Mineral exploration and First Nations

MOU signing: Assembly of First Nations and PDAC, March 4, 2008

Jason Wilson
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada

FNTI 2009 First Nations Conference-Mineral Resources and Aboriginal lands

June 14-15, 2009
Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario
Mineral exploration and First Nations

a. PDAC convention, programs and activities
b. Memorandum of Understanding with the Assembly of First Nations
c. Current and future activities
a. PDAC and mineral exploration

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is a national association representing the interests of the mineral exploration and development industry.

Activities include:

- **Advocacy** (policies, regulations, taxation)
- **Information** (research, outreach, membership)
- **Programs** (environmental, social, educational)
- **Networking** (PDAC International Convention)
PDAC 2009: International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange

Aboriginal participation program

Professional development courses on Aboriginal awareness and recruitment and retention

Skookum Jim Award presented to Tli Cho Logistics (NWT)

Aboriginal technical session and Aboriginal presentation room
Mineral exploration in Canada

- mineral exploration is the “research & development” of the mineral industry; exploration is a temporary land use activity

- most exploration is now carried out by small and medium sized companies (e.g. five to 25 full time and seasonal workers) employing tens of thousands of people across Canada, including a growing number of Aboriginal people

- exploration is a high risk business: economic deposits are very difficult to find, requiring years of exploration; it is estimated that fewer than one in ten thousand mineral showings discovered actually becomes a mine

Electromagnetic survey
British Columbia
Mineral exploration in Canada

Gold exploration in Kirkland Lake Ontario
Aboriginal communities and the mineral industry

Approximately 1200 Aboriginal communities are located within 200km of 180 producing mines and 2500 exploration properties in Canada.
Communities and companies: mutual benefits

• Exploration and development of mineral wealth in northern and remote areas offers immediate business opportunities for Aboriginal communities.

• Early and ongoing engagement by companies and communities helps to improve mutual understanding and to maximize benefits from a project.
Aboriginal Affairs activities at the PDAC

The **PDAC Aboriginal Affairs committee** was formed in 2004 to advise the PDAC Board on ways in which the PDAC can actively promote greater understanding and co-operation between Aboriginal communities and the mineral industry in Canada.

The committee is co-chaired by **Chief Glenn Nolan**, PDAC 2nd Vice President and **Don Bubar**, PDAC Board member.

It is supported by **Jason Wilson**, Program Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Resource Development, and **Philip Bousquet**.
Aboriginal Affairs activities at the PDAC

Key Policy Initiatives

1. Encourage greater Aboriginal participation in the industry
2. Advocate for government resource revenue sharing
3. Advocate for more rapid resolution of land claims
4. Development of clear, effective engagement protocols

MOU signing at PDAC 2009
Chapleau Cree First Nation & Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
PDAC activities in support of communities and companies

• Promotion of good practices by the mineral industry:

  e3 Plus: framework for responsible mineral exploration

  Fonds Restor-Action Nunavik: exploration site clean-up in northern Quebec

• Encouraging increased Aboriginal participation in the mineral industry through PDAC convention activities and the Skookum Jim Award, recognizing individuals and Aboriginal-run businesses

• Development of information materials (e.g. the Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities – with MAC, CAMA, federal government)
Memorandum of Understanding

“The PDAC actively promotes greater participation by Aboriginal Peoples in the mineral industry as well as greater understanding and co-operation between First Nations communities and mineral exploration and mining companies.”

“The PDAC recognizes the constitutionally-protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights of First Nations and encourages its members to engage with First Nations communities, respect these rights and minimize the potential for adverse impacts that may result from activities on the land.”

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MOU workplan

• “The PDAC and the AFN will prepare a joint two year work plan to encourage, promote and facilitate increased engagement, partnerships, investments, education and employment opportunities for First Nations, First Nations companies and individuals who wish to be involved in the mineral industry.”

• “The results of this work will be reported on, at a minimum, once per year to the AFN’s and to the PDAC’s respective authorities.”
MOU workplan

Reporting will include:

a. establishment of opportunities for regular dialogue between the mineral sector and First Nation communities with the goal of enhancing mutual understanding and respect;

b. collaboration on human resource initiatives that promote greater participation of First Nations people in Canada’s exploration and mining industry; and,

c. cooperation on public policy issues of mutual interest (for example, social and economic development; the resolution of land claims; government resource revenue sharing agreements; geoscience mapping; environmental policy and land use planning)
Regular dialogue

Participation in meetings and conferences

AFN Assembly
Dene Assembly
Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association
Learning Together
Denendeh conference
Boreal Prospectors Association
Aboriginal – Industry Mining Forum (NWT)
AFN Inter Nation Summit

AFN march in Quebec City, July 2008
Human resource and training initiatives

Promoting the mineral industry as a career choice for Aboriginal peoples and developing support materials
PDAC Mining Matters

First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program
Graduation day in Upsala, Ontario, Summer 2008

Mining Matters Aboriginal Outreach Program

- Geoscience instructional development workshops for teachers; classroom study and field work for students
- Visits to northern Aboriginal communities
- In 2008, Mining Matters partnered with Outland Forestry and Confederation College to participate in the First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program
Cooperation on public policy issues of mutual interest

- Advocating for government resource revenue sharing

- Bill C-30 Specific Claims legislation (PDAC & MAC submissions)

- Support for the National Day of Action (PDAC, MAC, FPAC)

- Improvements to mining and exploration regulations
c. Current and future activities

• research on Aboriginal participation in mineral exploration

• work with communities and companies to develop case histories demonstrating benefits and good practices

• community outreach

• PDAC 2010 in Toronto (March 7 to 10, 2010)
Chi-meegwetch!

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