

News views and opinions on the mineral exploration scene in Ontario

August 2006 Issue

Date: August 06

THE EXPLORATIONIST The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association

The Explorationist Newsletter is brought to you as a 'member service' of the Ontario Prospectors Association. The purpose is to share news and information amongst its members and also to act as the association's 'Political Voice'.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Prospectors Association, including all of the members and Directors. The writers accept full ownership of their contributions.

Cooperative Geoscience

The use of Cooperative Geoscience in Ontario continues to increase the already wealthy Ontario database explorationists can use to more effectively choose and explore claims.

Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Initiative (LNRGI), Discover Abitibi (DA) and now the Atikokan Mineral Development Initiative (AMDI) are projects supported by the various government funding agencies, MNM, GSC, communities, universities and industry. The results of the projects are all available from the MNM publication division.

LNRGI was wrapped up last year after successfully adding almost \$15 million of geoscience data to the public records. The data included \$3.5 million dollars of data that was funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation with the balance being in-kind support from MNM, GSC, universities and industry. The data has resulted in additional claims being staked and exploration projects. Highlights are the further PGE exploration and extensive uranium work. DA has focused on the Abitibi Greenstone belt of northeastern Ontario generating a vast new database. The DA project is much more extensive in scope, area and partnerships. Industry sources have provided over \$148 million in data from previous work. One significant kimberlite find is attributed to the new data released. A survey of the explorers showed they had committed \$14 million in exploration using the new databases.

AMDI is a new project getting underway in the fall of 2006. The project is in the scoping study stage which will determine what geoscience work will

best stimulate exploration in the Atikokan area. The AMDI is being managed by OPA and input to which surveys are needed is requested.

The use of Cooperative Geoscience can only be completed if the OGS is a key player. The OGS provides a large portion of the expertise in helping select the proper survey, provides the high standards of data, excellent publishing facilities and a library system that provides access to the data to everyone.

ATIKOKAN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMMENCES

The Town of Atikokan and the Atikokan Economic Development Corporation are pleased to announce the commencement of Stage 1 of the Atikokan Mineral Development Initiative (AMDI). The AMDI is an economic development project that will assess the present geoscience data available in the Atikokan area and look to collecting new data. The focus will be to provide an integrated product of the new and old data that will attract exploration dollars to the area.

Atikokan is a world renown mining community that offers exceptional geological environments. The Stage 1 of AMDI is funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and FedNor. The Town of Atikokan has contracted the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) to deliver Stage 1. Stage 1 is comprised of a Gap Analysis of the geoscience database, determination of which new geoscience surveys are required to stimulate exploration and solicit additional funding for the execution of the needed geoscience surveys. As part of the Gap Analysis the OPA will be



We're easy to get a hold of Contact the Executive Director: Garry Clark Email: gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com Phone: 807-622-3284 Toll Free: 866-259-3727 Fax: 807-622-4156

holding a series of meetings to consult with explorationists, prospectors and local citizens to collect opinions on which geoscience surveys are required and which commodities should be focused on. Discover Abitibi and the Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Initiative, similar programs to AMDI, have successfully increased the exploration in the targeted areas. The Discover Abitibi program has monitored the increase in activity and estimates there has been \$14.0 million in new exploration from a \$10.5 million dollar investment. The Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Initiative has increased exploration in the area by over \$2.0 million per year from a \$3.5 million investment. To provide input to the AMDI please contact Garry Clark of the OPA at:

gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
866-622-3284

Or

Atikokan office, (807) 597-5129, At Patrick Reid and Associates 115 Main Street, Voyageur Mall, Lower Level, Atikokan, ON

An information session is planned for Atikokan, August 30th at 6:00 pm in the Atikokan Economic Development Corporation boardroom, 105-115 Main Street, Voyageur Mall, Lower Level, Atikokan, ON

Press Release for immediate distribution -
June 30, 2006

DISCOVER ABITIBI INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROPOSALS -Phase IV In preparation for and to facilitate the development of a new business plan, the Discover Abitibi Initiative is now seeking project proposals. The proposals will form the basis of the business, which will be used to secure funding for the completion of the projects in Phase V of the initiative. The present "Call for Proposals" will again focus on the Abitibi Greenstone Belt but it is planned to expand the area of interest to include areas outside the belt. The new area of interest could include projects in the Swayze belt west of Timmins, the area of Shining Tree-Matachewan, and areas to the north of the belt including Detour-Burntbush, Kesagami Lake and Partridge River. Proponents with an interest in the Highway 11 corridor through Cochrane-Hearst should also consider project submissions. Additionally the initiative is investigating the possibilities of partnering on interesting projects, which could extend into Northwest Quebec that would be mutually beneficial to Ontario

and Quebec. Other project areas would be considered and proponents are encouraged to submit their ideas for technical evaluation. Added to this press release is a background document, which will give additional information on the project proposals. The project submission form is available on the Discover Abitibi website at www.discoverabitibi.com and is available by contacting the project manager, Robert Calhoun at 705-360-8485 or by fax at 705-360-1394. The completed project submission form should be sent in hard-copy to Robert Calhoun, 54 Spruce Street South, Timmins, Ontario P4N 2M5 accompanied by a cd containing the project proposal and any additional information. The contents of the package should be clearly identified on the outside. Once received the proposals will be identified by a submission number for future reference. All questions regarding the submission form or any other information should be directed to Robert Calhoun by email preferably so that a record can be kept, although questions received by phone or fax will be answered.

Project Submissions should be returned as soon as possible and the final date for submissions will be August 31, 2006. The proponents are encouraged to send an email declaring their intent to file a project proposal to the project manager in advance of their submission.

DISCOVER ABITIBI PROPOSALS 2006

The following will provide background information to project proponents. In Phase II of Discover Abitibi a call for proposals was distributed to the exploration community including exploration companies, mining companies, prospectors, prospectors associations, government geological surveys and academia. In response to that "Call for Proposals" a total of 42 project proposals were submitted for work in the Abitibi Greenstone Belt. The technical committee of the initiative then evaluated the proposals, ranked them in order and recommended 19 of the projects for completion. The business plan based on the 19 projects was submitted to the funding

agencies of FedNor and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for approval. As a component of the funding formula in the business plan the private sector was required to provide a portion of the funding. The initiative was approved and the 19 projects were completed. Proponents should use their best judgment in completing the various parts of the proposal template and keep in mind the size and complexity of the project. Reviewers will be asked to take the size and complexity of the project into account in assessing proposals and in commenting on the management structure and the plans for provision of operation and maintenance costs. Projects may build on the surveys completed in Phase III or may be represented as a completely independent proposal. Each proposal should address the themes related to: identifying and reducing knowledge gaps; the use of innovative and improved technologies or improved methods and; how the proposal, and related proposals, might have a positive socioeconomic impact in the short and long term.

A description of costs, possible industry partners and the development and transfer of skills and technology are some of the benefits and outcomes that should be included. A review panel(s) that may include external reviewers, the Discover Abitibi Technical Committee and the Discover Abitibi Management Committee, will make an assessment and recommendations. These recommendations will be discussed with the proponent and their partners. The DA Management Committee will make final program decisions. Once submitted to the Discover Abitibi Project Manager, the completed Submission for a Project will be treated as public documents and may be shared with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) or the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). The DAI reserves the right to change, modify or amend a project proposal to allow for a seamless coordination of recommended projects and authorship shall rest with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation and/or the funding government agencies. Any new intellectual property developed from this project shall become the property of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. Existing intel-

lectual property shall remain with the proponent.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

Natives are not the victims here
Peter Foster
National Post
Friday, June 23, 2006

The standoff over aboriginal land claims in Caledonia, west of Toronto, is now declared to be cooling down. However, in failing to uphold, or moving very slowly to uphold, the law, the Ontario government has created a terrible precedent. Aboriginal groups, and those who would use them for other agendas, have been told that violence pays.

An even more important test case of the province's willingness to uphold the law is currently under examination in a courtroom in Thunder Bay. There, a small Aurora-based exploration company, Platinex, is seeking to assert its rights to drill at a site 580 kilometres to the north, at Big Trout Lake.

In February, after years of frustrating consultations with a local native band known as the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, or KI, Platinex moved to begin exploration drilling in an area it believes may contain a major platinum deposit, 40 kilometres from the KI's reserve. The KI had previously made a claim for unspecified additional lands under an existing treaty and had declared a "moratorium" on Platinex. They had no legal right to do so, but when Platinex turned up to begin work, it soon found itself under siege. Natives and their allies surrounded the site, blocked a public highway, sabotaged an airstrip and trashed the company's camp. It was forced to withdraw.

To add insult to Platinex's injury, press coverage of the affair has been stunningly one-sided. The KI are almost uniformly painted as victims with a viable legal case, while Platinex is portrayed as a potentially disruptive force that has failed to consult with the locals and even brought in "mercenaries" to assert its questionable rights. The "mercenary" in question is a

mining security consultant named Paul Gladston, whose main achievement was to extricate the Platinex exploration crew without harm from a threatening situation. CBC Sudbury made a big deal of the fact that Mr. Gladston is a "former military man," as if such an occupation was shameful. Our national broadcaster even brought in muckraking journalist Madeleine Drohan, author of *Make a Killing*, a screed about the corporate use of mercenaries. "Here in Canada," opined Ms. Drohan, "we do have institutions that are functioning, and should be able to do this without calling in some sort of mercenary from abroad." But that is exactly the problem. When it comes to aboriginal policy and land claims, we don't have "institutions that are functioning." (It is perhaps also worth mentioning that Mr. Gladston wasn't flown in from Angola. He lives in Newmarket, north of Toronto). The KI band has no veto over exploration activity. What they have done would be clearly seen as illegal obstruction were it not for the repeated failure of governments to deal firmly with aboriginal issues.

There is no doubt that the majority of aboriginal people have been terribly served by the reservation system and the misrule of Ottawa, which has entrenched often corrupt band leadership. The reservation system not merely suffers from the traditional failures of collective property, but keeps aboriginal people remote from jobs. For those in northern areas, the best hope is via the development of local resources.

The KI's legal case against Platinex is full of claims about the band's "special stewardship relationship with the lands, waters, plants and animals...." But at the same time it acknowledges that the community is subject to all the typical syndromes of native mismanagement, both from without and within: "high rates of substance abuse, family violence and breakdown, vandalism in the community, physical and mental illness and suicide."

These sorry conditions are in no way due to development, but to lack of it. Indeed, the KI's own Web site acknowledges that welfare has destroyed the urge to hunt. "The old way of life and traditions gradually disappeared.... The

younger generation are not carrying on the tradition. Because of too much dependence on free government assistance." As in the Caledonia situation, meanwhile, the natives of the KI are being manipulated and used by those with other agendas. The estimable *Western Standard* seems to have been the only media outlet to have reported that those contributing to the violent escalation at Caledonia include pro-Palestinian groups, the thuggish Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and CUPE Local 3903. Those stirring the pot at Big Trout Lake include the Toronto-based Wildlands League, which claims that the vast tract of Canada's boreal forest is under threat.

The KI are seeking not merely to hold up Platinex, which could threaten the tiny company's survival, but to challenge the Ontario Mining Act as unconstitutional. "It's huge," the KI's lawyer, Kate Kempton, was quoted as saying this week. "if we're successful, it means you can't do free entry any more."

Nobody is denying that natives should be consulted on local resource development, although local "control" is a pipe dream. But what Platinex is doing is exploration, which has a very low, if any, long-term environmental impact. Without the traditional and legal freedom to explore on Crown Lands, no development will take place. And that would be bad news for all northern natives.

Meanwhile, the main victim in this situation is Platinex. Even if their legal rights are confirmed, operating in Big Trout Lake may prove impossible. In that case, the company should vigorously seek damages from the KI band. Otherwise it will be established, yet again, that violence pays.

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News Release
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

In the absence of adequate consultation, Justice G. P. Smith, on Friday, July 28, ruled against Platinex continuing its exploration activities on Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig traditional lands at this time.

“Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig are excited and pleased that we have been heard,” John Cutfeet, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig councillor and spokesperson for the lawsuit, says.

“This land was given to us by the Creator; it is our past, present and future. Now the Ontario Superior Court has indicated it understood our spiritual, physical, emotional and mental dependence on the land when Justice Smith said, ‘The land is the very essence of their being. It is their very heart and soul.’

“We cannot and do not take the land for granted,” Cutfeet adds. “The land not only provides for us, it nurtures us; it is our teacher. However that gift does not come without obligation – it is our job to stand together to protect the Creator’s gift so that the land will continue to be there for all of us. That is what we have done for generations, what we did in signing the Treaty, and what is required of us if we are to live in balance and harmony.”

“Being silent in our own little world could defeat us,” Chief Donny Morris says. “We must look at the bigger picture and look to what this land offers. Our resources have been taken from us and we have not benefited from what has been extracted from our lands to be sold to the rest of the world. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig signed a Treaty and that treaty must be honoured by the Crown. In sharing our land, our views and rights must not only be heard, but be understood so that the land is available to help us, not just those who grow rich at our expense.”

“In accommodating Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig’s rights, as one of the First Peoples, it is important to recognize that we have a right to life,” Cutfeet says. “That includes the ability to exercise our cultural values and beliefs with the land. Land that is eroded or polluted by industrial processes can no longer sustain our lives. For years, First Peoples have been told by governments and industry that their footprints can be erased. Too late, we learn they had insufficient knowledge or failed to act responsibly. “Communities must be involved in consulta-

tion,” he says. “Children, youth, adults and elders in our communities have much to contribute if we are given the opportunity and are respected for our ways and for what we have to offer. Any decision relating to traditional lands is a community-based decision and cannot be made solely by the Chief and Council.”

For more information contact:

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig:
John Cutfeet (807) 627-9062 (cell)
(807) 595-2527

Kate Kempton, Olthuis Kleer Townshend
416-981-9374 Cell: 416-571-6775

July 29, 2006

Ministry Responds To Platinex Inc./ KI Injunction Decision

SUDBURY – The Ontario Superior Court of Justice’s recently released decision regarding a dispute between Platinex Inc. and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig (KI) is being welcomed as an important step forward by Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci

“My ministry is still reviewing details of the decision, however, my first impression is that everyone concerned can improve how they approach this situation,” said Bartolucci. “My ministry is very pleased to move forward and work with the company and the community to achieve a common understanding and an agreement that is acceptable to all.”

“I also want to stress that the decision not to grant the company’s injunction application was based on the specific facts of this case, and does not impact the legitimacy of other mining claims in Ontario,” Bartolucci added

The ministry recognizes the Crown’s obligation to respect and honour the Aboriginal and treaty rights of communities and that communities have a right to be appropriately consulted and accommodated as set out in recent Supreme Court decisions. In March 2006, Ontario’s Mineral Development Strategy was announced. It includes a commitment to work with Aboriginal people to develop processes that will ensure mineral development occurs in a manner consistent with the Crown’s constitutional obligations.

The ministry is developing an effective consultation process, for discussion with Aboriginal communities, by focusing on three important areas.

- Better sharing of information with Aboriginal communities and the minerals industry;

- Clearer internal processes that will make our administration of the Mining Act consistent and transparent for all concerned;
- Identification and adoption of minerals-related "best practices" that will provide guidance to government, industry and First Nations

Platinex Serves Notice for Leave to Appeal Injunction Ruling from Ontario Court

/NOT FOR DISSEMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES OR THROUGH US NEWS-WIRE SERVICES/ TORONTO, Aug. 4 / CNW/ - Platinex Inc. (TSX-V: PTX) has served a notice of motion for leave to appeal the Ontario Superior Court's July 28th 2006 decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice Smith denying the Company an injunction and granting an interim interim injunction to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI).

As previously announced on August 1st 2006, the Court's order requires KI to establish a consultative committee to engage in tripartite discussions with Platinex and the Provincial Crown with the objective being to develop an agreement by which Platinex can proceed with exploratory drilling on the Big Trout Lake property. Platinex's support in principle for good faith consultations with KI and the Crown notwithstanding, Management has determined that it is obliged to continue to preserve and pursue its full legal rights by way of an appeal. Intention to appeal the Court's decision will not deter Platinex from engaging in tripartite discussions immediately as ordered and, pursuant to this, requests to initiate the process have been made by the Company to both KI and the Crown already.

Management is concerned that the Court's decision sanctions KI's unilateral "moratorium" on prospecting and exploration on KI's traditional Territory. Minister Ramsay of the Ministry of Natural Resources has stated publicly that the KI "moratorium" has no legal standing. Further, Platinex's activities were based on assurances from the Provincial Government that the Company has the right to explore its claims and the obligation to keep those claims in good standing.

Under subsection 129(4) of the Mining Act RSO 1990 c.M.14, as amended, the Mining and Lands Commissioner has ordered that effective April 18th 2006 Platinex's mining claims are to remain in good standing until the legal proceedings are resolved.

Post your exploration property for option on the OPA website for free. Just contact us!

NOTICE

CLAIM STAKING REGULATION

The following amendments to the Claim Staking Regulation are effective immediately:

- Subsection 5(17) is added, making it clear that, where the size of a lot varies in a subdivided township, aliquot parts are to be staked (i.e. quarters or halves), and thus the number of hectares in a claim unit may vary in area from one lot to the next.
- Subsection 8(1) is revoked, and therefore it is no longer a requirement to stake a claim as a continuous action. If there is competition for the ground, the first claim completed has priority.
- Subsection 21 is revoked, as it is redundant. That subsection related to any claims under staking at the time the new Mining Act was proclaimed on June 3, 1991.

The following amendment is effective as of August 8, 2006:

- An amendment to subsection 9(1) requires the individual who signs the application to record to be present somewhere on each of the mining claims as they are being staked.

ASSESSMENT WORK REGULATION

CLAIM HOLDERS AND THEIR AGENTS – CAN NOW FILE ASSESSMENT WORK VIA THE INTERNET AND ON COMPACT DISK

As part of Mining Lands' ongoing commitment to provide enhanced client services, stakeholders who wish to file their assessment work may do so electronically as of **August 08, 2006**. The Electronic Assessment System (EAS) found at www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/asgao/default_e.asp provides the opportunity to file your assessment work in an electronic format on the Internet. A detailed on-line help section in the EAS site will be available to answer your questions regarding the EAS application. The EAS internet application allows the filing of technical maps/reports as well as the Report of Work and the Statement of Cost forms.

Similarly, as of **August 08, 2006**, stakeholders have the option of filing their assessment work on compact disk (CD). The guidelines for filing assessment work on CD can be found at www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/asgao/default_e.asp. **If filing via CD, the Report of Work form, in paper format, must accompany the filed CD.**

Please note, any assessment work filed on the anniversary date through EAS or on a CD must be filed no later than 4:30 p.m. on the anniversary date.

Should a Prospector's Association make a request, Mining Lands staff of the MNDM will provide group training sessions.

Any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Geoscience Assessment Office at 1-888-415 9845.

FORMS REGULATION

New forms will be made available on **August 8, 2006** at the Provincial Recording Office, Mining Lands Consultant's Offices and Government Information Centres/ Service Ontario, and can be found on the Mining Lands website: http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/default_e.asp.

The assessment work forms were amended to accommodate electronic filing. The application to record form was amended to include a new statement certifying that the recording licensee was present on each claim as it was being staked. Other minor amendments to the forms were made for convenience, such as:

- a notice on the application to record for change of address
- required information to be filled in on the transfer form
- statement about the percent interest being transferred on the transfer form
- instruction on notice of re-staking to file a new application to record (although a fee is required for the notice of re-staking, no fee will be payable for the new application to record).

SECTION 52(1) of the MINING ACT.

New Regulation to Establish Prescribed Conditions for Testing Mineral Content (Bulk Sampling) under Section 52(1) of the Mining Act.

Section 52(1) states:

“The Minister may give written permission, subject to such conditions as are prescribed, to mine, mill and refine mineral bearing substance from an unpatented mining claim for the purpose of testing content. “

This new regulation, O. Reg. 192/06 Permission to Test Mineral Content, (effective on August 8, 2006) establishes these prescribed conditions. One of the conditions would require a minimum financial assurance payment to require the applicant to submit a final report and clean up the site after the testing.

The regulation may be viewed on this web page, (http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Regs/English/2006/R06192_e.htm).

NOTICE

To help ensure an uninterrupted role-out of the Electronic Assessments System (EAS), there will be a slight delay in the launch of this application. Challenges have arisen as a result of implementing EAS into the production environment. Accordingly, EAS will not be available August 08, 2006. However, clients may still submit digital assessment data on CD's as of August 08, 2006.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact the Provincial Recording Office at 1-888-415-9845

This is just a “heads up” that you may get an inquiry at some time in the future from consultants hired by Ministry of Health Promotion (MoHP) through a major initiative called the “Ontario Trails Strategy” that is under their jurisdiction. General information about the trails strategy is available at:

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/trails.asp>

More specific information is available at:

http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/A2010_TrailStrategy.pdf

As one of the components of the work to develop the trails strategy, MoHP will be putting out a Request for Proposal, asking consultants to submit proposals for scoping the issue of conflicts between non-motorized recreational use of trails and motorized recreational use of trails. It is expected

that a proposal will be accepted by MoHP, and the project will be started in late September or early October.

Representatives of both MNDM Northern Development Division (Tourism) and Mines and Minerals Division (RGP) have been given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft version of the Request for Proposal. Among other things, we requested that the consultants be asked to: distinguish clearly between motorized recreational use of trails, and motorized non-recreational use of trails (e.g. prospectors and others in the exploration community who may use snowmobiles or ATVs to reach areas of interest for the purpose of work; and accommodate non-recreational users in their proposed strategies.

We also noted that they had included the names of a number of key external stakeholders in the FRP for the benefit of the respondents. "Industrial stakeholders" who may use off-road vehicles across the province were to be represented by the Ontario Forest Industries Association, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. We asked that the exploration community be included in the list of "industrial stakeholders", and provided contact information for the Ontario Prospectors Association to MoHP. You may therefore be contacted to provide information regarding the use of trails by representatives of the mineral exploration community.

If you have any questions about this, please contact me.

Ruth

Ruth Debicki

Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: SURFACE DIAMOND DRILLING AND EXPLORATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EXISTING PERTINENT LEGISLATION

OHSA 25(2)(h) : Without limiting the strict duty imposed by subsection (1), an employer shall, (h) **take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances** for the protection of a worker

Reg 854/90 : RS 5(3) The employer **shall notify** an inspector, (d) before proceeding with the operation of a diamond drill on surface for the purpose of proving mineral bearing substance.

Reg. 854/90 RS 110(1) Vehicles being used for transporting workers shall, **(a) be provided with suitable seats or other facilities;**

HISTORY / ORIGINAL INTENT

There have been fatal and serious accidents in remote surface activities such as diamond drilling, prospecting, trail preparation, geophysical work and site clearing. Increases in exploration have led to arrival of out-of-province drillers unfamiliar with what is expected of them. This information is intended to inform industry and inspectors about good practices to follow when working in these situations in order to protect and rescue injured workers.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to protect and rescue injured workers by **being properly prepared:**

- Have adequate equipment and transportation on each bush site to protect and rescue injured workers in a reasonable and timely manner
- Have adequate procedures in place and known by each worker
- Have adequate communication and outside contacts for the workers to summon assistance

HAZARDS

The following are potentially serious hazards that exist for workers in bush sites:

- Vehicle accidents (going through the ice, rough or slippery terrain and trails)
- Falls of person (off drill masts / platforms / ladders / walkways / terrain)
- Fires (hydraulic leaks spraying on hot surfaces, leaking propane, bush fires)
- Falling dead limbs and trees during trail and site clearing, chainsaw cuts
- Entanglement and resulting trauma / asphyxiation from rotating drill rods
- Hydraulic injection, hypothermia, pinching, lifting injuries, bears, Ultra Violet radiation, heat exhaustion, snake-bite -Refer to the Appendix for examples.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLIANCE:

Notice to Inspector

See sample form in the Appendix. The employer and the company official in charge must be identified, the project's estimated start and end date, and especially the location (including GPS coordinates, Township) and access route to the site are needed.

Phones or Radios, Contact Persons, Contact Times

Many spots in Northern Ontario have no cell

phone service or the signal is blocked by hills. It must be verified that the site has reliable coverage before using *cell phones* for the job. Many sites presently use *satellite phones* (which are now much more affordable) because they work almost anywhere. Ensuring the phone remains operable requires a *charger* be present and used when necessary. *Daily calls* to a designated person will verify the phone's operability. *Radio-phones* have been used with success in the past. Its important to have several contact persons and their up-to-date numbers posted in the shack. These *contacts*, while not necessarily in the vicinity, are to be prepared to summon assistance and direct rescuers to the site, use of **standard questions** (see appendix) will be useful by the contact to obtain all required information from an emotional caller. In some situations where other crews are working nearby, *daily face-to-face contact times* are used to check workers as well.

First Aid Kit, Stretcher, Training

Minimal requirements for first aid are listed under the WSIB Regulation 1101 section 16. The Mining Regulations RS 281.1 requires routine inspection and maintenance of first aid equipment. Stretchers need to fit the means of rescue being used (ie. rescue sled or personnel vehicle must be modified to carry it securely). Specialized inexpensive rescue "sleds" are commercially available in sled, toboggan, and trailer styles that enclose a stretcher and can be pulled by a snowmobile or quad. Keeping the injured warm and sheltered (at site and during transport) is important to prevent shock- blankets should be on hand. First aid training needs to teach about neck or spine injuries where professional medical evacuation is needed. First aid kits must be adequate to stabilize broken bones (variety of sizes of splints, bindings, etc.).

Emergency Evacuation of Injured Worker

A written procedure needs to exist and be known by workers, for how to get an injured worker to the hospital in a *reasonable time frame*. It's advisable to actually do a trial run of the procedure to see if all equipment, transportation and methods work as well as see how long it takes.

If the procedure involves *helicopter rescue*, certain items need to be in place prior to an accident (prior inspection by helicopter service, site posted GPS location, phone numbers to call for rescue, prior consultation with Emergency Medical Services and Central Ambulance Communications Centres locally including advising them of duration of project, reasonably close (perhaps a few km) helispot -see Appendix).

Because helicopters won't fly rescues at night or bad weather, land transportation that is able to safely carry a stretcher is needed unless it's a fly-in camp. Helicopter rescue may not always be an option where land transportation is possible and the time in the area is only a few days.

If the procedure involves *land/water transportation*, a vehicle at the site is needed to move injured workers safely and without aggravating an injury. Dozers are not preferred due to the rough ride. Skidders would need to have a basket carrying modification to hold a stretcher safely and securely as well as sheltered. Otherwise, this may be a vehicle used by workers to get to the site daily if it is suitable to carry a stretcher. Reasonable means presently used by industry include "SkiDozers", "Muskegs", and 4 Wheel drive pickup trucks where access route conditions allow. Other options may (***but are limited by terrain and distance***) include ATV and rescue trailer or snowmobile and rescue sled in winter. Rough terrain may require a helicopter evacuation if the injury is serious enough. Ensuring vehicle starts in cold weather may be done by periodic warm-ups.

A designated rendezvous point with the ambulance may be required and must be identified by signs along the roads to direct ambulance and workers. Ambulance vehicle capabilities vary from district to district so prior discussions with these services will ensure the site rescue plan is workable.

Training

Each worker shall be trained in the common core program appropriate for the job they are doing (Regulation 11.1) as well as the technical aspects of the job and in the hazards related to the job. A helper on a diamond drill must know the basics of operating the drill in case the operator gets into trouble, as well as radio /phone operation. All workers need to be trained on the vehicles they are to operate for regular or emergency duties.

Supervision

Supervisors are to be competent as defined in the Act and know the hazards at these workplaces and first aid requirements. Supervisors must be knowledgeable of their responsibilities under the Act, as well as, the specifics in the Regulations that apply to their area. Supervisors assisting drillers also need proper training and accreditation for the work they do.

Working Alone

Diamond driller practice involves pairs of workers affords help from the partner. Both workers must be prepared and trained to help their partner should they be injured. Each must know the way out of the site, how to summon and how to give proper assistance.

Incidents 1970 – 1992

1. 1992 - June 14 - killed by a black bear
2. 1989 - May 29 - fell from a drilling tower, was brought out by skidder, Corner's Jury recommended helicopter instead of skidder evacuations
3. 1988 - Jan 29 - feller buncher fell through ice
4. 1988 - May 12 - hit on head by a tree knocked over by a skidder
5. 1988 - Jun14- - drowned going for medical help
6. 1988 - Dec. 18 - tangled up in rotating rod
7. 1987 - May 7 - sleeve tangled in feed screw of a d. drill
8. 1981 - Feb. 16 - fell from platform
9. 1977 - Mar. 11 - methane explosion in shack.

APPENDIX

Standard Reporting Questions

1. WHO: is calling, who is hurt, who will transport the injured
2. WHAT happened, what condition is the injured worker in – can he be moved
3. WHERE is the injured worker, where will the injured worker meet the ambulance or chopper
4. WHEN did the injury happen, when will the rendezvous with chopper or ambulance occur

HELISPOT REQUIREMENTS

[Based on MNR Fire Fighter Helipad Info 2004]

SELECTING TAKEOFF/LANDING AREA

- A *helispot* is a temporary landing area for helicopters. It includes landing surface (helipad) surrounded by cleared takeoff/landing area.
- Level as possible.
- Dust free. [*this means not on gravel roads*]
- Approach and departure into prevailing wind and free of overhead obstructions
- Size at least 60m by 60m (200' by 200').
- At least 90m (300') from camp site.
- At least 120m (400') from fixed wing aircraft.
- Fell chicots and leaning trees. If in doubt, cut it out!

-Consult with pilot.

-Areas to avoid: Inside burn area., Sandy area with no vegetation, Slopes.

HELIPADS

The *helipad* is the part of the takeoff/landing area where the helicopter touches down.

Locating the Helipad

Locate in centre of helispot if not on shoreline. If on a shoreline, locate far enough inland to allow loading/unloading of tail boom.

HELIPAD CONSTRUCTION

Minimum size of 5m by 5m (16' by 16').
Cut all stumps/brush around helipad flush to ground and remove from helipad area.
Avoid felling trees into water on shoreline sites.
Helipad logs at least 13 cm (5") diameter.
Trim limbs flush on helipad logs.
All helipad logs secured (notching, staking or nailing) to prevent movement.
Helipad logs placed at right angles to forward direction of helicopter skids.
Remove or weigh down light materials.
When building helipads, keep it simple.

NATURAL HELIPAD:

Natural clearing.
Firm, level ground.
Mark helipad area with large X or H using flagging tape.
Make letters 2 to 4 feet in size.
Anchor flagging tape.

HELIPAD OPTIONS ON UNEVEN TERRAIN:

Fill hollows with short pieces of logs.
If ground slightly off level, secure a couple of logs for bear paws to touch down on. Clears tail rotor of ground.
Secure logs.

Lay and secure 3 logs crossways to helicopter's approach.

Log diameter at least 8 inches (20 cm).

Place in descending diameter to level slope.

Secure logs.

-On uneven ground or excessive slope, use full deck pad.

-Log diameter at least 5 inches (13 cm) and length 16 feet (5 m).

-Min. 4 support poles.

-Solid pad for long term use.

PRESS RELEASE

**CIM Conference and Exhibition,
April 29 to May 2, 2007, Montréal**

Montreal, July 21, 2006 – The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and its local organizing committee are pleased to announce that the 2007 CIM Conference and Exhibition will be held in Montréal, from April 29 to May 2, 2007. The theme of the event is “*Energy and Mines.*”

International in scope and multi-disciplined, with invited speakers profiling technical innovations, and business best practices, the program has a dynamic format designed to guarantee interaction between industry experts and delegates.

The Conference will include the presentation of an exceptional technical program, integrating a core program focusing on Energy and Mines, a comprehensive Geology Program, an Iron Ore Symposium, the MineFill 2007 Conference as well as the 1st International Symposium on Fuel Cell Applications to Mining.

Back for another year, the CIM Exhibition is the top minerals industry trade show in the country. With new services offered to delegates and exhibitors alike, there are ever-increasing possibilities to meet the right people.

The *Mining in Society* show geared at developing appreciation and understanding of the mining industry while promoting career opportunities in mining, will open to the general public.

CIM Montreal 2007 will offer the ultimate conference experience. Social events, a guest program, workshops, and other activities will ensure a jam-packed schedule.

Founded in 1898, the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum is the leading technical society of professionals in the Canadian minerals, metals, materials, and energy industries. With over 12,000 members, CIM strives to be the association of choice for professionals in the minerals industries.

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For further information:

Jean Vavrek, Executive Director

Phone: 514-939-2710

www.cim.org/montreal2007

ONTARIO EXPLORATION AND GEOSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM “OPEN MINDS : OPEN MINES”

The Ontario Prospectors Association cordially invites you to join them for the Ontario Exploration & Geoscience Symposium – “Open Minds : Open Mines” December 12th and 13th that will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Sudbury, Ontario.

Presentations on recent exploration, poster and booth displays are planned over the two days.

For space, contact Susan or Garry
Telephone 866-259-3727 or Email
oegs@ontarioprospectors.com

Join us for the Ontario Prospectors Association Awards Dinner on the evening of December 12th. When registering for the Dinner - forward this advertisement to receive a \$5.00 discount on your ticket.

For additional details visit our website
www.ontarioprospectors.com

ONTARIO EXPLORATION CORPORATION

APPLY ANY TIME IN 2007 FOR THE \$6000 PROPECTORS ASSISTANCE FUND TO ADVANCE YOUR PROPERTY

The Directors of the Ontario Exploration Corporation have made a major change to the Prospectors Funding program. The change will allow you to find a new showing in the spring and receive some funds to advance it to a point that you could option the property to an exploration company. Or you could apply for funds for the winter to complete some geophysics over swamps or lake areas.

Forms will be available in the fall either off the OPA website or at your local Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Office.

VISIT THE OPA WEBSITE TO KEEP UP
WITH CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS

www.ontarioprospectors.com

Hon. Rick Bartolucci
Minister

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06-1222

August 10, 2006

Dear Mineral Sector Stakeholder:

By now you will have likely heard about the Ontario Superior Court of Justice's temporary injunction order in the ongoing dispute between Platinex Inc. and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (KI). I want to stress that the order was based on the specific facts of this case reflected in the evidence presented by the parties, and does not impact the legitimacy of other mining claims in Ontario. I am writing to you because, while I am constrained in dealing with specifics of the judge's findings, I believe there is an opportunity for all concerned parties to move forward together to try to find a mutually acceptable resolution.

Shortly after the ruling, my ministry contacted both the community and the company. We are eager to start a process of consultation with the goal of achieving an agreement that is acceptable to all.

Over time, Supreme Court decisions have refined and provided guidance about the Crown's duty to consult with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights. The Crown has an obligation to respect and honour the Aboriginal and treaty rights of communities. Communities have a right to be appropriately consulted and accommodated if activities adversely affect their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Based on these decisions, the Crown has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring appropriate consultation takes place but may delegate aspects of consultation to proponents. For industry, a strong business relationship should be built on meaningful engagement and communication with the Aboriginal community about the planned activity.

These Supreme Court decisions confirm the importance of all parties engaging in the consultation process and trying to reach some mutually satisfactory solutions. The Honourable Mr. Justice G.P. Smith of the Ontario Superior Court has reaffirmed this in his order. He also reaffirmed that the Crown's duty to consult should not be interpreted as a veto in favour of Aboriginal people.

To be effective, true consultation requires reciprocal, constructive engagement that is focused on reconciling differences. Listening to each other, assessing and accommodating where appropriate, will be key to achieving progress. Our government is strongly committed to this. That's why we've been working on a number of fronts to provide practical tools and approaches that we hope will be useful to both industry stakeholders and Aboriginal communities.

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To begin to address these challenges, MNDM announced Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy in March 2006. The Strategy includes a commitment to work with Aboriginal people to continue to develop processes that will ensure mineral development occurs in a manner consistent with the Crown's constitutional obligations. As well, some actions are already underway. We are focusing our efforts on three important themes:

- 1) Better sharing of information with Aboriginal communities and the minerals industry. Some examples of our efforts include:
 - Relationship-building and enhancing communication with selected Aboriginal communities, under the Far North Geological Mapping Initiative, resulting in a better community understanding of the mineral sector activities and job and business options;
 - Supporting training of Aboriginal people in a pilot certified Basic Line Cutting Course in partnership with Confederation College, First Nations, and private sector;
 - Production of an information video that describes public geological mapping and private sector mineral development activities, in partnership with Natural Resources Canada, First Nations, and private sector mining and exploration companies;
 - Maintenance of the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council's Aboriginal Working Group and the establishment of the Far North Northern Development Council.
- 2) Clearer internal processes that will make our administration of the *Mining Act* consistent, effective and transparent for all concerned.
- 3) Revising and updating of minerals-related "best practices" that will provide guidance to industry. One activity under this theme will include updating the guidelines on engaging with Aboriginal communities.

In addition to my Ministry's efforts, Ontario's Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs has released, and is accepting input on, draft consultation guidelines to assist ministries in fulfilling their consultation obligations. I encourage you to take the time to provide your comments.

I look forward to working with you. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Rick Bartolucci, MPP Sudbury
Minister