



# In Brief

July 2008, Number 53

## PDAC moves into a new era of advocacy

THIS SUMMER, the PDAC moves into new offices – the outward manifestation of a sweeping change that has overtaken and transformed the organization. Not only are there new, larger premises, there will be several new staff to occupy them and help implement a broadly based five-year strategic plan.

PDAC Executive Director Tony Andrews explains, “Doubling our space allows us to double our efforts in advocacy for the exploration industry. And to do this, we need people.”

The offices are located in a heritage building in the heart of downtown Toronto. Staffing these offices are Andrews; Philip Bousquet, director of regulatory affairs; Saley Lawton, director of communications and membership; Lisa McDonald, formerly convention director and now the PDAC’s chief operations officer; Nicole Sampson, newly appointed convention director; Joan Leslie, accountant; Florence MacLeod, membership coordinator; Lisa McDougall, convention coordinator; Mari Ann Semkiw, executive assistant, and Kim MacDonald, administrative assistant.

Joining them will be a program director, sustainable development, and staff recruited for a series of newly created positions. These include: program director, community and resource development; communications manager; and an accounting clerk, Fallon Batchelor. The creation of a position dedicated to human resource development for the exploration industry is also under consideration.

Together, they will develop and deliver programs that will bring increased benefits to the association’s membership.

The PDAC’s growth has been steadily gathering momentum since the mid-90s, but has been given a significant boost over the past five

years during the current strong commodity cycle.

The PDAC convention has been a significant driver of this growth, steadily expanding in dynamism, quality and size. The event reached a record 18,000 attendees in 2003 and has attracted ever-increasing numbers since then, topping 20,000 attendees this year.

In the space of only a few years, the PDAC International Convention has clearly become the place to be for the international mining community – the place to learn about the latest discoveries, to discuss broad industry concerns, to conduct business and to network.

While the annual convention is undoubtedly the PDAC’s highest profile event, advocacy on behalf of the exploration sector remains at the heart of the organization. The association has been called upon to represent the industry on a wide range of issues: land access, regulatory reform, securities reform, aboriginal issues, corporate social responsibility (CSR), professional mobility and a host of other areas important to the PDAC’s membership.

In its widening advocacy work, the association has been increasingly dealing with provincial, territorial and federal governments, and forming alliances with other industry and resource sector associations in Canada. It has joined government-industry groups, such as the Corporate Social Responsibility Roundtable, and has become an important exploration industry voice at such gatherings.

All this work has demanded increased commitment on the part of volunteers as the association has struck new committees and task forces. It has also required more staff to carry out the programs, and to plan and manage the convention.

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*A program for northern aboriginal youth sends students to volunteer work placements in southern communities in order to expand their horizons and increase their self-confidence. Here, Kevin Iksiktaaryuk from Baker Lake, Nunavut, works on a car at Giles Chevrolet Limited in Stouffville, Ont. Story on page 7.*



## Association's focus becomes more international *continued from page 1*

As many PDAC members are doing business in other countries, the association has extended the scope of its work onto the international scene.

It has developed an innovative online manual, *e3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration*, which is now available worldwide in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. The association has also joined groups such as the International Council on Mining and Metals, where it has become the voice not only of Canadian exploration, but exploration worldwide. It has also begun to send PDAC staff and volunteers to participate in major policy and technical discussions affecting the exploration business at major industry gatherings around the world.

As it has made these changes, the PDAC has consulted widely with its members through periodic surveys. This year's survey, conducted at the convention, resoundingly confirmed the association's evolving mandate. A majority of respondents – 78.1 percent – indicated that the PDAC exists to serve the Canadian and international exploration industry.

In September 2006, the PDAC board of directors held an important strategic planning retreat to define the areas where the association would devote most of its efforts in the next three to five years. Aided by the membership survey, the board defined four priority areas for focus and action: human resources and training; land access, including aboriginal issues; the PDAC's international role; and CSR.

These key areas are integral to the association's current strategic plan which was approved by the board in July, 2007.

The plan highlights specific concerns about land access and aboriginal issues, particularly the settling of land claims and building industry-community relationships. That concern was reflected in the signing this March of a Memorandum of Understanding between the PDAC and the Assembly of First Nations.

Another priority is to meet the human resources challenge facing the industry, and particularly to attract students to exploration careers. One important initiative is the annual two-week Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop, which started in 2007.

The strategic plan also identifies the PDAC's international role as an area of focus and potential opportunity, especially meeting the needs of international delegates to the convention. The PDAC can also offer its knowledge and advocacy expertise at key international venues where exploration is being discussed.

The final priority is to expand the PDAC's work in CSR. The association is now engaged in developing for the exploration industry a sustainable development framework for responsible exploration

(see story, page 3).

As it developed the strategic plan, the board realized that with the growth of advocacy work in recent years, the association's resources were already stretched. In order to carry out this new work, it decided that new staff had to be hired, and new offices found to house them.

These are exciting times for the PDAC as it grows into its expanded role. The challenges ahead are significant, but with the help of volunteers and staff, the association will continue to deliver enhanced benefits not only to its members, but to the exploration industry as whole. ▲

## Students participate in second annual workshop

IN MAY, 25 post-secondary students from across Canada gathered in Sudbury, Ont. to experience first-hand the many facets of the mineral exploration industry.

The students, all of whom have geoscience backgrounds, were participants in the second annual, all-expenses paid Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop, a program designed to attract more young people into the industry.

During the two weeks that they attended the workshop, the students took field trips to the Cobalt and Noranda camps and Val d'Or to review exploration techniques, including geological mapping and geophysics. They also networked with industry representatives and peers. Invited speakers introduced them to industry concerns, such as corporate social responsibility, environmental protection, wilderness safety, supply and demand cycles, securities issues, professional geoscience mobility and human resources needs.

The two weeks wrapped up with a dinner at which each student received a certificate of completion.

The Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop was supported by Barrick Gold, as patron sponsor. The workshop was organized by the PDAC's student affairs committee, under chairman and PDAC second vice president Scott Jobin-Bevans, who encouraged many of his staff at Caracle Creek International Consulting to assist with the workshops. The company also sponsored one of the featured speakers. ▲

*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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It can be found at [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca), under What's New.

# Sustainability framework nears release

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, PDAC members should have in their hands the first part of a proposed sustainable development framework for responsible exploration.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a term that has crept into everyday language but the mineral exploration industry lacks a common understanding of what it means, or the expectations that it places on people in the industry.

The PDAC is filling that void by providing a benchmark that companies will be able to use, and tailor to their own circumstances.

The process of arriving at this benchmark comprises two tracks. Track 1 is the development of principles and performance guidelines; Track 2, expected to start later this year, is the development of reporting criteria and guidelines, and verification.

When the PDAC launched e3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration in 2003, it was with the realization that the association would need to go further than the online “how to” manual. Exactly what was needed – a sustainable development framework for exploration – emerged from the federal government’s CSR Roundtables, held across Canada in 2006.

As a first step toward developing the principles and performance guidelines, the PDAC’s CSR committee held a workshop just prior to the 2007 PDAC International Convention. Some 80 people attended, most of them working in exploration.

The workshop was successful, says PDAC Executive Director Tony Andrews. “We got a good sense of what the industry felt it required and the direction we needed to take.”

That fall, the CSR committee developed an initial draft of the principles and performance guidelines and presented it at a series of workshops.

The first was a focus group, attended primarily by people who were not in the industry but who represented non-governmental organizations, academia and government.

This was followed by two larger workshops where attendees discussed drafts of the guidelines. A January workshop, held in conjunction with the 2008 Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver, attracted 80 participants, including stakeholders. A similar number participated in a second workshop that took place just before the 2008 PDAC Convention.

Two final focus groups discussed the penultimate draft of the guidelines. One group included some of the attendees from the first focus group, and the other was specifically aligned for Canadian aboriginal people.

“Even though this framework is outward-looking since many of our members are in other countries, we cannot forget that these benchmarks and guidelines have to apply in Canada,” says Andrews.

The guidelines will dovetail with e3, he adds. They will be crafted to answer the questions “what’s expected of you and why?” but will not deal with the “hows.” That is where e3 comes in. The manual is being updated, and will be integrated with the principles and performance guidelines.

Once the draft principles and performance guidelines are distributed to members, says Andrews, work will begin on Track 2. ▲



## We welcome our new membership coordinator

THE PDAC reached into Nova Scotia to find its new membership coordinator, Florence MacLeod.

To those members who attended the association’s last two conventions, hers will be a familiar face. She very ably responded to the myriad questions and enquiries at the central information desk.

For any questions about membership, Florence can be reached at [fmacleod@pdac.ca](mailto:fmacleod@pdac.ca); telephone +1 416 362 1969, ext. 221. ▲

## Teresa Barrett leaves

TERESA BARRETT has resigned her position as membership coordinator of the PDAC.

Barrett was appointed in 2003 as the association’s first membership coordinator. During her five years in the position, she saw membership in the association increase substantially and brought in a large number of student members. Her responsibilities also included organizing student events.

Barrett is joining Sandvik, Mining and Construction as product line manager, covering tools and accessories. ▲

## Juniors lead exploration boom

THE CANADIAN-BASED METALS ECONOMICS GROUP (MEG) estimates that total world expenditures for nonferrous metals exploration in 2007 reached \$10 billion, an increase of 40 per cent over 2006 expenditures.

It is the fifth consecutive annual increase since the bottom of the current mining cycle in 2002, and represents a 477 per cent increase since that year.

During this five-year boom, the junior sector has achieved growing

importance in global exploration and has been spending more on exploration than senior companies.

In 2007, junior company exploration budgets were an estimated \$5.27 billion, representing 53 per cent of global spending.

It is the second consecutive year that junior companies have accounted for more than half of global exploration spending. In 2006, the junior sector accounted for 51 per cent of that spending. Since 2002, junior exploration spending has increased 909 per cent. ▲

# Group recommends improvements to northern regulatory system

THE PDAC, the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) and the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines have been working together to develop recommendations for improving the northern regulatory system.

Mineral exploration and mining in the North have their own particular challenges and costs, brought about by long winters, isolated communities, limited transportation and unsettled land claims. Added to this is a complex regulatory system, with decision-making responsibilities shared among many stakeholders: federal, territorial and aboriginal.

In early November 2007, Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announced a new Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative to improve the overall regulatory environment. He also announced the appointment of Neil McCrank as his special representative to advance this initiative.

The appointment began a brief but intense review process.

In his announcement, Strahl said, "It is essential that we maximize the potential benefits of resource-development projects while protecting the environment, and to do that we must have predictable, effective and efficient regulatory systems across the North."

McCrank's assignment was to recommend how the existing regulatory regime across the North might be improved, and included working with stakeholders in all three northern territories. The appointment began a brief but intense review process – McCrank was asked to submit his report to the minister by mid-April 2008.

The PDAC, the Mining Association of Canada and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines responded immediately.

They formed a working group and met with McCrank to find out how he would like to engage with industry. The group saw its role as facilitating discussion, informing members, getting comments and recommendations from them and developing a

comprehensive response that would clearly define industry's concerns and offer some specific recommendations.

The working group encouraged McCrank to make site visits to exploration and mining companies. He also participated in a discussion session at the Association of Mineral Exploration of BC Roundup in January.

The working group hired a lawyer, Michael Hardin, to provide expertise on the regulatory system and assist with gathering information. Members of the group also contacted their respective memberships to seek their comments.

The working group developed a report and recommendations and submitted it to McCrank at the end of February. The recommendations included developing a policy for impact and benefit agreements, developing regulations for water quality standards and effluent standards, replacing environmental agreements with legislation and establishing an independent body to support northern boards. (The report is available on the PDAC website, [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca)).

In an accompanying letter, the executive directors of the three associations drew attention to three overarching issues. There is a need for the federal government to commit to implementing the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative findings. There needs to be a restoration of accountability and transparency in decision-making, which has disappeared with the increasing complexity of the regulatory system. And finally, reform of the regulatory system must be accompanied by the settlement of land claims if northern resources are to be developed responsibly and sustainably.

In March, McCrank organized a workshop to which industry, aboriginal communities, governments and other groups were invited to offer their views on refining and improving the northern regulatory system.

Participants heard a summary of the advice and recommendations McCrank had received. These covered six themes: jurisdictions and mandates; economic development; timelines and accountability; consultation; capacity and resources; and coordination mechanisms.

The workshop acted as a forum in which

to test the potential of recommendations generated to date.

In break-out groups, participants considered certain aspects of the regulatory process and mechanisms for its improvement.

One group looked at the future of the regulatory system and the pros and cons of making fundamental changes to it. The other three groups considered what an ideal regulatory system for the Northwest Territories would look like. The workshop then developed a series of recommendations and comments.

Participants heard a summary of the advice and recommendations McCrank had received.

As requested, McCrank submitted his report to the federal government in mid-April. Industry is now waiting to hear its response, says Philip Bousquet, director, regulatory affairs for the PDAC.

If you have any questions or comments or would like more information about this initiative, please contact Bousquet, [bousquet@pdac.ca](mailto:bousquet@pdac.ca). ▲

**We've moved!**

**The PDAC has relocated to new offices at:**

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**Our contact numbers will remain the same:**

**Tel: +1 416 362 1969  
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# Chamber organizes joint tour of aboriginal communities

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH to community engagement has won the praise of both the aboriginal communities and the exploration and mining companies that took part in it.

Hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources (NLCMR), representatives of seven companies that are primarily engaged in uranium exploration toured northern Labrador communities as a group to conduct public engagement meetings. The communities are populated by three aboriginal groups: Inuit, Innu and Métis.

The idea of such a tour arose at a mining conference in St. John's, NL in the fall of 2007, says Gerry O'Connell, executive director of the NLCMR.

"The suggestion was that we do something communally, because companies weren't having a lot of success on their own," he says, adding that visiting isolated communities poses significant logistical problems.

Several factors made a joint tour appealing.

The regional Inuit government of the area called Nunatsiavut requires consultation with communities in relation to permits for exploration on Labrador Inuit lands. In some communities, multiple visits were leading to "consultation fatigue," while other communities were not being visited at all. In addition, a uranium exploration boom had raised community concerns about the effect of radiation on wildlife and human health.

The aboriginal communities welcomed the idea, O'Connell explains. "They want to know more, they want to know what the opportunities are, and they have lots of questions."

The NLCMR hired a communications company to organize logistics, advertising, communications and translation, and chartered a Twin Otter to fly the group between communities.

Also accompanying the delegation was a radiation expert from an environmental firm specializing in nuclear and uranium mining issues.

The tour took five days, with the delegation visiting two communities each day. During the meetings, the companies and community members discussed topics such as opportunities for jobs and economic benefits; possible effects of exploration projects on hunting and gathering, and the mitigation of those effects; and health and safety concerns around uranium mining and transportation.

More than 300 people turned out for the meetings, participating in interactive sessions, sharing ideas, raising concerns and making constructive suggestions. Many students attended the meetings, says O'Connell, and they were particularly interested in the careers that might be available to them.

At the end of nine days, everyone involved felt the tour had been an



*Gord Davidson of Bayswater Uranium, left, discusses company projects with residents of Sheshatshiu, Labrador.*

outstanding success. Residents in most of the communities considered the turnout record-breaking.

"I think having all the companies there was a good idea," said one participant. "If they had come individually, by the third one everyone would be meeting out."

"You have to educate all of us," said another resident. "The more they do that, the easier it will be to get things done."

Companies also had high praise for the initiative.

"It was a good experience and it seemed well received, with many positive comments from residents," said one. Explained

another, "For myself, we're fairly new to this game. So it was a great way to be proactive. It was our first interaction with some of these communities. Said a third, "It would be nice to do it again."

O'Connell agrees, adding that the success of this tour shows that it should be repeated. "It works very well," he says. "You get to meet more people than you would if you attempted to do it individually. Everybody benefits."

Further details about the engagement meetings are being published as a case history on the e3 website: [www.e3mining.com](http://www.e3mining.com). ▲

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**2009 PDAC International convention**  
**Metro Convention Centre, Toronto**  
**March 1-4, 2009**

# Mining spurred record GDP growth in territories

By Dorothy Kosich

STATISTICS CANADA HAS REPORTED that in 2007, mining and oil development spurred the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of Newfoundland and Labrador well ahead of other Canadian provinces, while diamonds helped the Northwest Territories and Nunavut achieve the highest GDP growth in the nation.

GDP in Newfoundland and Labrador surged 9.1 per cent last year, far outpacing other provincial economies, while real GDP for Canada as a whole increased an average of 2.7 per cent. The NWT reported a GDP of 13.1 per cent in 2007 while Nunavut had a 13 per cent GDP growth rate.

“Increased oil and mineral extraction, combined with strong world commodity prices, became the catalyst for growth in 2007, more than three-quarters of which could be attributed to mining activities,” Statistics Canada said of Newfoundland/Labrador. “Oil extraction in the province leapt ahead, thanks to a virtually trouble-free year on its many oil platforms. The second full year of production at the Voisey’s Bay nickel mine was also a big contributor.”

Meanwhile, in the northern territories, Statistics Canada reported that diamond, gold and copper production surged. “Diamond production jumped in the Northwest Territories as the economy surged 13.1 per cent, much faster than the 2.9 per cent gain in 2006. Construction

activity continued unabated at the Snap Lake mine site. Three of Canada’s four diamond mines are located in the Northwest Territories.”

Statistics Canada noted that Nunavut’s economy expanded by a record 13 per cent in 2007, up from 3.4 per cent in 2006. “Construction work at the Meadowbank gold mine, as well as mineral exploration throughout the territory, benefited from world demand for natural resources. Canada’s fourth diamond mine is located in Nunavut. Diamond production was up over 2006.”

The economy of the Yukon Territory expanded by 3.8 per cent in 2007, up from 2.9 per cent in 2006. Statistics Canada said, “A new mine opened, allowing the territory to benefit from high copper and gold prices.”

Alberta’s rate of GDP growth slowed to 3.3 per cent last year, following a 6.6 per cent increase in 2006.

While oil and gas extraction increased, Statistics Canada reported that “exploration activity was curtailed for the second consecutive year.” The province reported the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

In Saskatchewan, GDP grew by 2.8 per cent in 2007, an improvement over the 0.4 per cent decline in 2006. “Potash mining bounced back on the strength of increased demand from China, while grain production fell slightly,” according to Statistics

Canada. “Corporate profits got a boost from high world prices for grains, potash and uranium.” ▲

*Dorothy Kosich is the Americas bureau chief for Mineweb, a web-based international mining publication focusing on mining financial and corporate news and comment.*

## Website details mining rights

THE WEBSITE of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines contains an excellent resource about mineral tenure in all Canadian jurisdictions.

Set out in spreadsheet format, the information is compiled by the provincial or territorial mining rights committee.

There are four tables covering elements of mining rights legislation dealing with obtaining and maintaining mining rights.

While the site contains a caveat that the information contained in the tables is not a substitute for actual legislation, this is an excellent guide to the requirements for acquiring and securing mineral tenure across Canada.

The information can be found at [www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/default\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/default_e.asp). Scroll down the left-hand menu until you reach Provincial-Territorial Charts. ▲

## Nominate your colleagues for a PDAC Award

The PDAC is calling for nominations for the PDAC Awards.

The awards recognize those among us who have made a notable contribution or given outstanding service to the PDAC and/or the mineral industry.

We invite nominations for the following awards:

- Bill Dennis Prospector of the Year Award
- Thayer Lindsley International Discovery Award
- Viola R. MacMillan Developer’s Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- e3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration Award
- Skookum Jim Award

To find out more about the awards and the nomination process, please visit [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca)

# Program takes youth out of North to help them stay in school

AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM for aboriginal and northern youth is helping to reduce the high school drop-out rate in the North. The program aims to keep northern students in school by expanding their horizons and sending them to volunteer in communities in southern Canada and Africa.

In Nunavut, only 25 per cent of students graduate from secondary school, and the statistics are similar for the Northwest Territories. A study carried out 10 years ago revealed that youth who travelled outside their community were more likely to do well in school and go on to post-secondary education. Out of that study was born Northern Youth Abroad (NYA).

A charitable organization, NYA provides students in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories with a cross-cultural work and learning experience in the Canadian South and Botswana. Through the program, the 15- to 21-year olds acquire professional skills and training, practical work experience and high school credits.

Keith Irving, chair of the NYA board, explains, "The main goal of the program is to give the youth some goals and aspirations that keep them in school, and help them develop the confidence and coping skills to go on to post-secondary education."

In the first part of the program, students live with host families in a southern Canadian community for six weeks, volunteering for work placements in fields that

interest them. In preparation, they must fundraise \$700 from their own communities, and reflect on their community and culture so they can share that knowledge with their southern host families.

After completing this phase, the youth can apply for the international phase. This takes place in Botswana, where they spend six weeks on community development projects, such as assisting in an AIDS orphanage.

NYA receives approximately 150 applications annually and this year is sending 48 students out of the North. "We've got momentum building in communities," says Irving, "Youth are coming back dramatically changed and sharing their experiences with other youth. And so their friends, brothers and sisters are applying to go on our program."

Irving perceives a strong synergy between NYA and the mining industry. Industry wants to hire northerners, but with only 25 per cent of students graduating from high school, and aboriginal organizations and government in strong competition for them, mining and exploration companies have little chance of building a local workforce.

As a result, Irving is seeking industry sponsorship for NYA, and has already signed on Stornoway Diamond Corporation and Indicator Minerals.

Eira Thomas, president of Stornoway Diamonds, says that NYA contributes to stronger and healthier northern communi-



*Marsha Kringuk of Repulse Bay, Nunavut, was interviewed by a local television station while she was on placement in North Bay, Ont.*

ties by encouraging youth to pursue education and training opportunities that can lead to greater participation in economic development activities, such as mineral exploration and mining.

"NYA develops self-confidence and strengthens self-awareness, and has contributed to a remarkable increase in educational success in the North and helped to develop a new generation of leaders for northern communities," she adds. "The future of our industry very much depends on attracting and developing an educated, young workforce and we believe that our aboriginal communities in the North can provide just that."

Details of this program can be found at [www.nya.ca](http://www.nya.ca). ▲



*Dianne Iyago*

## Trip helped her plan future

DIANNE IYAGO is one of the graduates of the NYA program. A resident of Baker Lake, Nunavut, she is taking a nursing access course in Yellowknife, and hopes to enter the nursing program at Aurora College next year.

Dianne attended both the national and international phases of NYA. Her first experience was in Keremeos, British Columbia, in 2004, where she worked with a home nurse and a recreation coordinator.

"I was in Grade 10 at the time," she says, "and that experience

helped me decide what I wanted to do after graduation. I knew that I wanted to help people."

In 2006, she went to Botswana, where she lived on a game farm for six weeks. The time was extremely rewarding. She became close to the people working on the farm and found it difficult to leave.

Dianne says she learned a lot about herself, dealing with challenges such as homesickness. She also learned a great deal about her own culture.

"I had to do research and do presentations, so I had to think about questions that people would ask when they don't know anything about the Inuit culture," she explains.

"At the same time, you learn about another culture and you find similar values, and it's heartwarming because you learn about the struggles you are facing.

"I got to challenge myself and made great friendships. It was a really great experience and if I could, I would do it all over again." ▲

# School board offers mining-focused program

A NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL BOARD has implemented a mining program that includes a series of courses with a mining focus for high school students who are in the preparation stream for university, college, apprenticeship or the workforce. Now in the second year of a pilot phase, the program is expected to serve as a template for other school boards across the province.

Some 67 school boards across the province are currently piloting the programs.

The Rainbow District School Board began running the Specialist High Skills Major in Mining in September 2006. It is one of a series of specialist high skills programs, directed toward various economic sectors, that has been introduced by the provincial Ministry of Education as part of the Learning to 18 initiative.

The programs provide students with some workplace training in their high school years and guide them into sectors where employees are needed. Some 67 school boards across the province are currently piloting the programs.

There are 44 students in the Rainbow program, which has been introduced into two Sudbury schools, Lively District Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School.

Students enrolled in the program complete nine courses in grades 11 and 12. Some relate specifically to the mining sector. Others that are required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, such as English and mathematics, have a mining focus.

Through the program, the students receive valuable industry certifications that provide them with safety awareness that helps to develop a responsible attitude toward safety. They receive retraining once they are employed in the industry.

The students also engage in hands-on learning in mining and mining-related fields through job shadowing, work experience and coop-

erative education.

Sofia Gallagher, science and technological studies coordinator for the Rainbow District School Board, says the Specialist High Skills Major in Mining focuses the students' education.

One of the specialized courses, Introduction to Mining, was locally developed in partnership with industry representatives. It introduces students to mineral exploration, mining methods, mineral processing, environmental remediation, new technologies and health and safety. It provides information to students about the range of careers available in the mining sector, from geosciences, to mining, mineral processing and careers in the trades.

Through such courses, the program allows students to investigate and explore in depth, before making up their minds about pursuing a career in the mining sector, explains Gallagher.

"The kids get a sense of what the industry is about, what kinds of jobs they can obtain."

"The kids get a sense of what the industry is about, what kinds of jobs they can obtain," she says. "They also are required to do a two-coop credit in the industry. We connect them with an industry partner so that they spend at least 200 hours working side-by-side with someone in the field of their choice."

This gives them not only insight into the industry, but important networking opportunities, she adds.

PDAC Mining Matters helped the school board develop the program, training the teachers using Mining Matters resources. A Mining Matters representative also serves on a large steering committee that provides input to the various components of the program.

"Once it's refined, this program can serve as the template for all other boards who wish to take on this initiative," says Laura Clinton, Mining Matters project coordinator. ▲

## Royal Ontario Museum seeks mineral, geological specimens

THE PDAC IS ENCOURAGING mining companies to preserve Canada's mineralogical heritage by making donations to the Royal Ontario Museum's new Teck Cominco Suite of Earth Sciences Galleries.

The galleries, which open in December, will house the Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals, the Gallery of Gold and Gems and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery. The galleries will exhibit more than 3,400 specimens from Canada and around the world.

The mandate of the museum's Department of Natural History, Mineralogy and Geology is to collect and exhibit specimens in order to illustrate and make known to the public the natural history of Ontario, Canada, and the

world. Its mission is to be a world leader in communicating its research and collections, their significance, preservation, and conservation.

One important way in which the department is able to preserve natural history is through the mining industry's generous donation of mineral and geological specimens.

If you would like to discuss the possible donation of specimens to these collections, please contact Kim Tait, associate curator of mineralogy at 416 586 5820 or by e-mail to ktait@rom.on.ca. For other support initiatives, please contact Mark Rittinger, ROM Governor's office, at 416 586 5751 or by e-mail to markr@rom.on.ca. ▲

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## Two interests merge for this PDAC director

IN 1999, WHEN THINGS were quiet for the mining business, mining lawyer and PDAC director Michael Bourassa turned his attention for a brief period to film financing tax structures. During a conversation with one of his film clients, he referred to his mining background, and the client commented that he must find working with film much more interesting.

“I told them, not a chance,” Bourassa says. “The mining people are far more interesting than the film types.”

Certainly, Bourassa has found fulfillment in the mining sector for two of his great interests: geography and law.

Bourassa grew up in Radville, Sask. and at age 18, moved to Saskatoon to study physical geography at the University of Saskatchewan. Graduating with his bachelor of science degree in 1978, he worked for Uranerz Exploration Limited, a Canadian subsidiary of a West German company that was involved in uranium exploration in Saskatchewan’s Athabasca Basin.

After three years, during which he supervised a group of draftspeople who transferred drilling information onto maps, Bourassa decided to return to university and study law.

“I wasn’t going to go very far with my degree in physical geography – I was limited as to what I could do – so I had to make a career choice,” he says. “I had friends who had gone through law and it was an area that fascinated me.”

He returned to the University of Saskatchewan, transferred to the University of Ottawa in his last year, and completed his bar admission in Ottawa in 1986. A position opened up with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and he began working in mining law.

It turned out to be a dream job, combining his love of geography with his love of law. He dealt with the acquisition of claims and the related legal issues, challenges and



*Michael Bourassa, left, guides raft carrying his sons and nephews over a rapid on the Jordan River in Israel.*

disputes. At that time, the Hemlo discovery was making news, and a number of challenges arose from people overstating in the Hemlo area.

“I developed quite an expertise in mining title issues,” Bourassa says, “and to this day I still rely on that expertise.”

After four years, an offer from the Toronto legal firm Aird and Berlis drew him away from government. In 2003, he joined Fasken Martineau Moulin LLP as a partner, and today coordinates the firm’s global mining group.

From working with title issues, Bourassa has gradually broadened his expertise over the years to include mining finance, securities, due diligence related to mining projects, and international issues.

“Ultimately, what’s made it quite fascinating is the international aspect, the opportunity to work with Canadian mining companies in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Brazil and Azerbaijan,” he says. During his travel to these places, he has come to realize how important mining is for the economy of these countries and their local communities.

Bourassa’s involvement with the PDAC goes back to the early 1990s. “Mining is my bread and butter and I thought it was very important to be involved with an organization such as the PDAC,” he says.

He initially joined the association

because of his interest in land issues, but along the way, he has also developed a deep interest in corporate social responsibility, chairing information sessions on the topic.

In 2003, he became a director of the association, and has just completed a term as the PDAC’s representative on the multi-stakeholder Minister of Mines’ Advisory Committee for Ontario.

The committee advises the minister on changes to the Ontario Mining Act. In recent years, much of this work has been concerned with the issue of surface versus mining

rights, especially in cottage country.

As well as his work with the PDAC, Bourassa is president of the World’s Mines Ministries Forum and works on the conference’s organizing committee. He has also chaired the Ontario Bar Association’s natural resource section and is a member of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, which holds annual institutes in the United States, and an international institute every two years in Latin America. Bourassa is chairing the mineral section of the next international institute, to be held in Buenos Aires in April 2009.

One of Bourassa’s proudest possessions results from some *pro bono* work that he did for the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario when they were getting established. Today, he has a plaque in his office that names him an honorary geoscientist.

Bourassa shares his life with Diana, a lawyer with the Bank of Montreal, and two sons, Avi, 17, and Eli, 13. He is passionate about working out at the gym and running, and plays the piano. “I’m very bad at it but I think I sound fantastic,” he says with a laugh.

He also has an unfulfilled dream.

“I love to golf and I shoot fairly consistently in the 90s,” he says. “My dream is to have a score under 90, which I’ve been able to accomplish maybe six or seven times. It’s the Holy Grail.” ▲

# PDAC offers first round of wilderness first aid courses

THE PDAC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, in conjunction with the Ontario Prospectors Association, organized three courses on wilderness first aid this spring – one in Thunder Bay and two in Sudbury.

The committee has identified the training of personnel in field safety as one of its main activities. According to Bill Mercer, chair of the committee, “This is our first foray into safety training. The fact that all three courses had full attendance demonstrates a need for this type of training, particularly for smaller companies and individuals. We would like to work with sister associations to offer similar courses across the country.”

The courses, which are designed for people working in remote areas but within hours of medical assistance, were taught by Sirius Wilderness Medicine personnel. Registration fees were subsidized by the PDAC.

The emphasis for the 45 participants was on practical skills, assessment, decision-making, and dealing with environmental conditions, such as heat, cold, and lightning. Course content included information on patient assessment, shock, wound management, burns, fractures and sprains, environmental injuries, common medical problems, and first aid kits. Outdoor training was an important component.

The health and safety committee are undertaking two other major activities: the annual survey of health and safety in mineral exploration in Canada, and the generation of protocols for health and safety in field work.

The survey is conducted in collaboration with the Association for Mineral Exploration BC. The data collected are compiled in aggregate and form the basis of a report to be published later this year.

The protocols are now being developed. They will be released in phases according to topic, with the first release this fall. All of the protocols will be available, free of charge, on the PDAC website. ▲

## Young people discover mining



STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE flocked to Mining in Society when it opened for three days in May in Edmonton. They were there to find out about the various phases of the mining cycle and to participate in a careers fair.

Mining in Society is intended to inform the general public about the benefits mining brings to their everyday lives and to promote career opportunities. The show features six pavilions: exploration, mining, processing, sustainability, products and education. The PDAC sponsors the exploration pavilion.

This year, invitations to visit Mining in Society went to youth groups, such as the scouts and guides, as well as students in elementary, intermediate and high schools. To involve the young people in the various activities at the show, PDAC Mining Matters helped to organize the popular Amazing Mine Challenge Scavenger Hunt. Each student received a passport to be shown at the various exhibits. This encouraged them to talk to exhibitors and add to their learning experience.

Mining Matters also provided interactive hands-on activities for students in each pavilion. These activities included building a load-bearing headframe out of straws and matching extraction sites before and after rehabilitation. ▲

## AIDS map assists business

A GLOBAL MAP is available that shows key information on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, analyzes the major risks it poses to business and highlights the potential benefits of business engaging in activities that seek to reduce the disease's impact.

A British risk, responsibility and reputation specialist, Maplecroft, has created the map and updates it as new information becomes available. The latest update incorporates information from UNAIDS, released in December 2007. According to that information, there were 33.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in 2007. In that year alone, 2.5 million people were newly infected.

The interactive map is a learning tool for business and examines how pro-active companies are engaging through partnerships to manage HIV/AIDS worldwide. It quantifies the risks posed by HIV/AIDS to



society and to the goals of business.

The map can be viewed at <http://maps.maplecroft.com/> ▲

# BEHIND THE SCENES



President Jon Baird was interviewed on Nation Talk TV on April 21. Topics covered in the interview included employment for First Nations people in the mining industry, the gap in knowledge between the mining industry and aboriginal people, and PDAC activities on this subject.



Executive Director Tony Andrews attended a meeting on April 29 of the Devonshire Initiative, a process initiated by the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, to bring together developmental NGOs and mining industry representatives to explore the benefits of partnerships.



On May 1, Tony Andrews chaired the annual meeting of presidents of member organizations of the Natural Resource Industry Associations (NRIA) group, which has been working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on a more efficient process for dealing with low-risk activities and the protection of fish habitat. The focus of the group is now moving to medium- and high-risk activities.



Philip Bousquet, director of regulatory affairs, attended a mining and energy stakeholders' workshop on aboriginal engagement in Ottawa on June 6, organized by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry (IGWG). The workshop's objective was to review selected case studies of aboriginal engagement in the industry submitted by government representatives on IGWG and to identify success factors, issues, and challenges.



Tony Andrews made a presentation on current PDAC programs to the association's coordination group during the bi-annual meeting of the International Council on Mining and Metals, held in London, UK, from May 6-8.



Board members Tara Christie and MaryAnn Mihychuk represented the PDAC at a mining taxation workshop, held in Ottawa on May 15 and organized by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) Tax Group.



Tony Andrews attended an external advisory committee meeting on May 21 of the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) National Network, of which he is a member. The network has been formed as an information resource for those implementing ILM across the country.



Securities committee chair, Greg Ho Yuen and Philip Bousquet attended the Canadian Securities Administrators' stakeholder consultation session in Toronto on National Instrument 54-101, *Communication with beneficial owners of securities of a reporting issue*, on May 30.



International affairs committee chair Deborah McCombe and members of her committee, Bill Mercer and Dina Aloï, represented the PDAC at SIMEXMIN 2008, in Ouro Preto, Brazil, from May 20-23. Mercer and Aloï conducted a workshop on CSR, and Mercer gave a presentation entitled *Quality control in mineral exploration as a basis for the financing of mineral deposit development*.



Dennis Jones, chair of the CSR committee, took part in a forum on socially responsible exploration and mining in Peru, organized by Export Development Canada in Ottawa, on May 22.



President Jon Baird and convention director Lisa McDonald met with a delegation from India on May 26 to discuss investment opportunities for Canadian companies in India. The meeting was the result of collaboration between the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi, the Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and the Consulate General of India.



On May 28, securities committee chair Greg Ho Yuen and Philip Bousquet represented the PDAC at a meeting of the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation, established in February 2008 by the federal government to recommend improvements to securities regulation in Canada. Ho Yuen spoke about regulatory features affecting mineral exploration and answered panelists' questions.



Tony Andrews attended the World Mining Congress in London, UK, from June 2-4, and took part in a keynote advisory panel on the main issues influencing the reputation, success and profitability of mining companies worldwide.



On June 4, Philip Bousquet, Garry Clark, executive director of the Ontario Prospectors Association, and Chris Hodgson, president of the Ontario Mining Association, met with senior officials of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to discuss proposed changes to the Ontario Mining Act.



Close to 160 golfers took part in PDAC Mining Matters' second annual Diamonds in the Rough golf tournament in June at the Glenway Country Club in Newmarket, Ont. Proceeds from this highly successful fundraiser support Mining Matters programs, which educate young people about the benefits derived from mining and earth sciences.



Bill Mercer, chair of the health and safety committee, gave a talk entitled *Health and safety in mineral exploration: The PDAC role at the CIM AGM in Edmonton on May 5*.

# Women raise money for South African project

THE TORONTO BRANCH of Women in Mining is taking on a new challenge.

Last year, the women raised more than \$200,000 for breast cancer research through the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation Weekend to End Breast Cancer. This year, they are planning to raise \$500,000 to support Lend to End (poverty), a campaign of The Townships Project, which is a charitable organization that supports micro-lending in South Africa.

The project is focused on the South African townships around Cape Town, East London and the mining district of Klerksdorp. Lend to End (poverty) makes small loans through microfinance institutions (MFIs), enabling people to start, continue or expand small businesses so that they can lift themselves, their family and their community out of poverty.

Loans typically start at about \$100 and may be used to stock a home-based tuck shop, buy a sewing machine or material for dressmaking or purchase tools for building trades. A loan repaid on time entitles the borrower to another, larger loan. Businesses usually support five or more individuals. Top priorities for the income are better and regular meals for their families and the payment of school fees, improving both health and education in the community.

Women in Mining members will be asking people and companies

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## Large international presence

THE GROWING NUMBER of international attendees to the PDAC convention indicates how important globally the event has become.

This year, 30 per cent of attendees came from outside Canada, representing 108 countries. The largest presence was from the U.S., with 1,208 representatives, followed by Australia with 400, the U.K. with 275 and China with 242.

There were seven country presentation rooms. Most presented half-day sessions, except for Nigeria, which had a two-hour reception, and Colombia, which hosted a full-day event. ▲

involved in mineral exploration and mining, and service and supply companies for contributions to their Lend to End (poverty) campaign. They point out that, by supporting the campaign, the mining sector can demonstrate industry-wide corporate social responsibility, and help position itself as a socially responsible, environmentally sustaining contributor to social welfare in Africa.

For its part, the WIM network plans to attract the attention of the media and general public to show the good work that mining is accomplishing in society. ▲

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## Café sparks lively discussion

FOLLOWING THE MARCH PDAC International Convention and World Mines Ministries Forum, Natural Resources Canada held a knowledge café to initiate dialogue around several issues that emerged from the two gatherings.

The café, hosted by the Minerals and Metals Sector (MMS), was designed to share the knowledge gained by the department's convention attendees with those who were not there, and to facilitate wide-ranging and open discussion.

Some 100 people from all sectors of Natural Resources Canada and from other federal government departments attended the event.

Participants sat at eight theme tables that covered topics such as human resources challenges in the industry, regulation, and sharing leading practices in Canadian and aboriginal mining. The time allocated allowed each participant to sit at four tables.

There were no empty seats and debate was lively, especially at a "wild card" table that permitted discussion on any topic that came up.

The event began with an introduction by Stephen Lucas, assistant deputy minister, and remarks by Tony Andrews, PDAC executive director.

Philippe Dauphin, a director with the MMS Futures Secretariat, said the café was positively received by those attending. "Considering we've never done this type of event before in MMS," he said, "I was amazed at the level of engagement, both from other areas of NRCan and from other departments." ▲

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**Publication Agreement #40042453**