

## **PDAC 2010 opens with bang with a call to take action against Bill C-300**

*Brenda Dalglish*

PDAC president Jon Baird opened the convention Monday with a call for everyone who earns a living in the mining industry to write letters to Members of Parliament to ask for their vote against Bill C-300.

“If we work together, we can let Ottawa know why this Bill is an insult to Canada’s leading global industry,” Baird told several hundred delegates at the opening ceremonies.

“Let’s flood Ottawa with ‘No to C-300’ letters,” he said.

Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis was unable to attend the convention this year, in his place Parliamentary Secretary David Anderson attended.

Anderson and Minister Paradis both voted against the bill when it came to the first vote in the House of Commons last April. But the vote to send it to committee for consideration was passed by four votes.

Anderson assured delegates that his support will continue and he reiterated Baird’s call for those in the mining industry to write Ottawa about the bill.

He joked about “a big gold discovery” earlier this month in British Columbia, in a reference to the record number of gold medals won by Canadians at the Olympics. PDAC 2010’s top sponsor Teck provided the metal that was used to produce the medals.

Anderson told delegates that the federal budget released last Thursday contains several initiatives that will benefit the industry.

In particular, he mentioned that the super flow-through program, the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC), will be extended for one more year.

Baird responded a few minutes later by reiterating the PDAC’s ongoing request that the government make the METC permanent.