

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 1

November, 1996

## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- mining occupies approximately 34 square kilometers of Manitoba, which is less than 6% of the area occupied by the City of Winnipeg.
- the value of mineral products in Manitoba each year is about \$1 billion, and approximately \$40 million is spent on mineral exploration.
- about 6,000 people in Manitoba are directly employed in mining and earn over \$225 million a year and at least another 15,000 depend on mining.
- direct revenue to government from mining in Manitoba averages over \$45 million annually and all other indirect taxes at least doubles this figure.
- Manitoba's mineral industry is the 2nd leading primary resource industry after agriculture.
- prospectors cause no more impact on the environment than do hunters or campers.
- mineral explorers cause less impact than cottagers.
- roads, railways, and airports occupy much more land in Manitoba than mines.
- there are 15 head frames in Manitoba compared to 284 primary grain elevators of equal size.
- the third largest city in Manitoba, Thompson, was built to mine nickel and copper.
- most northern towns, roads, railways and airports were built solely for mining e.g. Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Thompson, Flin Flon, Snow Lake.
- the mining and prospecting associations of Canada have their own, self imposed and enforced codes of environmental protection.
- prospectors and geologists choose their profession because they love the wilderness and protect the land where they live and work.

The Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association Inc. ("MPDA Inc.") was incorporated as a non-profit, all volunteer organization in 1994. Our mission statement is:

*"To act as an advocacy group for the concerns and interests of our members and to educate the public of the value of mining to Manitoba."*

We continue to pursue specific areas of concern, such as **Land Use, Environmental Protection, Aboriginal Land Issues, Government Regulations/ Assistance Programs/Geoscience Programs and Public Education.**

Bill Ferreira, who was largely instrumental in the formation of MPDA Inc., steps down as President this month, but remains a Director. We appreciate the amount of work he has put into achieving our clearly focused mission. Hugh Wynne was elected our new President at this month's Annual General Meeting.

Your **Directors** have held 8 meetings in the past 12 months - on Dec.11, Jan.10, Feb.14, April 12, May 8, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, and Nov.6. Members are welcome to attend Directors' Meetings.

Bill Ferreira and other Directors met with the Minister of Energy and Mines on February 12 to discuss our positions on **Provincial Parks Legislation** and **Treaty Land Entitlements**. MPDA Inc. opposes single-use land designations which prohibit exploration/development and urges speedy settlement of unresolved Aboriginal Land Issues, which impede exploration.

MPDA Inc. has also made written submissions to Government of Manitoba regarding **Land Access**, the **Sustainable Development Act White Paper** (several concerns), **Map Staking** (qualified support in areas where exploration permits are allowed), shortening of the **Assessment Report Confidentiality Period**, the **Mineral Exploration Assistance Program ("MEAP")** selection process and **MEM Staff Appointments**.

Directors had several discussions with Manitoba Parks regarding generally more restrictive land use provisions under the new **Provincial Parks Act**. We reiterated our opposition to exploration/development prohibitions, given the minimal environmental impact of these activities.

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Doug Fogwill, Hugh Wynne and John Lee have represented MPDA Inc. on the (Mining Industry/Government) **Mineral Exploration Liason Committee ("MELC")**, which met on Nov. 21, April 17 and Oct. 24. Doug Fogwill worked with Jamie Robertson of the Mining Association of Manitoba on the **MELC Mining Industry Opinion Survey** regarding Manitoba Energy and Mines ("MEM") **Geoscience Programs**. This survey has highlighted Mining Industry concerns and priorities, which MPDA Inc. urges MEM to address in formulating future programs.

The MPDA Inc. booth at the annual Manitoba Mining and Minerals Convention features schools educational materials and the mineral properties of some members. Our **Newsletter** is available from the Manitoba booth at the annual PDAC Convention in Toronto.

MPDA Inc.'s **Education Committee Chair** is Marjorie Reynolds. In her quietly efficient way, she has been very active making **77 presentations** on rocks and minerals to **1675 students** in 22 schools (city, suburban and country) since November 1995. Presentations ranged from 40 minutes to half-day and focused on uses of rocks and minerals, with take-home specimens for each (Kindergarten to Grade 8) student. Some presentations included gold panning. Literature was provided to teachers. Presentations were very well received and students and teachers expressed their gratitude.

Directors and Members, led by Don Anderson and Jim Brown, gave **gold panning demonstrations** at the Mineral Society of Manitoba Show in May and at the Klondike Gold Exhibit (Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature) in November. Directors also assisted at the **National Mining Week** exhibit on Manitoba Mineral Deposits at The Forks from May 13 to 18. These activities attracted much public interest.

Since April, MPDA Inc. has sponsored the monthly **Winnipeg Mineral Exploration Discussion Group ("WMEDG")** meetings, held at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. The venue of these informal lucheon meetings is the **Airliner Inn**, 1740 Ellice Avenue. **Talks** were presented at 7 of the 8 meetings held to date, subjects including: B-Horizon Gold Prospecting, GPS Applications, New MEM Marketing and Mines Branch Initiatives, Mineralogy Applications in Exploration and the new Sustainable Development Act. WMEDG has been revitalized, with attendance of up to 45. The meetings provide opportunities for discussion and networking within the community interested in exploration. WMEDG organizing committee is Jim Brown, John Lee, Doug Fogwill and Don Anderson - please contact any of these Directors regarding attendance or offers of talks.

**DIRECTORS:** W. Ferreira, H. Wynne, D. Anderson,  
S. LeSavage, J. Lee, D. Fogwill, J. Brown

**OFFICERS :**

H. Wynne	President
D. Anderson	Vice President
J. Brown	Secretary
D. Fogwill	Treasurer

**Education Committee Chair:** M. Reynolds  
**Membership Committee Chair:** A. Mickelson  
**Newsletter Editor:** J. Lee

**REMINDERS:**

- MPDA Inc. Directors Meetings each month, immediately following WMEDG Meetings. All members welcome.
- MPDA Inc./Winnipeg Mineral Exploration Discussion Group - meets first Wednesday of each month. Members and non-members welcome.
- Members fees are due on November 14, 1996.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

We ask you to help achieve MPDA Inc's goals by renewing your membership/becoming a new member/recruiting new members. We need your support to continue the progress made since we incorporated 2 years ago. Our membership application/renewal form is attached.