries to specific Canadian companies working in a certain linguistic region," says Jones.

Used by more than 1,000 registered users in more than 40 countries, E3 has a wide distribution range. As well as exploration field personnel and managers, its users include non-governmental organizations, government agencies, aboriginal groups and local communities.

Those interested in making a contribution toward E3 translation can contact PDAC director of sustainability Philip Bousquet at pbousquet@pdac.ca.

Aboriginal video posted online

Mining New Opportunities, the video produced by the Ontario Mining Association for aboriginal communities, is now posted online. The video can be viewed at www.oma.on.ca/education and at the DeBeers Canada web site, www.debeerscanada.com.

The video is seen as a way to promote partnerships with First Nations and to allow for their greater participation in the social and economic benefits of responsible mineral development. It is available in five languages: Cree, Oji-Cree, Ojibway, English and French.

For more information, contact Peter McBride of the Ontario Mining Association at 416 364 9301.

Hall of Fame ceremony

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on Jan. 19, 2006 in Toronto.

For more information about the event, visit www.halloffame.mining.ca.

Technical sessions focus on new areas

As plans unfold for next year's PDAC International Convention, it appears that the industry's major annual event will both celebrate the resurgence of mining and break some new ground.

There will be technical sessions on areas of the world that have taken a back seat in recent years. An almost forgotten and "rediscovered" mineral will be in the spotlight. An extended session will focus on global aboriginal issues. And for delegates and visitors with investment interests, a special workshop will take them back to basics.

The 2006 convention takes place from March 5 to 8 at Toronto's downtown convention centre, its theme expressed in the keynote session's title, Mining's Back!

Rod Thomas, chair of the 2006 convention committee, says the context for the theme is that mining went away during the dot.com era, but has now returned.

"We'll look at what's driving that revitalized mineral industry," he says. Among the topics to be discussed in the Mining's Back! session are the current state of exploration; present and future merger and acquisition activities; the success stories of the new bull market and mineral resources; and finding and developing the next generation of discoveries.

For the first time in many years, the international focus of the convention will be on countries of Latin and Central America. Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Mexico are among the countries highlighted during the full-day double session.

Another session will focus on the Canadian exploration sector's leading role at home and internationally.

Canadians have innovatively explored and developed new districts in remote terrains, revitalized historic mining districts around the globe and are leading the successful charge internationally, while making significant advances in world class districts at home. This two part session will examine areas where Canadian explorers are bringing their expertise to bear and having success at home and globally.



Rod Thomas

Also in the technical program is a full session on aboriginal issues. Although plans are still unfolding, convention organizers hope that this focus will go beyond Canada to encompass aboriginal populations around the world.

The technical program, which ends at noon on March 8, also contains sessions on geophysics, diamonds, new discoveries and financial issues.

A number of events are taking place prior to the beginning of the convention on March 5.

On March 4, the PDAC and the Society of Economic Geologists is holding a joint short course on uranium geology and exploration, another new topic for the convention since little uranium exploration has taken place outside Saskatchewan for many years.

There is also a two-hour workshop to examine Fundamentals of Exploration for the Investor. This new program is designed specifically for retail investors, giving them the basics of what they need to know about mineral exploration and the junior mining industry.

The perennial favourite, Commodities and Market Outlook, will take place on Sunday afternoon, March 5.

THINK *outside* THE BOOTH

Increase your visibility beyond the exhibit floor by becoming a PDAC International Convention sponsor.

Whether your company is large or small, national or international, PDAC 2006 offers a variety of opportunities for you to get your company's name out among thousands of convention delegates.

You can secure exclusive logo exposure and sponsor social events, promotional items or technical sessions.

To find out about the best sponsorship and marketing opportunities for your company, contact Lynne Beckett at 416 781 8301 or e-mail sponsor@pdac.ca.

Call for papers

PDAC invites policy and technical papers for presentation during the Open Session at the 2006 PDAC International Convention. All interested individuals are welcome to apply. The types of papers chosen for presentation vary from abstracts to full length papers. Please note that presentations of a company promotional nature are not appropriate for this forum. Papers on the following topics are of particular interest. However, these are only guidelines and all

- **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**
- **Country or regional profiles**
- **New concepts and technical developments (particularly their application to deposit discovery and definition)**
- **Socio-economic issues**
- **Case studies**
- **Legal and regulatory issues**
- **Sustainability/environmental issues**
- **Land access**

Luncheon speaker brings wit to business

A “Renaissance man,” senior investment executive and sought-after speaker will address the Mineral Outlook luncheon at the PDAC International Convention on Monday, March 6.

Canadian-born, Donald Coxe has a foot in both this country and the United States.

He is the chairman and chief strategist of Harris Investment Management in Chicago and chairman of John Heward Investments in Toronto, and in these positions is directly involved in the investment of billions of dollars.

A modern history graduate of the University of Toronto and holding a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Coxe has been an adviser to governments on Canadian and U.S. social security and benefits programs.

He is also a prolific writer. Initially an associate editor with the *National Review*, he has written for leading publications in the United States. He is also a business columnist for *Maclean's* magazine in Canada.

In addition to all of this, Coxe is renowned for the extent of his knowledge

and his imaginative flair for words. He is able to enliven investment concepts with an array of quotations and analogies drawn from economics, history, law, the classics, music, literature and theatre.

His web site says he is also known for witticisms, such as references to “the unjustly-enriched gaggle of sleazebags, book-cookers, crooks, Shills, Mountebanks, and fast-buck artists,” who have inflicted damage on the capital markets.

His address to the PDAC promises to be both informative and highly entertaining.

They come to network

A survey conducted during the 2005 PDAC International Convention shows that an overwhelming majority of delegates attend the event in order to network and make new contacts.

Of the 800 respondents who completed the survey, four-fifths indicated that networking was one of their main reasons for attending, while half said it was their main reason.

The second most popular reason was the Trade Show, followed by the Investors Exchange and technical sessions.

Three-fifths of the respondents lived in Canada and half had attended the previous year's convention. A strong majority believed that the convention was essential for people who are serious about the mining and resources industry.

Asked to evaluate various aspects of the convention, respon-

dents gave the Trade Show one of the highest ratings.

Among the technical session topics, discoveries and developments had the highest interest level. Exploration technology and geoscience were also popular.

The typical Investors Exchange delegate holds 54% of his/her portfolio in mining and resources investments. The vast majority of those surveyed at the exchange planned to make new investments in the industry based on what they had learned at the convention.

The majority of respondents agreed that they prefer to conduct business with corporations that support industry events. Asked about purchases in the next 12 months, their top picks were drilling equipment, geochemical analyses and geological services.

More aboriginals working in mining

Aboriginal participation in mining is increasing, according to statistics released recently by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

From 1996 to 2001, aboriginal participation in the industry increased by 21 per cent. This is particularly interesting because, during the same period, there was a 17 per cent decline in the total labour force in mining.

An aging and retiring workforce has been identified as one of the major challenges facing the industry by the Minerals and Metals Industry Sector

Study (MITAC), whose final report was released this summer.

According to the 2001 Canadian census, aboriginal employment accounted for 5.3 per cent (3,840 individuals) of the total mining workforce, the majority of aboriginals working in Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

The NRCan study also showed that as well as growing rapidly, the aboriginal workforce is young. Of those people under 25 who were working in mining in 2001, 9.9 per cent were aboriginal.

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papers are welcome.



Submit your 200 word abstract
at www.pdac.ca/openpapers.
Deadline for submissions is
November 30, 2005. Space is
limited and selected applicants
will be notified in January 2006.

Canadians advise Russians on junior sector

PDAC president Peter Dimmell took Canadian junior company experience to Russia this summer when he attended an economic forum in Saint Petersburg to discuss ways of attracting mining investment.

At a special session on natural resources, he described the way junior exploration companies work and highlighted the regulatory and investment climate they need in order to operate effectively.

Dimmell visited Russia as the PDAC's representative with a joint industry-government delegation attending the ninth annual Petersburg Economic Forum. The delegation, which was led by Natural Resources Canada, made presentations during the two-and-a-half day session.

During the natural resources session, the Canadians were asked about ways in which Russia can encourage investors.

"We told them what they could do to encourage investors, such as providing certainty of tenure and transparency in government dealings with the sector," Dimmell says. "It's up to them to do it."

For example, he says, there is the "paternalistic" view, in which the State is central to economic activity and government controls 51 per cent of a deposit that is deemed strategic, but "strategic" is not defined beforehand. Such a stance is sure to discourage investors, Dimmell says, and the Russians need to resolve it if they want private sector exploration.

He also notes that younger Russians seem more willing to embrace a market-economy-based system.

The conference was opened by Russian president Vladimir Putin, a graduate of the State Mining Institute, who spoke about the

importance of natural resources to his country's economy.

Development of Russia's mineral resources is in the hands of two state-run agencies: the Saint Petersburg State Mining Institute and the Karpinsky Geological Institute. The Mining Institute, a technical university founded by Catherine the Great in 1773, has a mineral collection that rivals anything in the world, Dimmell says. The Geological Institute, which is similar to Canada's Geological Survey, carries out geoscience studies and most of the mineral exploration in Russia.

One of the reasons the PDAC was invited to attend the conference is because of the worldwide reputation of its international convention. The Geological Institute hopes to work with the association in planning an Investors Exchange type of conference to be held in St. Petersburg next year.

Dimmell explains that the institute has some 500 projects, ranging from grassroots to development stage, for which it is seeking joint venture partners. It envisions a conference where junior companies would make presentations about themselves and what they are looking for, and the Geological Institute would present data on the projects, hoping that partnerships would develop.

"They're not asking for money from us," Dimmell says. "They want the PDAC to be a co-sponsor of the conference to take advantage of the PDAC name. This shows the esteem that our organization is held in by the exploration industry around the world."

He adds, "The trip showed we may be able to help Russia generate exploration activity, as well as help our members who work internationally to get a foothold in Russia."



Peter Dimmell holds a raw emerald worth an estimated US\$8.5 million that is housed in the Mining Institute collection.

Boardroom available

The PDAC is offering its members use of the association's new boardroom at no charge as a member service.

The boardroom, which can accommodate up to 30 people, is located on the 11th floor at 34 King Street East, Toronto. It is available during business hours at any time except during the morning of the second Tuesday of the month.

Reservations should be made two weeks in advance by contacting Mariann Semkiw at 416 362 1969 ext. 227; msemkiw@pdac.ca, or Teresa Nitsopoulos at 416 362 1969 ext. 221; tnitsopoulos@pdac.ca.

Support our work – join the Core

When we go to talk to government on your behalf, we know we have a strong body of support behind us: 2,000 Core members.

These are the men and women who maintain continuous PDAC membership year in, year out, paying their dues before December 31 of each year.

This steady flow of revenue helps fund our advocacy work – work that affects how you do your job and the benefits you derive from it.

Thanks to our Core members, we have been able to present the industry point of view to government on issues as varied as exploration financing and access to land. We can meet with federal and provincial decision-makers face-to-face and bring the industry voice to the table.

Core membership costs \$85 a year, a discount of \$65 from regular membership and is available from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. To sign up, visit www.pdac.ca or call membership/communications coordinator Teresa Nitsopoulos at 416 362 1969 ext. 221.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Don Bubar seeks aboriginal peoples' collaboration

Most industry observers say the future growth of the mining industry in Canada depends on increasing the involvement of aboriginal peoples.

This summer, for example, the report of the Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council pointed out that during the next decade, the industry will need to hire a whopping 81,000 people to replace an aging workforce. Many of these individuals will have to come from largely untapped areas, such as the aboriginal community.

Don Bubar, PDAC director and chair of the aboriginal affairs committee, sees signs that aboriginal involvement is already occurring – perhaps to a greater extent than most industry people realize.

In Quebec, he says, a 2002 revenue-sharing agreement between the Cree Nation and the province creates a positive precedent for industry and government throughout Canada.

Under the agreement, the Quebec government facilitates the participation of the Crees in mineral exploration through a new Cree Mineral Exploration Board. Among other activities, the board has helped several Cree exploration companies finance exploration programs.

In Ontario, says Bubar, a number of aboriginal communities are becoming involved in prospecting. In response, the Boreal Prospectors Association has been formed under the umbrella of the Ontario Prospectors Association to encompass the northerly aboriginal communities of the province.

Also in Ontario, Chief Glenn Nolan of the Missanabie-Cree First Nation, a member of the aboriginal affairs committee, is planning a mining-related conference for February 2006. The gathering will allow northern Ontario communities to showcase their businesses and services and provide a forum for mining companies to share their corporate vision.

The PDAC board established the aboriginal affairs committee late last year and Bubar, who is president and CEO of Avalon



An enthusiastic runner, Don Bubar is shown here after competing in a 5K run

Ventures Ltd., brings a great deal of relevant experience to the table.

A graduate of McGill and Queen's, he started his career as a project geologist with Texas Gulf Inc. in the Northwest Territories. In 1984, he joined Aur Resources Inc. and headed the company's exploration programs in Quebec, notably the discovery of the Louvicourt deposit in 1989. It was while he was with Aur in the Northwest Territories that he first gained experience working with aboriginal communities.

In 1994, Bubar left Aur and opened a consulting business. The next year he became president and CEO of Avalon Ventures Ltd., a dormant shell company with a VSE listing but few other assets. He helped to reactivate Avalon, which today is a leader in the field of rare metals project development in Canada.

Avalon has negotiated a memorandum of understanding in northwest Ontario with the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations which outlines a cooperative strategy for the development of a lithium-tantalum deposit. "The plan is to involve the First Nation as much as possible in the development of the project," Bubar says.

Bubar was also a member of the Ontario Geological Survey Advisory Board for six years and chaired a subcommittee dealing

with aboriginal issues. In 2003, he served on the northwestern Ontario panel of the provincial government-appointed Ontario Smart Growth Initiative and, he says, "I was a strong advocate for change in Ontario government policy regarding aboriginal concerns affecting the mineral industry."

The aboriginal affairs committee advises the PDAC board on aboriginal affairs in Canada, generating ideas for policies the association can use in its advocacy work.

A major issue facing the committee is revenue-sharing between industry, government and aboriginal peoples. To Bubar and his committee, governments have yet to develop formulas for revenue sharing and Bubar would like to see a more collaborative effort between industry and aboriginal peoples to influence new policy.

"Aboriginal communities feel they're not getting a fair share," says Bubar. "The mineral industry recognizes that it has a duty to pay economic rent. It just wants to see it distributed fairly to the benefit of all members of society."

The key to resolving aboriginal concerns in most jurisdictions across Canada, he says, is a formula similar to that between the Quebec government and Cree Nation. The industry needs certainty about costs for taxes and royalties and aboriginal peoples want to know that they will benefit directly from a mine developed in their backyard.

"Aboriginal leaders have made it clear that they don't want new mine development unless there are tangible benefits for their communities and personally, I don't blame them," says Bubar. "We should be able to work together on this."

"There have been too many mines developed in the past in Canada where our aboriginal neighbours did not sufficiently participate in the economic benefits. And I think natural resource development is the real key to improving standards of living on reserves in Canada. It is one of the few

See Aboriginal leaders, page 8

Ottawa-based program advocates for industry

One of the leading advocates for the mining industry in Canada is the Ottawa-based program, Mining Works for Canada.

A communications program of the Mining Association of Canada, Mining Works for Canada promotes the development of balanced public policies that are conducive to the growth of the industry. The PDAC is a major funder of the program, donating \$50,000 annually.

Mining Works for Canada targets federal parliamentarians and other decision-makers, showing them the importance of the mining industry to Canada's economy through a variety of initiatives.

Its major event is Mining Day on the Hill. Held once a year, this gathering provides industry with access to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and other key decision-makers. In a series of appointments throughout the day, industry leaders are able to engage in face-to-face advocacy on issues vital to the health of the industry.

The event also demonstrates to the decision-makers that the industry speaks with a unified voice as a key player in the country's economic future.

This year, the event takes place on November 22 and several PDAC members will attend.

As well as bringing the industry to policy-makers, Mining Works for Canada brings policy-makers to the industry through conducted mine tours. This popular event provides an opportunity to show off the state-of-the-art operations of the Canadian mining sector.

Mining Works for Canada also increases understanding of the industry through speaking events. In February, it hosted a luncheon on Parliament Hill with Eira Thomas, president and chief executive officer of Stornoway Diamonds and a PDAC director, as keynote speaker.

For more information about Mining Works for Canada, and for copies of its newsletters, visit www.miningworks.mining.ca.

Geoscape takes the prize

The Canadian Institute of Planners has given its 2005 Award of Excellence in environmental planning to Geoscape Toronto's poster and curriculum.

Geoscape Toronto has been distributed to all intermediate and high schools throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The colourful poster and web-based curriculum are

designed to showcase the geology and landscape of the GTA and help students understand their relevance to land-use issues.

Principal leaders of the program, which has been under development for the past three years, were PDAC Mining Matters, and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Aboriginal leaders seek benefits

Continued from page 7

economic development activities that can really make a difference to the standard of living of those communities."

It is a complex political topic that will require a great deal of committee work before recommendations can go to the PDAC board. "There are a lot of side issues related to it, such as the status of land claims," explains Bubar.

The committee also wants to raise the profile of aboriginal communities at the PDAC convention and encourage membership of more individual aboriginal people in the association.

"We want more people from the far North to come to the convention and appreciate what a vibrant, exciting industry the mineral exploration business really is," he says.

Bubar has volunteered with the PDAC since 2000, when he joined the securities committee, and was elected a director last year. He is still an active geologist and in his free time, he plays golf and curls.

Geology seems to be running in the Bubar family. Bubar is married to a geologist, Marcia Mazurski, who is currently employed by Leica Geosystems and is also a PDAC member.

They have two sons, Peter, 17 and entering grade 12, and Andrew, 19, a university student in physical geography and environmental sciences who has just finished his second summer job in the mineral exploration industry.