

PDAC 2023 Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop

In an effort to attract more students into the mineral exploration industry, the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) ran its 14th annual Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (S-IMEW) on May 4–16, 2023 in Sudbury and the surrounding region. Students from 22 post-secondary geoscience institutions (universities and colleges) were selected from across Canada to participate this year. Students attended lectures, presentations, and hands-on activities covering exploration techniques, bedrock mapping, mineral deposits geology, geophysics, and geochemistry, and environmental, health and safety, and social responsibility issues. A field trip to Kirkland Lake was included in the workshop, allowing students from across the country to see what this world-class mining region has to offer.

Among the highlights of the workshop was 'Geochemistry Day', organized and taught by Beth McClenaghan and Chris Beckett-Brown of the Geological Survey of Canada, and Grant Hagedorn, Marcus Burnham, and Riley Mulligan of the Ontario Geological Survey. They introduced students to exploration geochemical techniques through hands-on experiences that they are unlikely to be exposed to at university or college. The students experienced the microscopic world of indicator minerals, learned how to collect till samples and determine glacial transport directions, and toured the OGS' Geoscience Laboratories. A new activity added this year was a competitive exploration exercise in which teams interpreted regional geochemical data and designed follow-up drill programs to discover mineralization.

S-IMEW Geochemical Team



The organizers of "Geochemistry Day 2023" at the evening banquet. From left to right: Grant Hagedorn (Ontario Geological Survey), Beth McClenaghan (Geological Survey of Canada) and Chris Beckett-Brown (on his last day with the Geological Survey of Canada, and now with the Ontario Geological Survey).



Students looked at heavy mineral concentrates with microscopes to learn about indicator minerals.



Grant Hagedorn, from the Ontario Geological Survey, explained to the students how to collect a till sample and how to determine glacial transport directions from striated bedrock.

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