ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

The explorers of Ontario are starting to feel the impacts of the changes of the Mining Act. Now that we have been given a new "start" date we all need to figure out what we are supposed to do and when.

The MLAS (My-Lass) group have continued to send out notices of what is occurring and when. There are numerous steps a claimholder needs to be aware of or have had a claim manager to handle.

We have been lead through the Mining Act changes for almost 10 years with the final product, regulations and fees still not presented for explorers to determine the end affect. In discussions with explorers, the general sentiment is let's get on with it.

The hiatus period starting in January will be a busy time for claim holders. It will be a new education for all users. MNDM has pledged to put on workshops to help through the transition. Hopefully everyone is readily prepared! The fear that some explorers have expressed is worry that during the hiatus some companies will leave their Ontario properties quiet since they don't need assessment. Instead the companies will explore other jurisdictional properties and if successful will not revisit the Ontario properties.

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE (Dave LaRocque)

First off I would like to thank the OPA for voting me in as President. I figure this is the best way to introduce myself.

For those of you that don't know me; I have held my prospector license since I was 18. I am 3 years away from my lifetime card. I got started a few years before that by helping Rolly Hill and Frank Ploeger with odd jobs on the claims they held.

I staked my first claim on the first day of the lifting of the Temagami Land Caution in 1996 after being talked into it by my good friend Jason Ploeger. I skipped school and we piled down to Temagami with our brand new Garmin GPS units that took so long to acquire a position we ended up wasting more time than we gained by using them. Here we each took out a single unit and experienced our first rush. Helicopters, boats, trucks
and a whole lot of newly hired people who did not know a #1 post from a line post. The end result being disputes and excitement all around as I first met Mike Leahy and Gino Chitaroni. They bought our claims and I had a great story to tell my classmates the next day in home room.

It was something else watching my claim being put on the Mylar map by the girls at the Kirkland Lake Recording Office. Roy Spooner gave me a great deal of advice on staking and how to be a good claim staker. This of course was time when the Mining Act was something that was interpreted by Recorders not like today when policy and a MNDM lawyer in Toronto tells the Recorder what was indented. It was Roy who taught me to tie into claims and not trust the map as it was posts that counted on the ground not what a cartoon was showing.

I got my start in the contracting business by being hired to contract stake in the Shinning Tree camp while I was home from school by Bob MacGregor. I had met Bob that morning, as I was staking a claim just south of Larder Lake. We met on the highway after the staking was done, his guys having taken half the ground. He called me at my parents that night and we were on our way to Shining Tree the next day. That summer I quickly learned that I could work at the sawmill during the day then stake until dark. I made more staking each day for a few hours than I did at the mill all day. I have worked with and for Bob ever since and we have optioned a few claims together as well.

After a couple of years in the logging business I quit my job and started full time providing exploration services in 2004 after taking some advice from Joe Horne, Dan McCormick and Tom Obradovich. My first contract was in Cadillac cutting a grid in some blow down for Ray Zalnieriunas. It has been one hell of a ride since with the boom of 2005-2008 and the deathly lows after the crash.

With the upcoming implementation of online map staking, the ever changing plans and permits process combined with the still to be known and finalized regulations we find ourselves at a critical junction in the prospecting history of Ontario. I know more than one prospector who is hanging up the pack and putting the tools of the trade away. I also know a few people who are being forced into retirement as ground staking goes the way of the stamp mill. It is a sad time as many of these prospectors and stakers were the backbone of the prospecting community.

The boom times appear to be back as the old camps begin to rumble with the sounds of diamond drills again. The town of Cobalt has been in the news so much lately it has been amazing. My hope is that the call of prospecting continues and that the mining companies start to take the prospector serious again. Borden Lake and the Wawa diamond play of a few years ago are all recent examples of prospectors going about the business of ignoring the books and geological rules by beating the bush hunting for the next find.
I look forward to working with the board of directors to continue to fight to keep the province open for prospecting and mineral exploration in general. I personally want to make sure that regulations in the province encourage the small guy as much as the large company. To do that we need to have a stronger membership base of active members who are vocal and keep the regional prospecting groups going. Please ask your associates to join the local group in your area and please try and get out to the meetings or pass on your thoughts so that we can bring up the concerns of our membership and keep the industry moving.

Thanks and happy holidays.

Plans and Permit changes are being proposed and imposed by the Ministry. Some of the changes are definitely welcomed and others are too confusing to understand. The latest notice is:

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ONTARIO’S MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Ontario Regulation 308/12 Exploration Plans and Permits Forms and Instructions Update

November 21, 2017 -- The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines will be introducing new exploration plan/permit forms and instructions to further clarify the processes required under the Exploration Plans and Permits Regulation. This regulation governs all stakeholders on matters related to early exploration plan and/or permit matters in Ontario.

We are updating processes following engagement with industry and other community partners as part of our ongoing efforts to improve the application of Regulation 308/12. The new forms and instructions will clarify a number of areas related to the regulation for industry stakeholders, Indigenous communities, as well as environmental non-governmental organizations and the general public, while continuing to strengthen relationships among all parties. New forms and instructions will be introduced on or about November 27, 2017. A 30-day transition period will allow clients to become familiar with the changes. On December 21, 2017, all submissions will be required to follow the new instructions.

Ontario is committed to developing best practices to support an effective mineral exploration plans and permits process. We also remain committed to supporting exploration and development of the province’s mineral resources in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights including the duty to consult, and to minimize the impact of these activities on public health and safety and the environment.
We also remind our clients that exploration plans and exploration permit applications will be submitted online through our electronic, online 24/7 Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) once it is fully operational on April 10, 2018.

Comments on above:

Watch the dates of the new forms and the start of hiatus period. It is unsure when an abstract would be updated. During due diligent checks you may have to present the copy of the permit if there are no abstract updates.

- Where are the forms and instructions presented before the Start date of MLAS of April 10, 2018.

Presently we notify the Traditional Land User multiple times that work could be completed

1. Claims have been acquired in the Traditional Land users area. Now notification should be electronically automatically. Land acquisition means there is intend of exploration! At this point the MDA's in the community or tribal council should be starting the consultation as should the MNDM staff
2. A plan and/or permit process has started and exploration is to commence.
3. Supposedly a mob and demob notice could be triggered thus notification.
4. An annual work plan could be a term or condition. Another reminder work is commencing.

At all these points there could be impact to the access and flow of exploration.

There are also the "Inspector" who originally were to be complaint activated but are now just wandering compliance police.

It would be productive to have a frank discussion between Industry and MNDM to examine the administrative capacity of the explorers of the Province. We just cannot be doing paperwork that doesn't find deposits!!

**We are on the eve of a new functioning system but we still haven't been explained the Fees or Costs of the new processes.**
The Junior explorers of Ontario need assistance to retain them in the Province. Over the last 5 years OPA has seen Junior explorers applying for Ontario Exploration Corporation assistance and recently Junior Exploration Assistance (JEAP).

The issue is that when JEAP was planned there was analysis completed that showed approximately 80 junior companies owned claims in Northern Ontario with a market capitalization of <$5 million. The question is why then did only 43 successfully qualify (actually 37 listed Junior Companies--5 private corporations) for the fund?

The answer is the companies cannot raise money for grassroot exploration!

- The laws state that companies cannot raise funds under a trading price of $0.05 without special allowance from the exchange.
- Companies trading at $0.05 without many shares outstanding would dilute themselves greatly. In some cases they would have to issue shares that may push the company out of business.
- The costs of lawyers, accounting and the exchange is such that a $1.0 million dollar raise costs almost as much as a $300,000 raise.
- Brokers and fund raisers would rather sell larger fund raises as the commissions are higher.
• The biggest hurdle is to find investors with risk capital for the early exploration investment. Most companies are trying to raise $300,000 to $1.0 million. The number of brokers willing to invest in these financing have been eroded by the amalgamation of brokerage over the last years and the advent of self trading accounts have eliminated contact of investors to brokers.

Overall the lower part of the pyramid or the foundation of our business is in trouble! This is the part of the industry that is dominated by small juniors and prospectors who supply the multitude of exploration projects that work the way up the pyramid.

The solution is to support this portion of the exploration sequence. The Provinces that do are the ones that will benefit the most from Exploration and Mining.

Junior Exploration Assistance Program (JEAP) 2016 Final Report

Summary:

JEAP 2016 was carried out between early March 2016 and late September 2017. The program was open to eligible public or private junior exploration companies having market capitalizations of less than $5M as of December 31, 2015, for early-stage exploration on properties in Northern Ontario. Two projects per applicant were allowed. Upon completion and approval of projects, grants of 33.33% of eligible project expenses, up to a maximum of $100,000 per project and $200,000 per company, were offered. As an incentive to hire Indigenous persons and companies, a maximum of $6000.00 at 100% of actual expenditures, was permitted for such purposes. This amount was included in the total grant limit.

The program was administered by the Ontario Prospectors Association, with overall administration by Garry Clark, P. Geo. and Susan Warren. Technical evaluation was provided by David Hunt, P. Geo., Wally Rayner, P. Geo. and Peter Vanstone, P. Geo.

Applications were accepted in three tranches with deadlines of April 30, August 30 and November 26, 2016. Each application was reviewed by two professional geoscientists, using a standard points system to ensure approved applicants met required standards. The types of work allowed were standard early-stage exploration eligible for assessment credits in Ontario.

Of a total of 62 applications received, 43 were approved, their projects completed, and grants issued. Table 1 lists all applicants, approved projects and the reasons projects were not approved. From total project expenses of $11,970,244.52, eligible project expenses were calculated at $9,442,333.65 for a total grant payout of $2,804,118.00. Work completed in JEAP 2016 resulted in recommended proposed follow-up exploration work in the amount of $29,968,675.
The program resulted in the employment of 385 employees and contractors, 38 Indigenous individuals and 19 Indigenous businesses. Total amount spent on the hiring of Indigenous workers and businesses was $1,682,767.09.

Interim Reports were requested from each successful applicant around the mid-point of their work period in order to track their activity and spending progress. A summary Interim Report was provided to MNDM and NOHFC.

The deadline for completion of all field work was December 31, 2016, however follow-up laboratory and other analytical work, as well as report writing and drawing preparation, was permitted until the final program deadline of February 28, 2017.

Reports and drawings similar in requirement to those required for Ontario Assessment submissions were submitted by each applicant as part of their deliverable, along with detailed financial information about project expenses, including proofs of payment for all expenditures.

Final reports were evaluated by one of three professional geoscientists for their technical completeness. All projects were evaluated using consistent criteria. Companies were notified of any deficiencies that were required to be addressed before approval could be granted.

Similarly, project expenditure and proof of payment information for each project was evaluated by professional geoscientists and data summarized in a spreadsheet. Companies were notified of financial reporting deficiencies that were required to be addressed before approval. In addition, financial expenditures were evaluated by accountants from MNP LLP, Thunder Bay. Final grants were calculated based on approved eligible project expenses.

The nature of mineral exploration projects.
Early-stage mineral exploration is essentially applied research. The aim is to identify mineral resources that may eventually prove to be economically viable in areas about which very little is presently known.

Thus, early exploration is a very high risk activity. Only a very small percentage of properties explored progresses to the advanced exploration stage, and very few advanced exploration projects become mineable deposits. Assistance in funding through programs like JEAP helps to mitigate this risk.

Early-stage mineral exploration may involve following up on previously favourable work, testing theories or ore deposit models based on the perceived underlying geology, evaluating mineral occurrences identified by prospecting or during previous exploration work, evaluating the mineral potential of ground adjacent to properties on which favourable mineral results have been previously identified, or testing results identified in previous geophysical or geological surveys.
The various components (like geological mapping, geochemical surveys, diamond drilling, etc.) are means to an end and exploration is often quite flexible in their use, depending on logistics, access, results to date, and what is perceived to work best to fulfill the aim of a given project. In addition, positive results from one phase of a program may radically change the program’s direction and focus. Thus, variability between what is proposed and what may be carried out is to be expected.

In addition, because most early-stage exploration projects are located in remote sites, they are subject to the vagaries of weather, land conditions and agreements with Aboriginal groups or surface rights holders.

Such variation and flexibility was permitted by JEAP evaluators when reviewing projects, as long as proposed changes were explained by the companies involved and as long as such changes did not alter the overall aim of each project. In most cases companies notified JEAP of possible changes and were given permission to do so.

The success of an early-stage mineral exploration project usually consists in the discovery of new interesting mineralization or the identification of factors that can be tested by additional exploration work. In other words, a successful exploration project adds value to a property and moves the project closer to achieving its aim.

1. Information on Project Completion:
A total of 62 applications were received. Of these:
- 43 were approved, their projects were completed and their grant awarded;
- 10 projects were not approved;
- 8 projects did not qualify for grants due to other issues; and
- 1 project was not carried out because lack of available personnel and weather conditions did not allow the proposed work to be carried out.

Of the 10 projects not initially approved:
- 6 did not complete their applications properly;
- 2 withdrew their applications because they did not possess Commercial General Liability insurance;
- 1 failed to provide proof of cash on hand; and
- 1 applied for two projects at the same location, a condition not allowed under the program

Of the 8 projects not qualifying for grants due to other issues:
- 6 requested their agreements be cancelled, during the course of their program, without explanation;
- 1 failed to provide any proof of payment information; and
- 1 did not submit a final report

2. Summary of Financial information:
For those projects that were approved:
- Total proposed budgets of proposed work was $11,596,309
• Total actual project expenses $11,970,244.51
• Total eligible project costs $9,442,333.65.
• Total amount of grants paid $2,840,118.00.
• Total expenditures for Aboriginal workers and/or companies $1,682,767.09.
• The total amount of proposed follow-up exploration was $29,968,675.

For approved projects, the actual expenditures of 27 out of 43, or 63% were within 20% of proposed expenditures. Of the 16 projects where variances between proposed and actual work were greater than 20%, the reasons given (in order of importance) were:
- logistical, weather, time and financial issues (5);
- some work carried out but not reported on in their final report (4);
- more favourable method of work was used (3);
- discovery of new mineralization that changed the scope of the program (2)

In many cases Eligible Project Costs (those costs accepted for calculation of the JEAP grant), were less than the company’s total project costs due to several reasons:
- Total project costs were in excess of those required to result in a maximum grant of $100,000;
- Costs were incurred either before a project’s Approval Date, or after the project deadline had passed
- Costs were incurred conducting work outside of the approved project area; or
- Costs were incurred for items or services deemed not eligible for JEAP purposes (i.e. purchases of software and computer hardware, expenditures on items that were not supported by valid Proof of Payment, etc.

Note that Project Deadlines for all field work was December 31, 2016, however follow-up work such as data analysis, drill core logging, assaying, report and map production were considered eligible as long as they were completed by the report submission deadline of February 28, 2017.

3. Other Performance Measures:
The objective of the JEAP program was to stimulate mineral exploration in Northern Ontario by small junior exploration companies. Such exploration companies have had extreme difficulty raising investment funds for mineral exploration during the past several years. Another objective of encouraging increased exploration was to stimulate the economy of rural areas by creating jobs and increasing purchases of supplies and services. Both of these objectives were achieved.

Total project expenditures of $11,970,244.51 were reported by JEAP 2016 entities. A considerable portion of these funds would have been spent on local and regional workers, service providers, contractors, etc., for technical and transportation services, food and fuel, and accommodation.

The projects of JEAP 2016 resulted in the direct employment of more than:
- 87 employees (2,496.5 person days)
- 298 contract employees (4,071.8 person days)
38 Indigenous employees (1,144.5 person days)
19 Indigenous owned and/or operated companies

Please note that, in a few instances, complete worker data was not reported by some entities, therefore these figures should be taken as minimum amounts. See Table 3.

4. JEAP 2016 Projects Update:

Areas and dates of work:
JEAP 2016 projects were carried out between May 1 (or upon each company’s Approval Date) and December 31, 2016. Follow-up analytical work and reporting was carried out in some cases until the report due-date of February 28, 2017.

Projects were distributed throughout the province, with the majority being in Northeastern Ontario.

A total of 23 projects were located in Northeastern Ontario. In Northeastern Ontario the majority of projects were carried out in the Sudbury (8 projects), Timmins (5) areas, with one or two projects in each of the Gowgama, Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, Matachewan, Hearst, Wawa and Detour Mine areas.

A total of 15 projects were located in Northwestern Ontario and more widely dispersed than those in the Northeast. One or two projects each were carried out in the Mine Centre, Ignace, Nakina, Beardmore, Atikokan, Pickle Lake, Vermilian Bay, Schreiber – Marathon - Hemlo, Thunder Bay, Savant Lake, Dryden Ft. Frances and Sioux Narrows areas.

The four projects in the Far North were carried out in the Ring of Fire, North Spirit Lake, Kasabonika and Monument Bay areas.

Commodities:
- Gold 63%
- Polymetallic (copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold) 14%
- Nickel, Copper, Platinum group metals 12%
- Diamonds 5%
- Silver 2%
- Rare metals 2%
- Dimension stone 2%

Types of work*:
- Diamond drilling 53%
- Ground and airborne geophysical surveys 47%
- Prospecting 37%
- Stripping, trenching, channel sampling 26%
- Geochemical surveys 23%
- Geological surveys 23%
- Linecutting 16%
• Re-logging and re-sampling historic drill core 12%
* Please note that these percentages total more than 100 because many projects comprised more than one activity.

Results:
• Generally positive results (favourable geology, geophysical or geochemical anomalies, drill targets identified) 44%
• Drill intersections or mineral showings identified 23%
• New mineralized zones identified or existing zones extended 21%
• Inconclusive results or no significant results 12%

Proposed follow-up work and budgets:
• Diamond drilling sometimes including other exploration activities 72%
• Unspecified follow-up exploration activities 19%
• No further work proposed 7%
• Reverse circulation drilling and other exploration activities 2%

Proposed budgets for follow-up exploration (for companies proposing further work) ranged from $15,000 to $10,000,000. The total amount of proposed follow-up exploration was $29,968,675.

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ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting

The OPA held it's AGM November 23, 2017. The agenda was followed and no new business arose. The directors for 2018 are included in the attached table.

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ONTARIO PROSPECTORS EXPLORATION SHOWCASE SPRING 2018

The Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase "Grassroots Prospects lead to New Mines" will be held April 3-5, 2018, Thunder Bay. Registration forms and more information can be found at the Ontario Prospectors Association website in January (www.ontarioprospectors.com). The Northeastern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium will be held in Kirkland Lake, November 2018.

The Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase (OPES) is the Ontario event highlighting prospecting, exploration, government collected geological data and available contractors/services. At present we are commencing booking exhibit space and speakers. If you are interested please email gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
Number of active mining projects by province ranked:
Ontario is Number One

Mining.Com 2017-11-18
Byline: Michael Allan McCrae

Ontario has the most active mining projects in Canada at 1,195 ranging from prospect all the way to permitting.

Quebec is second and British Columbia is third. Saskatchewan, which the Fraser Institute ranked as the world's friendliest mining jurisdiction, was fourth. However, British Columbia has the most projects at the preliminary economic assessment stage and beyond.

On a per capita basis, there is one active project in the Yukon for every 125 people, the lowest amount of any region including Nunavut and NWT.

Data, which was compiled this month, is based on Mining Intelligence's tracking of several thousand projects worldwide.

Glen Jones, managing director of Mining Intelligence, says Canada is benefitting from a recovering exploration market.

"Last year Canada was the world's top exploration country by money spent. Even more money was raised on the TSX Venture Exchange this year which should result in more and more projects coming online," said Jones.

According to PWC Canada exploration dollars poured into Canada at a faster rate than anywhere else in the world last year. The country attracted 14% of the total global exploration budget. Australia was a close second with 13%, followed by the United States at 7%.

PWC noted in a separate survey that the top 100 TSX Venture Exchange mining companies raised CA$2.04 billion in 2017, up from 174% a year ago.
FLOW THROUGH SHARES AND THE BENEFITS

What is a Flow-Through Share?

Flow-through shares are newly issued common shares of a resource company which provide flow-through tax deductions to investors. Resource companies issue flow-through shares to attract capital for exploration and development and "flow through" eligible Canadian Exploration Expenses (CEE) to their flow-through share investors. Shareholders can deduct these flow-through expenses against their taxable income. The flow-through share regime is designed to provide incentives for financing qualifying exploration ventures in Canada and shift the tax deduction from the company doing the exploration to the investors of the flow-through shares. This greatly assists companies in raising funds for exploration and development because the investment is accompanied by a tax deduction for the investor. Investors will be able claim 100% of the value of the purchased shares against their taxes that year. The Table below sets out an example of the tax consequences to an investor who purchases $10,000 worth of flow-through shares of a mining company based on their provincial tax rates.

image: http://www.stockhouse.com/media/news-images/tax-table.png

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<td>Highest marginal tax rate:</td>
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<td>$5,200</td>
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Government Tax Deduction The Government of Canada recognizes the economic benefits of the exploration and development of Canada's natural resources and encourages investments with a flow-through tax deduction for investors. Canada's Income Tax Act allows Companies to agree that they will transfer or “renounce” their exploration expenses to individual investors. Companies that have revenue may not wish to utilize this as they will want to apply those expenses against their income to reduce or eliminate their own tax liabilities. But a junior exploration company usually has no significant revenue and won’t need those expenses because they won’t be facing income tax consequences. Therefore it makes sense to pass on those expenses to individual investors, who can happily apply them against their own personal incomes.
FLOW THROUGH IN NEXT BUDGET

September 26, 2017

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5

Sent via email: Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Morneau,

I am writing in support of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) pre-budget recommendations that the Government of Canada take steps to enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian minerals industry, particularly the mineral exploration and development sector. Specifically, Ontario Prospectors Association supports the PDAC’s recommendations to:

- Renew the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for a minimum period of three years and maintain the flow-through share financing system;
- Provide dedicated funds for long-term financing of development-related infrastructure projects that enhance natural resource projects and community improvements in remote and northern Canada

The minerals industry generates significant economic opportunities and social benefits for Canadians. Valued at $92 billion in 2015, mineral exports accounted for 19% of Canada’s total domestic exports. Over the past decade the industry has paid $70 billion in taxes and royalties to governments, while accounting for approximately 4 per cent of GDP. Toronto is the mine equity finance capital of the world; in 2016, 51% of all global mining financing transactions done on the TSX and TSXV. In 2015 the minerals sector supported over 563,000 well paid jobs (373,000 direct and 180,000 indirect jobs) throughout the country in urban, rural and remote areas, and is the largest private sector employer of Indigenous peoples. As one of the primary generators of economic activity in northern and remote Canada, the industry can be viewed as a core partner of your government, and as one of the primary vehicles through which to achieve many of the policy goals outlined by your government with respect to improving quality of life for Indigenous communities.

The industry faces challenges that threaten its ability to sustain the social and economic benefits it provides to all Canadians. Base metal reserves are declining, and new discoveries are not keeping up with production levels. The cost of making new discoveries in Canada has gone up steadily as companies are increasingly exploring both at depth and in ever-more remote (and costly) areas, with larger exploration budgets required to undertake work. These issues are compounded by challenges related to raising exploration financing.
Extending the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for a minimum period of three years and maintaining the flow-through share program will play a critical role in ensuring that investors continue to allocate capital to support early-stage exploration, which is the highest risk stage of the mineral development sequence.

The METC complements the flow-through share regime; it incentivizes exploration financing by providing individuals who invest in the flow-through shares of companies that are exploring for minerals in Canada with a 15% tax credit on eligible expenditures. It is an effective incentive that has stimulated investment in exploration over the past 17 years. Finance Canada has estimated that every dollar of flow-through financing generates $2.6 of exploration expenditures in Canada.

Sustained exploration activities are required to discover new deposits that can become producing mines. Hundreds of dynamic small- and medium-sized enterprises—junior exploration companies—take on the bulk of the high-risk exploration that leads to new discoveries. Exploration financing is crucial to replace mineral reserves as existing mines close in order to sustain Canada's economy and the benefits the sector brings. This can be achieved through traditional metals and also through innovation and exploration success in the discovery of minerals and metals that lead to a low carbon economy.

On behalf of Ontario Prospectors Association, we support the PDAC's Budget 2018 recommendations that the Government of Canada renew the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for a minimum period of three years, sustain flow-through share financing, and invest in infrastructure projects in northern/remote Canada to support resource development.

The mineral exploration and development industry is an important contributor to the economy and we support policy tools to ensure its continued ability to provide economic opportunities for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

J. Garry Clark
Executive Director, Ontario Prospectors Association

Cc:
Hon. Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines
Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Norm Miller, Critic, Northern Development and Mines
Michael Mantha, Critic, Northern Development and Mines
Glenn Mullan, President, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada
### Board of Directors for 2017-2018

**APGO** = Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario  
**NPA** = Northern Prospectors Association  
**OMA** = Ontario Mining Association  
**SOPA** = Southern Ontario Prospectors Association  
**PDAC** = Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada  

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<td>Joshua Bailey</td>
<td>SPDA</td>
<td>Sudbury</td>
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<td>Philip Bousquet</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:pbousquet@oma.on.ca">pbousquet@oma.on.ca</a></td>
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<td>Gino Chitaroni</td>
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<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>705.648.9756</td>
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<td>Pam Coles</td>
<td>NWOPA</td>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>807.346.9254</td>
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<td>Charles Elbourne</td>
<td>At Large</td>
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**TBD**

**BPA** = Boreal Prospectors Association  
**NWOPA** = Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association  
**SDPA** = Sault & District Prospectors Association  
**SPDA** = Sudbury Prospectors & Developers Association  
**PPDA** = Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association
DEC 05 2017

Mr. J. Garry Clark
Executive Director
Ontario Prospectors Association
garry@clarkexploration.com

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 27, 2017, written on behalf of the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA), regarding consultations for Budget 2018. Please excuse the delay in replying.

When we have an economy that works for the middle class, we have a country that works for everyone. The investments our Government has made in people, communities, and the economy are working. Over 500,000 new jobs have been created since 2015, and the unemployment rate is at its lowest in nearly a decade. Canada now has the fastest-growing economy in the G7, giving us the ability to reinvest the benefits of that growth back into the people who contributed to that success.

As Canada’s economy continues to grow, it is important to share the benefits of that growth. This means continuing to make smart investments in people and communities to promote continued progress, and investing in lifelong learning to give Canadians the tools they need to find good, well-paying jobs in the economy of tomorrow. It also means ensuring that government policy and budget decisions consider impacts on all Canadians and advance gender equality.

Our Government welcomes the OPA’s ideas and suggestions on how we can make sure Canada is ready for the changes and opportunities that lie ahead and on what our families, communities, and country need to face the future with confidence.

Thank you for writing on behalf of the OPA and for your contribution to these consultations.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.
Greetings,

I am writing to you today to let you know of the intended transfer of the Office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner (OMLC) to the Environment and Land Tribunals Ontario (ELTO) cluster of tribunals. The transfer will not impact the powers or function of the office and is intended to align the OMLC with similar tribunals in Ontario.

To accomplish this goal, once the transfer of the OMLC to the ELTO cluster at the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is complete, it will be renamed the Mining and Lands Tribunal (MLT). The intended date of this change will be on April 1, 2018.

The OMLC functions as an adjudicative body for many matters under the Mining Act with a primary focus to resolve disputes arising within the mining industry. The OMLC also plays an important role in making decisions on matters under a number of other statutes, including the Conservation Authorities Act, Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, Assessment Act, and Aggregate Resources Act. The OMLC receives approximately 35 cases each year, most of which are settled through mediation. Some of your members may have engaged the OMLC to resolve matters in the past, have ongoing matters before adjudicators at this time, or use the tribunal in the future.

The transfer of the OMLC from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to ELTO, overseen by MAG, supports the government’s priority to modernize the province’s administrative justice system. It is also in response to stakeholder feedback indicating the OMLC serves a valuable function but needs to move towards better transparency and accountability. We believe the proposed changes will help to achieve these goals.

It is important to note that no changes to the powers of the OMLC or function of the office are proposed as part of this transfer. Any matters that would normally be directed to the OMLC should be directed to the MLT following the transfer. Matters that were in progress prior to the transition will continue before the MLT, starting at the same stage of proceedings as it left off before the Commissioner.

There are still a number of steps to complete the transfer. Over the next few months the government will continue to move forward with the necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition.

If you have any questions related to the transfer, please contact Brian McMahon at (705) 670-5798 or brian.mcmahon@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

David de Launay
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines